

**MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2010**

www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk



MAY ELECTIONS

Hardly noticed in all the fuss about the General Election, the Local Elections were held on the same day to elect your councillors to Elmbridge Council. We are delighted that all three MRA candidates were successful in the Molesey wards – Tony Popham in East Ward, Stuart Selleck in North Ward and Ian Donaldson in South Ward. All were returned with good majorities and intend to do their level best to represent the interests of all Molesey residents at Elmbridge Council.

We would like to extend grateful thanks to all those who voted for our MRA candidates. Thanks also to our many helpers who delivered leaflets, sat at polling stations, etc. Without them, we could not have achieved the success we did. The voting figures are in the right-hand column below.

There are 60 seats on Elmbridge Council of which the Conservatives now hold 33, giving them an overall majority. The Residents Group has 20 seats (9 of which are held by MRA) and the Liberal Democrats have 7 seats.

The overall Conservative majority can often make life difficult for your MRA Councillors at Council, but they will continue to press hard at Council on behalf of the residents of Molesey.

PAVILION CLUB LAND

Back in the 1980s the Guardian Royal Exchange Insurance Company had a company sports ground in Molesey which occupied an area bordering Hurst Lane and stretching from Hurst Road up to the rear of houses in Vine Road.

When Guardian Royal Exchange decided they no longer needed a company sports field they sold half the land for development.

Molesey Residents Association resisted the application due to the loss of the open space and, as a result, when planning permission was granted for the building of what is now the King's Chase development, a legally binding condition was imposed (then called a section 52 agreement) that the area of land between the pavilion and the rear of the Vine Road houses must remain as open space.

Subsequently, the pavilion and the open land were bought by the Pavilion Club for gym/leisure use.

The Pavilion Club has now made an arrangement (on about half the remaining land) with a developer looking to build some 77 homes.

The section 52 legal restriction still applies, but can be set aside by Elmbridge Council.

Be assured – MRA will continue to vigorously oppose any relaxation of this legal restriction at Elmbridge Council.

SCHOOL PLACES

The position is much improved for Molesey children wishing to go to Esher High Secondary School.

Following representations from MRA Cllr Mike Axton and Cty Cllr Nigel Cooper, SCC has now agreed to raise the admission numbers from 180 to 240 for September 2010.

These might change to 210 for September 2011 if the numbers drop.

At Infants level, the Orchard is taking 20 more children in September 2010 and the position on Infants & Junior levels in Molesey remains under review.

If central government funds allow, most of the temporary classrooms will gradually be changed to permanent buildings.

ELECTION RESULTS

ELMBRIDGE COUNCIL

Molesey East

Anderson, Simon (Con)	1082
Lady Titian (Raving Loony)	157
Popham, Tony (MRA)	2279

Molesey North

Monkey the Drummer (Loony)	78
Nagle, Paul (Lib. Dem)	384
Parker, Jacqui (Con)	550
Selleck, Stuart (MRA)	2086

Molesey South

Chinners (Raving Loony)	104
Denton, Nicholas (Con)	626
Donaldson, Ian (MRA)	1758
Drummond, Rita, (Labour)	317
Sturgis, Alistair (Lib. Dem)	366

MOLESEY HEATH

This elevated area of open land (behind the Fleetside estate in West Molesey) has given much pleasure to many local people over the years.

Apart from enjoyable open country walks with wide views, it has been used for nature study walks for Molesey school children.

Up to now, however, it has lacked provision of seats for rest or just for enjoying a quiet period of reflection.

One of our committee members, Wendy Guest, pointed this out and MRA County Cllr. Ernest Mallett managed to obtain a grant from Surrey C.C. to correct this.

However, the money provided was not quite sufficient so MRA contributed a £200 top-up sum and ten seats are now in position.

MRA has also obtained funds to put a 'community orchard' planting on Molesey Heath and this is under negotiation.

Molesey Heath is a great place to spend an hour or so in good weather - so enjoy!

5 YEARS' SUBS for £15

A third of our members now pay 5 years' subscriptions in one go.

We are short of collectors, so this helps us and, having paid for 5 years, members are immune from any membership fee increases.

Why not join them when your subscription is due?

BISHOP FOX ESTATE

Running through the middle of this estate in West Molesey is a large pleasant grassed area with a children's playground at one end.

When the estate was built in the late 1980's the developer put aside funds to provide for maintenance of the grassed and recreation areas but that funding is now exhausted.

The developer no longer exists so no finance is available from that source.

Since the grassed/recreation areas are not Council adopted, neither Elmbridge nor Surrey CC will automatically maintain them and hence the residents suddenly found the grass getting longer and longer and the shrubs very overgrown.

MRA Cllrs. Stuart Selleck and Liz Robertson had a meeting with the residents and MRA agreed to put up enough money to cover the cost of grass cuts in May and June (the fastest growing time) while County Councillor Ernest Mallett helped the residents apply for a grant from Surrey C.C. for a year's cutting.

If this grant application succeeds it will allow time to seek a longer term solution to the problem which is not uncommon with estates – often the developer puts maintenance arrangements in place for a period – and then disappears!

SKATEBOARD PARK

Elmbridge Council has been conducting a consultation on the provision of a skateboard park for Molesey youngsters sited behind the swimming pool on the Hurst Recreation Ground.

Consultation leaflets were distributed to residents, schools, the Youth Club, Hurst Pool and Library.

Many local people agree with the idea of such a facility in Molesey but it has proved difficult to find agreement on a specific site.

The consultation finished on 31st May and we are awaiting the result.

MOLESEY HOSPITAL

The League of Friends of Molesey Hospital has received planning permission to extend the car park at the hospital and that work should start soon.

Requests are also under consideration for funding of medical and nursing equipment and for work on the hospital buildings and grounds.

In the present financial situation, it is very likely there will be cuts and changes in healthcare provision.

The League of Friends is doing everything it can to keep Molesey Hospital going and provide improvements and new facilities with funds donated or raised locally.

BUS SERVICES

Good News – Surrey C.C. has decided not to cut the 514 service which will continue on an hourly basis. This means access to Molesey doctors at Glenlyn Medical Centre in Molesey Park Road will still be possible.

Many thanks to all those who objected to cutting the 514.

These objections were the most the County received for any route and really helped.

The 461 will continue but will terminate at Chertsey and will now be half-hourly. If you want to go to Staines you will be able to connect with the 446 half-hourly service at Chertsey. The 451 will disappear but most of the route is covered by the now more frequent 461.

The 411 will continue as before but will be with buses owned by Epsom Coaches rather than the London Company Transdev.

The position is less clear for the special school bus services, where SCC is looking to make cuts or increase charges. MRA Cllr. Mike Axton has written to SCC pointing out that any charges could have a disproportionate effect on the many Molesey families who rely on these services.

MOLESEY CARNIVAL

Held on a glorious day on 5th June, the Molesey Carnival provided its usual eye-catching display of floats in the parade and many colourful stalls on Walton Road recreation ground.

MRA ran its usual entertainment stall for small children with electric trikes around a marked-out track.

Once again we provided cheque prizes to the first and second placed school floats, together with funds to ensure that the Carnival Princess and her attendants were able to appear suitably attired.

The Carnival will benefit from £2,092 obtained by our MRA SCC Councillors for a new 'Mole' outfit, gazebos and administration costs.

MARIE CURIE APPEAL

In our last newsletter we promoted the Marie Curie appeal.

The appeal, made to coincide with the blooming of daffodils heralding the coming of Spring, went well and £317 was donated.

We would like to thank all who contributed in memory of loved ones to this very worthwhile cause.

MRA then made its own donation and the end result was that Marie Curie Cancer Care received almost £500 and Alzheimers nearly £200.

Both charities are very grateful to the people of Molesey.

SPRING GARDENS

Residents in Spring Gardens were surprised recently by proposals from Surrey County Council, announced without warning, to install yellow lines to prevent residents parking.

County Cllr. Ernest Mallett put out an MRA information sheet to affected residents and, thanks to a great majority of opposition, the County officers are now intending to drop the proposals.

MRA is appalled that Molesey keeps being targeted with schemes which are clearly not required and could even be considered as stupid.

These unwelcome proposals show the value of having MRA councillors at the front line who can fight matters for local residents and know which Council officers should be contacted.