

# MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2016

[www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk](http://www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk)

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MRA Councillors at Surrey County Council - Stuart Selleck 8979-2466 & Ernest Mallett 8979-6446

## MOLESEY HOSPITAL

Early this year the South Downs Clinical Commissioning Group (SDCCG) announced they were considering 4 options for the five local hospitals under their control (Cobham, Dorking, Epsom/Ewell, Leatherhead and Molesey). A public consultation was to be conducted on the 4 options, 2 of which would close Molesey Hospital and move Molesey in-patients to Cobham and out-patients elsewhere.

to accompany those chats after the official business is over.  
Non-members may join at the door for only £3 per household – hardly a fortune these days!

### **MOLESEY HOSPITAL TO CLOSE?** READ WHAT YOU CAN DO

BACKGROUND: Health & Hospital services for Molesey are now controlled by the Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group, (SDCCG). They control 5 Community Hospitals: COBHAM, LEATHERHEAD, MOLESEY, DORKING and EPSOM/EWELL.

residents associations, we also held a public meeting at Chandlers Field School, which was packed out. James Blythe, the SDCCG representative we invited to the meeting, went away with the verdict of the meeting ringing loudly in his ears – keep Molesey Hospital open!

Consultation meetings were held around Molesey and in other areas where the SDCCG hospitals were located. Molesey meetings were well attended by residents who were adamant that Molesey Hospital must not close and, in any case, Cobham was too far away with no public transport.

The SDCCG governing body meeting to make the final decision was held at Leatherhead Leisure Centre on 29<sup>th</sup> July and was attended by a determined group of almost 50 Molesey people who had come finally to drive home their feelings. They came with placards made by Vera Scott in a coach subsidised by Dr Kenneth Brown and Dr Ian Coxon on behalf of the Friends of Molesey Hospital.

Following a review of all the circumstances and the results from the consultation, the recommendation made to the governing body was to adopt Option 2, which retained Molesey Hospital and made some changes at Epsom/Ewell and Leatherhead.

The recommendation specifically mentioned the large number of strong objections from Molesey people to the possible closure of Molesey Hospital and the difficulties for Molesey people in getting to Cobham. The recommendation was accepted by the governing body.

Molesey Residents Association is obviously delighted with this result and extends its thanks to everyone who responded to the consultation in support of Molesey Hospital. We like to think that MRA played an active part in the outcome – but it is really a victory for the people of Molesey.

The governing body also said that they were aware that Molesey Hospital was not in ideal condition and would be looking to improvements – which could mean anything – including selling off some of the Hospital's spare land to finance improvements, or selling the entire site to build a replacement elsewhere in the Molesey area. Time will tell! But a big thank you to everyone for all their efforts!

To ensure that everyone was aware of the implications of this, our specially enlarged Spring newsletter carried this item on its front page and encouraged all readers to respond to the consultation by one of several possible methods. In March, in conjunction with other local

### **MOLESEY HOSPITAL TO CLOSE?** PUBLIC MEETING



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## **DON'T MISS THE QUIZ NIGHT!**

Here is an important date for your diary – we shall be holding a quiz night at Mole Hall (also called Molesey Centre for the Community) in Bishop Fox Way, West Molesey on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November.

As last year there will be a supper (usually chicken and chips or fish and chips) and a pleasant evening out trying your knowledge against that of other competitors - but it's not too serious, more a bit of fun, really. Teams of six compete and the raffle will be in aid of 'The Silverlining' - a local charity that helps people suffering from brain injuries. If you fancy this on an autumn evening please ring Lesley Yauner on 8224 2094.

## **THE STRANGE CASE OF THE ANONYMOUS BIDDER**

When the Bishop Fox estate was built in West Molesey in the 1980's, part of the land had to remain open due to large water pipelines buried beneath. This open land was landscaped and sold to a charitable trust together with a sum of money to maintain the land.

All was well until 2010 when the maintenance money was exhausted and the grass then went uncut. The residents of the estate felt that Elmbridge Council should maintain the land but Elmbridge was unwilling, pointing out that it was private land and they could not maintain private land at council tax payers' expense.

As a temporary measure, MRA paid for several cuts while MRA councillors persuaded Surrey C.C. to make a grant to Elmbridge to continue the grass cutting.

All was then well until an announcement in June that the open land would be sold by auction this July. Since

the land was designated 'open space' and had to remain so, the auctioneer's expected price was £1,000 to £5,000. The residents of the estate were prepared to buy the land themselves at this price but at the auction it was sold to an anonymous telephone bidder for £56,000!

The auctioneer was not prepared to name the successful bidder, so, until the land is registered at the Land Registry, the new owner will remain unknown. Why someone would want to buy land that cannot be developed or used in any way other than the present way, remains a mystery.

Or do they know something we don't know?



## **OLYMPIC SUCCESS!**

No doubt you will have enjoyed watching on television the great success of Team GB in the Rio Olympics. Did you know that three of our Gold Medallists are members of the local Molesey Boat Club?

Mo Sbihi and George Nash were part of the successful men's coxless four team, and Andrew Triggs Hodge MBE was part of the men's eight which also won gold.

Congratulations to the three of them and to Molesey Boat Club.

## **ON STREET PARKING**

As car ownership increases and the volume of traffic on local roads increases, some residents have raised concerns about difficulties associated with parking in their roads.

Surrey County Council (SCC) recently carried out a review of on street parking controls in East and West Molesey, and this considered all the issues and proposals put forward by residents.

The outcome of the review is expected in the Autumn.

## **EASY ONLINE SUBSCRIPTIONS**

In these days most things are done online and we are seeking to make the payment of MRA subscriptions easier. Rather than have a door knock at a possibly inconvenient time by one of our door-to-door collectors, you can now pay your subscription online, at a convenient time to yourself, by bank transfer to the MRA Santander account number 86284805 (sort code 09-01-28). To ensure we know who sent us the money, please also send an email with your name and, importantly, your address to our membership secretary at [mra.subs@yahoo.com](mailto:mra.subs@yahoo.com)

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# THAMES ANTI-FLOODING STRATEGY

In June MRA held a public meeting to inform Molesey people about proposals intended to reduce flood risk in “the largest area of developed floodplain in England without flood defences” – the area along the Thames extending from Datchet to Teddington.

The Environment Agency has calculated that damages from a major flood in this area could exceed £850 million (£2billion by 2055 taking into account climate change).

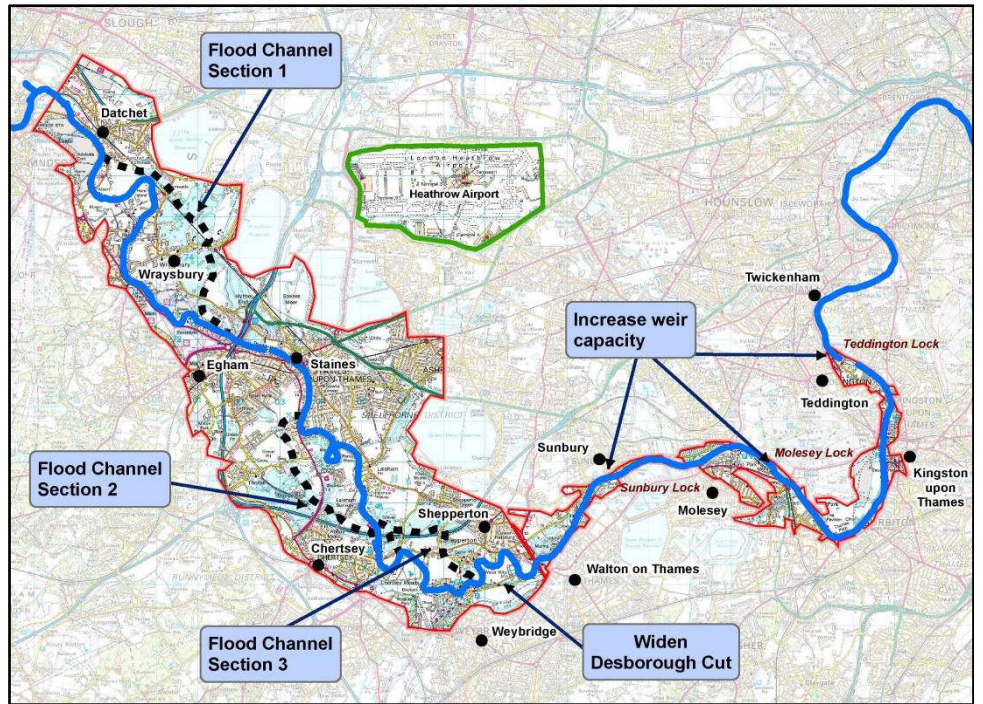
The proposed scheme will involve large-scale engineering work to construct 17 kilometres of new flood channels between 30 and 60 metres wide, built in 3 sections: Datchet to Hythe End flood channel; Egham Hythe to Chertsey flood channel; Laleham to Shepperton flood channel, as well as increasing the capacity of the Desborough Cut channel between Weybridge and Walton.

The purpose of all this is to increase the water holding capacity of the Thames and to speed the flow to prevent flooding in the threatened areas. To carry the increased flow it will also be necessary to improve the flow capacity at Sunbury, Molesey and Teddington weirs.

The scheme is presently costed at £476million, of which the government is expected to provide nearly half and the rest is expected to be provided largely by local councils along the route.

The proposed timescale (including planning consents and finance approvals) is for construction to commence in 2020/21 and for it to be ready for service in 2024/25 and final completion, including landscaping, in 2028/29.

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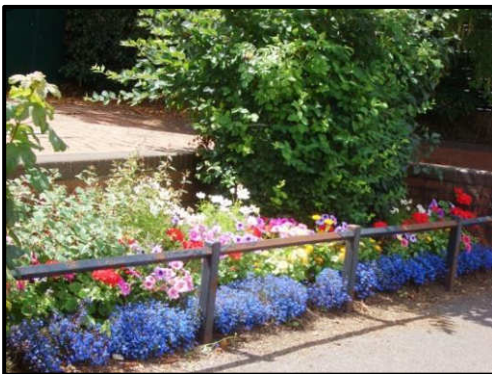


## NON-HOUSEHOLD WASTE CHARGES

Surrey County Council, under financial pressure, is imposing charges at recycling centres for taking non-household waste - such as materials resulting from building works (bricks, tiles, plasterboard, old baths, cisterns, etc) as well as old tyres. Normal household waste and greenery is not affected and residents are also allowed one bag of non-household waste per day without charge. Anything above this is chargeable at £4-£5 per bag (a bag is considered to be up to 50cm x 70cm). Loose materials will be charged at £50 per car load.

## HAVE YOU NOTICED

the pretty display of flowers on the verge opposite the old Police Station? Or the ones spilling out of the horse trough at the junction of Wolsey Road and Bridge Road?



These displays (and several others) are financed by MRA and planted, watered and maintained single-handedly by MRA County Councillor Ernest Mallett.

You may often see him about with wheelbarrow, fork, watering can and fertiliser. He also maintains gardens at



the West Molesey War Memorial and the Police Station Green. What would we do without him?

## MAGICAL MOLESEY

Make a note in your diary for this fun pre-Christmas event taking place on the ‘Woolworth’s parade’ in East Molesey on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, starting at 5pm.

## DRAKE PARK

Along Molesey Road towards Hersham, there is a large area of scrubby land on the left, just past Fieldcommon Lane, almost opposite Esher Rugby Club. This is Drake Park and is green belt land.

There is now a planning application with Elmbridge Council for Drake Park, which is bound to be contentious because of its green belt status. The application is for a new 'garden village' comprising up to 1,024 new residential units, community based hub and parkland, primary school, medical centre, dentists and pharmacy, local supermarket, pub/restaurant, offices, parking, nature conservation and water features, recreation, landscaping and associated facilities.

This is obviously a huge application with implications for the local infrastructure and is to be considered by a joint meeting of the East and North Area planning sub-committees in November.

A similar application was withdrawn last year. The new planning application number is 2016/2217.

## NEW APPLICATION AT THE 'PAVILION' SITE

A new planning application is with Elmbridge Council for a development of 42 homes together with a mini football pitch and children's play area on the Pavilion Club open land in Hurst Lane.

This land is subject to a long-standing section 106 planning restriction, requiring that it remains open space. Nonetheless, in 2010 there was an application to build 76 properties on the site which was refused by Elmbridge. The developers went to appeal and were turned down by the appeals inspector after representations at the appeal hearing by MRA and local residents. Undeterred, the developers then went for a judicial review, which also found against them.

MRA has written objecting to this new application and will oppose it at every opportunity.

You may view the new application on Elmbridge's website [www.elmbridge.gov.uk/planning](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/planning) under planning application 2016/2444.

**ALFRED BROWNE** MRA County Cllr. Ernest Mallett and the MRA Treasurer mixed the concrete for the base, laid the paving slabs and installed a very nice bench seat, all financed by the family, on the Wilderness land next to the Mole, in memory of Mr and Mrs Alfred Browne – long time Molesey residents.

At his family's request, the seat was installed in Alfred's favourite spot. Mr Browne started work at the Press Association in Fleet Street in 1937 as a reporter's assistant and worked his way up to become weekend editor by the time he retired in 1985.

Along the way he reported on the London Blitz and was on the inaugural flight of Concord. He was also the only journalist permitted to visit the Great Train Robbers in Durham jail.



**HAVE YOUR SAY ON HEATHROW EXPANSION** Elmbridge Council is considering the implications for Elmbridge if Heathrow expansion is given the go-ahead – both the economic advantages and the environmental disadvantages. Elmbridge residents are invited to express their views by filling in a questionnaire at [www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=147221079361](http://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=147221079361)

**CROSSRAIL 2** A public consultation is expected sometime in the Autumn

**ILLEGAL BOATS** In our Summer newsletter we reported on the 'Slum boat' moored by the towpath on the Hurst Park riverbank. After long term pressure by MRA councillors, the owner appeared at Kingston County Court on 21<sup>st</sup> July to answer charges of illegal mooring brought by the Environment Agency. It turned out that the owner has four large barges as well as 4 or 5 other boats moored illegally along the Thames. He was ordered to move the boats by the end of August.

He has now moved the 'slum boat' eyesore to next to Molesey Lock. Your MRA councillors will now be pressing Elmbridge Council and the Environment Agency to find a speedy solution to the problem.

*Your Membership is Greatly Appreciated*

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We will make sure you get a Membership Card *Thank You*



### MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP - AUTUMN 2016

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