

MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2009

www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk



Mobile Phone Masts

Early in 2006 Orange applied to erect a 30-metre mobile phone mast near the rugby grandstand on the Police Imber Court sports ground. This was deemed necessary by Orange to 'infill' some areas of poor reception.

This mast was to be high enough (about 100 feet) to service the whole of Molesey, which would avoid the installation of 15-metre masts around our streets.

The police graciously agreed to go along with this as a service to Molesey and MRA was all in favour as Elmbridge Council had said that all mobile phone operators would be expected to use the same mast.

Our Councillors on the planning committee agreed this sensible proposal but one nearby resident obtained a Court judgment overruling the decision because the Council's procedures had been technically faulty.

The resulting delay appears to have led both Orange and the Police to lose patience and there is a risk that we will now end up with a number of smaller masts – the outcome we all wanted to avoid. It is regrettable that one resident has been able to scupper a solution that would have been in the interests of Molesey as a whole.

Roads & Lights

MRA County Councillors Ernest Mallett and Nigel Cooper have put in for resurfacing the three worst roads in each part of Molesey but don't hold your breath – Surrey says it needs £12 million for maintenance in Elmbridge, Spelthorne & Epsom but the Conservative SCC cabinet allocated only just over £6 million.

Surrey is negotiating an £800m contract to replace all the street lights in Surrey over 5 years.

Your MRA Councillors want improvements but doubt this hugely expensive programme is worth the charge on your council tax!

Pony Farm

Many people will remember the Pony Farm on the open ground between the end of Ray Road and the Island Barn reservoir in West Molesey.

The pony farm is no more and Thames Water, who owns the land, put it up for auction – 12.5 acres with a guide price of £50,000.

The land is green belt and thus no building would be allowed, but some residents are concerned about the possibility that travellers could buy the land and use it as a permanent site.

Although the land was subsequently withdrawn from the auction there is a risk that it will be put up for sale again in the future.

MRA Councillor Mike Axton has therefore asked the Leader of the Council to consider the possibility of the Council buying the land with local organisations and residents contributing to its ongoing maintenance.

Problems

There have been complaints about noise in the small hours from drinkers leaving Latino's in Walton Road, East Molesey. Although Latino's had licensing approval to 2am, their planning permission required that they close at 11pm.

Elmbridge issued an enforcement notice to close at 11pm and at the moment they appear to be conforming to this.

The tyre garage on the corner of Walton Road and Molesey Avenue in West Molesey had put up very obtrusive high level advertising signs but MRA Councillors got them removed.

Now that autumn is upon us and the growing season is over, please check to make sure you have no foliage overgrowing the pavement. This can be a nuisance to sighted people but a real danger to those with poor vision.

Thank You.

Hurst Park R A

Once again our sister organisation held their free Midsummer event on the Hurst Park riverside land.

There was a bar, samba band, barbecue, live entertainment and electric car rides for small children.

The event was blessed with ideal summer weather and a great evening was had by all.

An early notice – HPRRA will be holding their next Quiz Night on Saturday, 6th February.

Skateboard Park

About a year ago the Council agreed to finance a skateboard park in Molesey but said the finance available was enough to provide the equipment, but not the necessary hardstanding base.

This led the Council officers to propose putting the equipment on the basketball court on the Grovelands site or on the hardstanding at the far side of Neilson's field but it became evident that the Grovelands site was too close to housing and the Neilson's field site was too remote.

It began to look as if the skateboard park would not materialise although it was generally agreed that it would provide a much needed amenity for Molesey's young people.

So MRA Councillors looked at two other possibilities – the Walton Road and Hurst recreation grounds – but there were no hardstandings.

MRA Councillor Nigel Cooper then approached the skateboard equipment suppliers and persuaded them that they should be able to supply base and equipment all within the budget.

They agreed and the favoured spot is on the Hurst recreation ground behind the swimming pool, which will act to buffer any noise from houses by the recreation ground.

This proposal has been put to the Council officers and we are hoping for a favourable outcome.

Public Toilets

As reported in our last newsletter, Conservative controlled Elmbridge Council is intending to close the so-called 'brick built' public toilets around the borough.

MRA regards this as a very retrograde step in a civilised society. However, the Conservative Group has said it intends to proceed with the closures of toilets and is trying to find local businesses or pubs who are prepared to allow their facilities to be used by the public.

We understand that they are finding this difficult in Molesey and hope they will eventually decide to drop the scheme.

Vine Hall

Elmbridge Council is also proposing to close some public halls around the borough.

One of these halls is our own Vine Hall, but at least the Conservative administration has said that it would not close the hall if an organisation ready and capable of running and maintaining the hall could be found.

MRA Councillors Nigel and Elizabeth Cooper have been seeking suitable groups and have come up with two possibilities who are now talking to the Council.

We hope that this works out satisfactorily as Vine Hall is a much-loved local hall which most Molesey people would hate to lose.

Please Help!

"Molesey Care" is a local voluntary organisation which aims to help people (often elderly) who can't otherwise get to doctor's appointments, etc.

This very worthwhile outfit is in great need of more helpers – both to take calls for help by telephone (in their own home) and, even more urgently, drivers to ferry people to their appointments (car expenses are refunded).

If you can help, please ring Judith Dixon on 020 8979 7509.

"Meals on Wheels" urgently needs volunteers at weekends, only once a month.

Can you help? Ring Jane on 020 8979 5773.

Thank You!

Grants for Molesey

MRA County Councillors Ernest Mallett and Nigel Cooper have succeeded in getting County grants for Molesey as follows:

- £2,092 to support Molesey Carnival
- £250 – Police Honour Presentations
- £1,285 – Christmas lights
- £1,000 – seats on Molesey Heath
- £12,000 – St Paul's Church roof
- £1,200 – St Peter's Church hall
- £10,000 – 1st Molesey Scout Hut

No more Surrey grants are now available until after next April.

School Admissions

New Admissions

For September 2010 you should have applied to Surrey County Council ("SCC") for Infants by 22nd October and for Secondary by 23rd October. If you have not applied, then do so quickly – full details are on the notice board outside Tesco's in Walton Road, East Molesey.

Shortage of Places

SCC has woken up to the fact that it does not have enough school places for Surrey pupils and this is particularly bad in the Elmbridge area.

Surrey is now estimating school numbers up to 2018 and is hurriedly putting in temporary classrooms to take Infants & Secondary entrants.

The situation is dire at both Infants and Secondary levels, but made much worse at Secondary by SCC giving Claygate pupils preference.

MRA Cllr. Mike Axton has written on behalf of MRA objecting strongly at this discrimination against Molesey pupils.

MRA County Councillor Nigel Cooper is on the 'Schools and Learning' committee and he and MRA County Councillor Ernest Mallett are trying to influence school place provision for Molesey pupils.

Apart from the immediate erection of temporary classrooms, Surrey has no definite plan yet as to how to provide for the shortage of school places which is getting worse on a yearly basis.

Nigel and Ernest are suggesting a new school on the old Church Farm/John Nightingale site, possibly building on the Esher Sixth Form College site (which the County takes over next April) or major building on the Imber Court site – which is rumoured to be coming up for sale if the Met. Police can settle the legal difficulties.

Surrey says it needs £50 million to deal with the problem.

There are not going to be any easy or quick fix solutions but Ernest and Nigel have given a number of families help and advice and will continue to work to get solutions for Molesey and Elmbridge.

Christmas Cometh!

MRA Councillor Elizabeth Cooper has been arranging to get a much better display of Christmas lights in Central Avenue. Councillor Ernest Mallett negotiated a grant to cover the cost from Surrey C.C. and we look forward to a much improved display this year.

The East Molesey Walton Road Traders will be holding their Magical Molesey Christmas event on Saturday, December 5th with events and activities throughout the day.

Last year Father Christmas appeared and there was carol singing, free food, face painting and various children's competitions including fancy dress. This year the Christmas tree lights will be switched on in the late afternoon.

Bridge Road shops will be holding their popular late night event on Wednesday 25th November with all sorts of Christmas goodies on offer.

Are you already dreading thinking about Christmas presents for those hard-to-buy-for people? How about an interesting read about Molesey's past? MRA has arranged reprints of local historian Roland Baker's two books – 'Thameside Molesey' and 'Book of Molesey'. These books are full of photographs and absorbing stories of old Molesey.

They are still available for the original publication price of only £15 each from Ernest Mallett, 20 Walton Road or 020 8979 6446.

Make a Date – Molesey (Day) Centre in School Road is holding their Annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 21st November from 11am to 1pm. BE SURE YOU'RE THERE!