

**MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2010**

www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk



SCHOOLS

As foreshadowed in our last newsletter, Surrey County Council has taken emergency action to provide essential temporary classrooms where there was a serious shortage of classroom accommodation at both primary and secondary levels.

A shortage of places at local schools has been an increasing problem for Molesey families for many years, and MRA Councillors have been pushing SCC to address this for some time.

At primary level MRA County Cllrs. Ernest Mallett and Nigel Cooper have been pressing SCC to make use of the old John Nightingale site for more school accommodation - SCC has now agreed to consider this.

At secondary level there has been some success, and SCC is currently consulting on new entry arrangements for September 2011, under which Molesey will form part of a new catchment area for Esher High School.

But this will not help parents who want their children to start at Esher High in September 2010. And the position has been made worse by SCC's decision to ring-fence 30 places in Esher High's September 2010 intake for children living in Claygate. This will reduce the places available to Molesey families, and we can see no justification for it.

MRA Cllr Mike Axton has therefore written to SCC calling for an increase of 30 places at the school this September to ensure more places for children living in Molesey. SCC have indicated they will consider this.

In their discussions with SCC, it would be helpful for your MRA

We shall be holding our
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
in **MOLE HALL, WEST MOLESEY**
on **FRIDAY 26th MARCH starting at 8pm.**
All members are welcome and non-members may join at the door – £3 per household. The AGM will be followed by free refreshments and the opportunity to chat with councillors and committee.

Councillors to know how many Molesey children are hoping to start at Esher High School in September 2010. If you have children in this position, please complete the tear-off slip below and return it to Nigel Cooper, 24 Southfields, East Molesey KT8 0BP.

Thank You.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Don't forget – you can pay 5 years' subs in one go for £15.

It's easier for us – and you won't have to put up with our collectors knocking at your door every year!

VINE HALL

A year ago EBC announced that Vine Hall would be closed unless an organisation could be found to take over the administration and management of the hall.

MRA Councillors Elizabeth and Nigel Cooper met with several organisations prepared to take over the hall, and they put forward two of those organisations for consideration by EBC. Regrettably, the Cabinet of the Council decided that neither bid met the Council's revised strict contractual criteria.

However, the Conservative Cabinet has indicated that the hall will remain open and continue to be managed by DC Leisure from the Xcel centre, until an alternative management body can be found.

In spite of MRA opposition, the Cabinet is in the early stages of targeting Mole Hall for similar treatment.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

In early December the festive 'Magical Molesey' day, run by Walton Road Traders in conjunction with MRA, was a great success with fierce competition between traders for the best window display. There was a cake stall run by the WI, Secret Santa competition, carol singing, a display on Molesey Lock by Molesey History Society, and a Christmas Hat competition for £100 worth of Tesco vouchers.

There was a lit Christmas tree provided by MRA and Walton Road was well decked out with many lamppost lights and motifs resulting from pressure on EBC by MRA Cllr. Elizabeth Cooper. A good fun day!

The police station green tree was again lit by Ernest Mallett, as was the tree on Central Avenue.

County Councillors Nigel & Ernest obtained £1285 grant from SCC to get the lampposts on the Central Avenue roundabout fully lit and Elizabeth made sure that new motifs were also provided.

Unfortunately, an electrical failure took out two of the lampposts and our lit Christmas tree! It was not possible to get it repaired in time.

Let's hope for better luck in 2010!

Name _____

Address _____

I have _____ child/children hoping to start at Esher High School in September 2010.

HIGHWAYS CUTS

For the year 2010 to 2011 (and likely to continue) Surrey County Council is planning a 50% cut (£26m to £13.5m) in capital spend on Highways and a small 5.6% increase in the repairs budget.

The overall effect will be to cut road resurfacing to half the current level and to stop entirely all road alterations, new traffic lights, crossings or cycleway schemes.

The repairs budget money will, at best, just about maintain the present level of repair but will not fund any new schemes or improvements.

Many Molesey roads are in a poor state (at last the entrance to Pool Road from Molesey Road has been repaired) but it seems the bad situation will continue.

Lampposts are separate but, except for emergency repairs to correct a dangerous situation, no repairs will be done until April 2010, after which a new multi-million pound scheme will kick in which will see repairs complete within 1 month and all the lanterns and most of the posts replaced over the next 5 years.

MOLESEY HOSPITAL

There is good reason to be concerned that the beds in community hospitals in Surrey may be phased out.

The League of Friends of Molesey Hospital is taking part in a public campaign to try to prevent this.

Cobham, Thames Ditton and Weybridge Hospitals have already lost their beds and a decision was taken in January to permanently close the 14 beds at Cranleigh.

In the past couple of months the 18-bed mental health Burwood Ward at Walton Hospital has been closed and there have been abrupt reductions of 6 beds each at Molesey, Epsom and Ewell, Dorking and Leatherhead Hospitals.

Molesey Hospital used to have 24 beds and this was reduced to 18. This further reduction takes the number down to 12.

However, the outpatient part of Molesey Hospital is expanding. In recent months new consultant clinics have been started and more are planned - reducing the need to travel to Kingston Hospital.

BUSES

As part of a massive economy drive for the coming financial year 2010-2011, Surrey C.C. is proposing to cut, or reduce, a significant number of bus routes throughout the County, including the 514 and the 541.

This can only have a dramatic effect on those on low incomes, the elderly and school children. Many pupils who are not entitled to special bus services travel to school on regular bus services and the ending of many of these routes will mean large numbers of children walking, cycling or going to school by car.

The 514 bus route is one of those being considered for closure. As the only route passing the surgery at Glenlyn in Molesey Park Road, this will be difficult for people needing to visit the doctor.

For many Molesey students the proposed closure of this route, which links West Molesey with Esher, will see significant increases in traffic around Esher High School in the morning and evening rush hours.

MRA Cllr Mike Axton has made formal objections on behalf of MRA while County Councillor Nigel Cooper, along with the rest of the Governors of Esher High School, continue to press SCC and the bus operator to retain some or all of the 514 bus service.

SCC says school special services will continue to 2011.

SKATEBOARD PARK

A possible site for this could be behind the swimming pool on the Hurst recreation ground, not too close to houses. Some people are objecting and we need to know whether the people of Molesey are in favour of providing this facility for Molesey's young people.

Please indicate your thoughts on the slip below and return it to Nigel Cooper, 24, Southfields, KT8 0BP.

We need to know your address to assess whether you are local to the site or live elsewhere in Molesey.

FOOTPATH REPAIRS

MRA County Cllr. Ernest Mallett managed to get a grant from Surrey County Council to provide materials to resurface two well-used footpaths – Orchard Lane across Cow Common and Fleetside to Molesey Heath.

The donkey work was provided by MRA councillors and committee members, together with some local residents, on two consecutive Sunday mornings. All turned out with wheelbarrows, shovels and strong muscles to complete the jobs. Hard work, but worth it!

Ernest (together with Nigel Cooper) also arranged a further grant to provide seats on Molesey Heath. While everyone else seems to be closing services or cutting back, we aim to improve things.

MARIE CURIE APPEAL

In previous years we have appealed on behalf of charity to coincide with the coming of Spring, symbolised by daffodils all over Molesey, many planted by MRA.

When the daffodils flower we will put up Memorial Boards on the planted bank at Sadler's Ride, on the Police Station Green and on the Central Avenue roundabout.

If you would like to remember someone, we will put their names and yours on these Boards in return for a donation of £3 upwards. ALL DONATIONS WILL BE DOUBLED BY M.R.A. (up to a total of £400) and passed on to the Marie Curie charity or a charity of your choice.

The blooming of the bulbs in memory of loved ones brings great comfort and the donations are much appreciated by receiving charities.

Please send details and donations to Ernest Mallett, 20 Walton Road, East Molesey KT8 0DF, making out cheques to Molesey Residents Association. We will do the rest – Thank You.

Name _____

Address _____

I DO / DO NOT approve of the idea of a skateboard park in Molesey.

SURREY POLICE RE-ORGANISATION

In common with many other police forces, Surrey Police are facing severe financial problems due to low government grants and the need to keep the police part of the Council Tax down to about 2.5% increase per year or less.

There is nothing on the government's horizon to suggest that bigger government grants are likely and the costs of running the police service are ever demanding.

The consequences of these facts are that Surrey Police need to cut some £35m out of their running costs over 4 years from 2009 to 2013, starting with some £5m in the present year. Whilst cuts for 2009/10 are well in hand this leaves some £30m to be achieved from 2010 to 2013.

At the same time, the government is demanding further improvements in all round Police performance and the services the Police provide to the public.

The current Surrey Police net annual budget is £202m. The aim is to keep close to this figure up to 2013.

After various grants of £104m the Council Tax payers will have to fund the remaining £98m. For house bands A, B, C, D, E, F, G & H this amounts to £132, £154, £176, £199, £250, £290, £331 & £397 p.a. respectively.

The Police Chief Constable, backed by the Surrey Police Authority, is making two main proposals aimed at producing the required savings needed from 2010 to 2013:

- 1) Reduce the present Command Structure from 3 area units to 1 single Command.
- 2) Close most of the old traditional Police Stations and put the current public counter services which these provide into other Civic buildings or retail shops.

Item 1) will seriously reduce the number of higher ranked officers and hence the salary bill, which is a major component of Police costs.

Item 2) will relieve the Police of the costs of maintaining old buildings which no longer serve current needs well and which have much redundant office and cell space. To save staff costs, the cell provision has already mostly been centralised at Guildford, Reigate, Staines & Woking.

Primary other benefits will be access to the Police at places where large numbers of the public visit regularly and the realisation of funds from property sales for use on heavy capital items, such as vehicles and computers, which otherwise the Police would have to borrow for and pass the borrowing costs on to the Council Tax payer.

There will, of course, be costs to operate the Police counter services at other locations, but these costs will be about half of the annual costs of maintaining the present situation.

THE MAJOR GAINS OF THE ABOVE PROPOSALS ARE:

- A. They will enable Surrey Police to keep the present services to the public and operations against criminals at a high level.
- B. They will meet the financial restraints of the expected continued low government Police grants to Surrey by achieving the stated savings without having to programme significant Council Tax increases, which might prove impossible anyway.
- C. They will provide convenient places for the public to access police services and these places will be designed to be more congenial and friendly.
- D. As the savings progress over the 3 years the Chief Constable will be able, and is proposing, to employ up to 200 more Constables, most of whom will be available for direct community beat work.

PLEASE NOTE: Police officers cannot be made redundant so the reduction of senior officers will be over a 3 year period.

Similarly, Police Stations will not close unless an alternative Police Counter Service has been established in the local area and any closure will therefore also take a significant time.

The major qualifications to this document are:

- All financial figures stated are rounded up.
- This document is written for information by the Molesey Residents Association (MRA) but, at this moment, does not imply any support or any non-support for the proposals.

The MRA wants to hear the views of Molesey Residents and will then consider how best to represent those views and get the best solutions for Molesey.

Please let us know your reactions and views to this information:

I/We support these Police proposals.

I/We do not support these Police proposals.

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS:

Please send your reply to:

Cty. Cllr. Ernest Mallett, 20 Walton Road, East Molesey, Surrey.KT8.0DF.

Or Email your views to: ernest.mallett@surreycc.gov.uk.