

# MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

**NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2014**  
[www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk](http://www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk)  
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**Chairman: Nigel Cooper, 24 Southfields, KT8 0DP Tel: 8224 - 0712**

## **Molesey Residents Association Councillors at Elmbridge**

### **MOLESEY EAST**

**Nigel Cooper 8224-0712**  
**Elizabeth Cooper 8224-0712**

### **MOLESEY NORTH**

**Alan Hopkins 8224-1078**  
**Liz Robertson 8979-0035**  
**Stuart Selleck 8979-2466**

### **MOLESEY SOUTH**

**Ruby Ahmed 8941-9680**  
**Mike Axton 8979-1502**  
**Vic Eldridge 8979-3905**

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

## **PAVILION CLUB LAND**

Back in the 1980's the Guardian Royal Exchange insurance company decided it no longer needed its company sports ground in Hurst Lane, which extended from Hurst Road up to the back gardens of the houses in Vine Road. Planning consent was applied for and permission was granted to build on about half the area (which is now King's Chase). Pressure from MRA Councillors resulted in a legal agreement that the remainder of the land in front of the pavilion building would remain as open space for leisure use.

The pavilion and the open land were sold to the Pavilion Club.

In 2003 the requirement that the land should remain open was restated by Elmbridge Council and agreed by the Pavilion Club owners.

However, in 2010 a developer, Bloor Homes, applied for planning permission to build 76 properties on the site. Although the Council had the power to set aside the legal requirement, consent was refused after representations by MRA Councillors.

Bloor Homes then went to appeal and the appeals inspector heard the views of



local residents and MRA Councillors and found that the Council's decision was correct.

Bloor Homes then went to a judicial review, which can't change the decision but, on a technicality, decided the methods by which the appeals inspector made his decision were incorrect. Hence a new appeal had to be held. For this, Bloor Homes engaged a QC to argue their case (and he gave MRA Councillors Tony Popham and Stuart Selleck a very hard time at the hearing). Local residents also spoke strongly and the appeal again went against Bloor Homes.

Since then Bloor Homes has gone for another judicial review but we have recently been informed by the Treasury Solicitor's Department at Elmbridge Council that Bloor Homes eventually filed a notice of discontinuance of their review application. The case has, over the years, been hard fought every step of the way by local residents and MRA Councillors.

Let's hope that, at last, this is the end of that long road.

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## MOLESEY WEIR

The process of rebuilding the sluice gates at Molesey Weir is now approaching its final stages.

This is a two-year project, with work suspended during the winter months because of the much higher flow rate of the Thames.

During 2013 the four new sluices nearest Ash Island were rebuilt with radial control gates (as used in the Thames Barrier) and, as can be seen in the photograph, taken in September, work is well underway to replace the other four sluices.

The men can be seen working well below water level, protected by the piling behind them keeping the water at bay.

When the work on the sluices is complete a fish ladder will be constructed between the new sluices and the existing weir.

The expectation is that all the work will be complete by the end of this year, barring unforeseen circumstances or very bad weather.



## AIRCRAFT NOISE!

The recent increase in aircraft noise over Molesey is a result of airspace trials run by Heathrow under which aircraft departing to the east have followed a narrower path, meaning more planes flying over Molesey. We understand that any decisions following the trials will depend partly on the reaction from affected residents. We have therefore been urging residents to report any increase in noise levels either by e-mail to: [noise\\_complaints@heathrow.com](mailto:noise_complaints@heathrow.com) or by telephone to 0800 344 844.

Molesey Residents Association Councillor (MRA) Stuart Selleck also wrote to our local MP Dominic Raab on behalf of MRA to register our concerns and to seek his assistance in pressing for a better outcome for Molesey. Mr Raab held an open evening on 24 September at which many people also raised this, and he agreed to take it forward and try to get something done. We are pleased to report that, as a result of the public backlash, Heathrow has now announced plans to end the trials on 12 November, instead of running them until January, as originally planned. Thanks to the many residents who raised concerns, as this has clearly had an impact. They also confirmed that any permanent changes to airspace would require Government approval, and be subject to full public consultation. The MRA had planned hold a public meeting about this at Mole Hall in Walton Road, West Molesey on Monday 10th November. In view of these welcome developments this meeting will no longer be going ahead.

### LAMP POSTS.

Maybe not an earth shattering matter but an example of why your local councillors are important rather than simply having everything run by council officers.

The three lamp-posts at Grove Court, Walton Road, were failing but Surrey C.C. insisted that all three were on private land and would not be replaced.

MRA Cllr. Ernest Mallett worked with the residents to investigate the history and, after some 9 months, SCC finally caved in and replaced the lamp post in the pavement using council funds. They also offered the residents a very satisfactory deal to replace the other two very rusty ones, agreed to be on private land.

Meanwhile, MRA Cllr. Stuart Selleck pushed for, and got, a new 'heritage' street light installed in the dark 'Chatter Alley' from Bridge Road towards the station.

### MOLESEY CARNIVAL

After a very successful Carnival held in June, the Carnival Committee was distressed to receive a bill for £150 from Elmbridge's contractors to repair damage to the Recreation ground due to the rain in the morning.

The Carnival Committee had done everything they could to avoid any such damage so MRA Cllr. Mike Axton 'had words' at Elmbridge and the bill was withdrawn.

The Carnival Committee was very grateful - and relieved - as £150 is a lot of money to them!



## C.I.L. – WHAT IS IT?

In the past it has been usual for a property developer to come to an arrangement with the local council to provide some community facilities as a condition of receiving planning consent for their development. This frequently took the form of the provision of facilities such as a children's playground or some open land and was often referred to as a 'Section 106 agreement'.

This has now been put on a more formal basis by the government and called 'Community Infrastructure Levy' – or 'C.I.L.'. It takes the form of a sum of money per new property built paid to the local council for use in improving the local infrastructure supporting the new development.

The amount involved can be up to £40,000 per new property (excluding affordable homes) and is not intended to replace normal council expenditure for council services or upkeep of property.

Local residents and organisations can apply for funding from the 'CIL' for local projects. Applicants will need to complete a Community Projects Application Form. More information is available from the Council's website at: <http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/planning/apps/cil.htm> - then click on the link for 'CIL funding for local projects'. Our Councillors will be happy to discuss any proposals you may have.

The government has specified that 25% of the 'CIL' money raised in an area has to be allocated locally and all Molesey councillors will make the decisions on this as a local Molesey councillor group.

Provisionally, £5,700 has been allocated for improvements to Hurst Park riverside (made by the Thames Landscape Strategy group), £20,000 towards the cost of replacement of the Green Lane footbridge and £10,000 for repairs to St. Paul's Church spire.

Very importantly, £30,000 has also been earmarked for the Molesey Boat Club in their plans to establish a replacement Elmbridge Rowing Tank on their Thames riverside site. MRA councillors are in total support.

Up to 20<sup>th</sup> October, Elmbridge Council is conducting a public consultation about these allocations on: [www.elmbridge.gov.uk](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk) under 'Let's talk Elmbridge'.

Some time ago Molesey Boat Club, renowned for producing Olympic medal-winning rowers, obtained planning permission to construct a rowing tank at the Club. Fundraising is ongoing but the Club has already raised a significant amount for this expensive facility (which previously existed at the old Leisure Centre) and hope to receive a further £50,000 from Elmbridge's share of the CIL funds. Work is now underway on the project.

The MRA has always been a strong supporter of the Boat Club, but some residents were concerned about the loss of some public open space at Graburn Way. MRA Cllr. Mike Axton therefore pressed for the remaining public open space at the riverfront to be enhanced with some landscaping, additional seating, and a much improved children's play area. This was agreed and the new play area, which will be a superb facility for local children, is expected to open shortly.



## SURREY MATTERS

The County's continual high birth rate means Surrey has to provide 13,000 extra school places over the next 5 years which will cost a minimum of some £350m, about equivalent to 43 Primary schools!

An extra £50m will be needed to cope with 2,000 extra elderly and vulnerable residents and the County would like to spend £132m on roads over the 5 years.

The County is pressing the government for a greater grant but a lot of this money will have to be borrowed as a mortgage and the interest bill added to the Council Tax.

In the Summer 2014 Molesey Conservatives newsletter, it is pleasing to note that it endorses the work of Molesey Residents Association County Councillors Ernest Mallett and Stuart Selleck. Prior to this year's Elmbridge Borough Elections, after several months work, Stuart Selleck convinced Surrey Highways to bring forward the re-surfacing of Palace Road. This decision was subsequently ratified at the June meeting of the Local Committee.

Ernest Mallett and Stuart Selleck, along with other Residents and Liberal County Councillors, were vociferous in voting against the Conservative administration at County Hall who awarded themselves large pay increases, in direct contravention of the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations. The increases were voted through by the large Conservative majority.

# DOGS ON MOLESEY HEATH & RIVER CLEARANCE

A number of local residents have raised concerns about the prevalence and impact of professional dog walkers on Molesey Heath in West Molesey. Many turn up with far more dogs than one person can possibly manage, and there have been numerous incidents of uncontrolled dogs frightening both children and other dogs, as well as inconsiderate parking in Approach Road. As regular visitors will know, there are also problems with dog mess on the paths and footpaths over Molesey Heath.

MRA Cllr. Mike Axton has raised these problems with the Council, and as an initial measure, they have agreed to install signs asking dog owners to ensure that dogs are kept under control, clear up mess left by their dogs, and to use consideration when parking in Approach Road. We hope this will lead to an improvement, but we will continue to monitor the position closely.

Mike has also chased up (with the Environment Agency) the much needed clearance of weeds from the River Mole and the Dead River. This work is now being carried out.

## GRANTS AVAILABLE

**Action Surrey – Streets Ahead.** This is a scheme to provide insulation grants to people owning solid-walled houses.

The scheme operates in conjunction with Elmbridge and Surrey C.C.

Ring 01483 617 760 and ask to speak to Jess Putt for more information.

## HOAX WARNING CASH AT ATMs

The myth is that if you should be unfortunate enough to be forced by a fraudster to give your PIN or made to withdraw cash at an ATM you should give/put in your PIN backwards. The myth states that by doing this the machine will operate normally and still produce cash BUT it will automatically inform the police that this is a forced transaction.

**THIS WILL NOT WORK AND IS A HOAX**

## HURST PARK SCHOOL

In our Summer newsletter we detailed the parking problems we envisage when the new Hurst Park School is built. It will be about twice the size of the present school with 420 places and a nursery, but will provide only 26 parking places on-site. This will provide for only half the staff with no facilities for parents to stop to drop off their children or to deliver children up to the age of 7 to the school premises, which will be a requirement.

MRA County Cllr. Ernest Mallett managed, with great difficulty and no help from the school governing body, to get a comprehensive parking condition added to the plans.

However, at the new Cranmere School at Esher where a similar situation was proposed, Ernest also managed to get a parking plan agreed by planning councillors, only to have it overturned when it came to the vote and all the Conservative councillors suddenly changed their minds and voted against it (surely they hadn't been lent on by those higher up?).

Only time will tell whether the all-powerful Conservative top brass at Surrey C.C. eventually up-end the plan for Hurst Park School as happened at Esher. We hope not - but can only wait and see!



**MAGICAL MOLESEY** Yes, we know you don't want to think about Christmas yet but – make a note in your diary to remember this fun pre-Christmas event! It will be held in the “Woolworth’s” parade area of Walton Road on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, starting at 5pm.

There will be the Trader's Christmas tree, erected and lit by MRA, children's competitions, hot mince pies, maybe a glass of hot wine, stalls and much more. Be sure not to miss it!

## Your Membership is Greatly Appreciated

If you would like to pay direct, please return the tear off slip with £3.00 or £15.00 to any of the following addresses:-  
20 Walton Road KT8 0DF, 97 Buckingham Gardens KT8 1TN or 42 Beauchamp Road KT8 2PG

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



### MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP - AUTUMN 2014

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