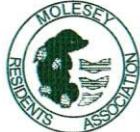
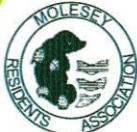


MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2017

www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk

e-mail contact: mjaxton@live.com



Chairman: Nigel Cooper, 24 Southfields, KT8 0DP Tel: 8224 - 0712

Molesey Residents Association Councillors at Elmbridge

MOLESEY EAST

Tony Popham 07970-107937
Ivan Regan 8224-5357
Stuart Selleck 8979-2466

MOLESEY WEST

Ruby Ahmed 8979-4210
Mike Axton 8979-1502
Vic Eldridge 8979-3905

MRA Councillor at Surrey County Council - Ernest Mallett 8979-6446

MOLESEY'S GREEN SPACES

Molesey Residents Association has always fought to protect open green spaces in Molesey and to add to them whenever the possibility arises.

Newcomers to the area, or even those who have lived here for a long time, may be unaware that, after Wates had built the Hurst Park estate on the old Hurst Park racecourse in the 1960's, they wanted to further develop the remaining open land - which had remained fenced off and neglected with no public access for many years.

Using their leverage at Elmbridge Council, MRA Councillors insisted that, in exchange for planning consent to build the Rivermead estate, Wates had to give over the remaining open land to Elmbridge Council as community open space (now known as Hurst Meadows).

Ernest Mallett secured an extra 4 acres at the Graburn Way end at the Planning Appeal.

Other MRA battles over the years have given Molesey the Grovelands Recreation Ground in West Molesey, defeated a proposal to build on the Walton Road Recreation Ground, obtained the 18-acre Wilderness field into Council ownership and secured the open Pavilion site in East Molesey. We have recently, with local residents, three times successfully defended that site against developers but now they are trying again with another Appeal AND another planning application!

With Elmbridge now drawing up the new Local Plan, which will determine planning policy in the future, there is an opportunity to classify the Hurst Park open lands as a 'Local Green Space'.

'Local Green Space' is a new categorisation introduced by the Government to offer, to areas of importance to the local community, a high degree of protection against new development.

Hurst Meadows and the Hurst Park open land were given a very high score in EBC's Green Spaces Designation Study, as were Cigarette Island, Grovelands Rec., Molesey Heath & the Wilderness land.

Naturally, with its past (and present) history of obtaining and retaining open space for Molesey, MRA strongly backs these proposals – and residents can be assured that MRA Councillors will press vigorously for these designations to be approved and expect to see them confirmed in due course.

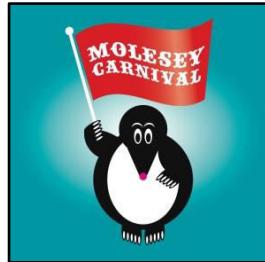
MOLESEY CARNIVAL

On the 10th June Molesey Carnival took place on a gloriously sunny day on the Walton Road Recreation Ground.

The site was thronged with people of all ages to receive the float parade, headed by the Scout Band, as it wended its way through the streets of Molesey. There were many stalls from local organisations and new rides and attractions.

MRA ran its usual small electric trikes for young children at only 50p a ride, providing a great attraction for the very youngest on their great Carnival day out.

We also provided cash prizes for the Best School Float and the Runner-up and were pleased to help finance the Carnival Princess's rig-out. A great day was had by all!



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SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

These elections, held on May 4th, saw Ernest Mallett comfortably retaining his Molesey West seat - and so he should, considering the amount of work he puts in! We were sorry to see Elizabeth Cooper being unsuccessful in the Molesey East/Esher ward, which is always very difficult for us due to the high level of Conservative support in Esher. As he is now Leader of Elmbridge Council, Stuart Selleck felt that pressure of that work meant he could not re-contest the Molesey East/Esher seat.

COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES

All councillors are volunteers and do not receive pay or salary.

They do, however, receive an allowance which is intended to help towards the extra costs of carrying out their councillor duties (travelling costs, phone costs, etc).

The recent Conservative political circular under the name of 'The Molesey News' (not to be confused with the old Molesey News - this was a proper local newspaper) created a great fuss about a 12% rise in councillor allowances. This increase was recommended by an independent panel set up by the previous Conservative administration at Elmbridge because there had been no rise for some years. The new increase amounted to less than 2% per year since the last rise.

Even after this increase, Elmbridge allowances are still considerably below those paid by other Surrey councils, and about 15% below Conservative-led Spelthorne Council, just across the Thames.

'The Molesey News' also failed to mention that, in 2007, the then Conservative Leader of Elmbridge Council approved a 42% increase in his personal allowance, with large increases for his cabinet colleagues. And in 2014 the Conservative controlled Surrey County Council leader's allowances were increased by almost 60%, causing their Independent Remuneration Panel members to resign in protest. And, of course, unlike the political parties, MRA councillors pay their own election expenses.

GETTING THINGS DONE

The previous Conservative administration at Elmbridge Council introduced Saturday car park charges in the Walton Road car park. After the 2016 local elections, the Residents groups, having gained control of the Council, promised to introduce free parking on Saturdays and the Molesey Councillors have successfully introduced a 3-hour free parking period in the Walton Road car park on Saturdays. This should improve footfall for businesses and reduce parking in surrounding roads.

Thanks to the efforts of MRA Cllr. Stuart Selleck, a new path has been put down across Hurst Meadows. This will help walkers going from the car park to the play area as well as people with buggies, etc., to move around the Meadows.

The vibrancy of the cafes in Bridge Road is well known and welcome. However, people leaving cycles on the pavement has sometimes caused problems. MRA Councillor Stuart Selleck arranged for cycle racks to be placed on the traffic island to help to relieve this problem.

HEATHROW

Firstly, some good news from MRA Cllr. Tony Popham. Since the Residents Associations (in co-operation with the Lib Dems) took control of Elmbridge Council, the Council has re-joined LAANC (Local Authorities Aircraft Noise Council) and will be having regular meetings with LAANC.

Elmbridge Council undertook a review of the impact of the proposed third runway at Heathrow Airport and came to the conclusion that it could not support a third runway. It has been pushing the Government and the Heathrow Airport Authority for an independent aircraft noise and pollution regulator as the Civil Aviation Authority has no teeth and is too 'pally' with the Airport Authorities.

The Council also supports dispersal within the flight 'corridor' (which is 3Km wide) to reduce the impact on particular properties that are being affected by the same routes night after night.

As it stands at the moment, there is no 'joined up' thinking at Heathrow. All their talks and forums are about noise, when pollution is probably going to be the biggest problem.

So please, if aircraft noise or pollution is causing you concern, please email Heathrow at <http://www.heathrow.com/noise/what-you-can-do/make-a-complaint-about-noise> and copy-in your MP, Dominic Raab, at dominic.raab.mp@parliament.uk Incidentally, Dominic Raab supports a third runway and says in his blog that there will be no (road) traffic increase with a third runway!!!



GLENLYN AND MOLESEY HOSPITAL

Residents are continuing to contact us with concerns about the level of service at the Glenlyn Medical Centre and MRA Councillors Mike Axton and Stuart Selleck have raised this directly in a series of meetings with the doctors who run the practice. They recognise the difficulties patients are facing and have assured us that they are taking active steps to address them.

They are actively seeking to recruit additional doctors and nurses but there is a severe shortage of GPs nationwide.



They have instigated an urgent care clinic at Glenlyn, so that patients do not have to travel to Giggs Hill in Thames Ditton for urgent appointments. They have also streamlined administrative procedures and re-established meetings of the Patient Participation Group, which all patients are welcome to attend (the last one was held on 23 May). But problems remain, particularly the length of time to book a non-urgent appointment.

We hope that, in time, these changes will result in real improvements for patients. The last report on the practice from the Care Quality Commission, dated 10 January 2017, marked the practice overall as "good", so hopefully things are now moving in the right direction.



Hospital. This was followed up with press releases and CCG meetings. Steve Bax's election manifesto says he worked tirelessly on the Hospital problem but we don't have evidence on this.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, committee members of the League of Friends attended a large number of meetings and workshops to put forward Molesey's case. During the consultation process they attended meetings of "stakeholders" which were not large public meetings. They built up a good rapport with Tom Elrick and James Blythe, Director of Commissioning, CCG.

In July, impressed by the reaction following the MRA campaign, the CCG announced that they would be continuing to provide services at Molesey Hospital and that NHS Property Services hoped to have a business case for Molesey Hospital ready by this May. This could possibly mean selling off land to allow improvements to the existing hospital – or even the sale of the whole site and building a new facility elsewhere in the Molesey area.

In fact, NHS Property Services are now in the process of 'restructuring' and seem to be in some disarray. The feasibility study has still not been completed, in spite of being chased by the CCG.

We shall keep you informed when we have any further news.

FUN EVENINGS

Here's a date for your diary - we shall be holding a Quiz Supper in Mole Hall (also called Molesey Centre for the Community) in Bishop Fox Way, West Molesey on Saturday 18th November.

As last year there will be a supper (usually chicken and chips or fish and chips) and a pleasant evening, trying out your knowledge against that of other competitors. 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.

We recently ran a small Charity Bridge Supper, which raised £265 for The Silverlining charity and £260 for Epilepsy. The charities involved were very grateful for these donations.

DAFFODIL APPEAL We were again delighted this year to find that our 'Daffodil Appeal' was as well supported as ever. Molesey people's generosity, together with our own contribution, allowed us to send a donation of £525 to Marie Curie and another £200 to the Alzheimer's Society, both of whom were very grateful and we would like to pass on our thanks to all who contributed. Thank You!

ILLEGAL MOORINGS ON THE THAMES

This is an ongoing problem as the river has a complex range of land owners - and only the owners of the land that the boats are moored on can take action against an illegal mooring. Land owners could include the Environment Agency, Network Rail or in a minority of recent cases, Elmbridge Borough Council. At this point the landowner could consider applying to the courts for a possession order but the boat owners are well aware of the law - and move on just before court action is taken. It's a cat and mouse game.



The good news is that all three boats moored near Garrick Gardens have recently moved on. However, the large boat, which has been moored at various points up and down this stretch of the Thames, has reappeared opposite Platts Eyot, near the official 48 hour mooring site.

Elmbridge Council has no powers to move or evict boats which are not moored on Elmbridge owned land but continues to work with other agencies to try and resolve this issue.

WALTON ROAD WAR MEMORIAL



This war memorial has only ever recorded the names of those from West Molesey lost in the First World War; hence the Second World War Memorial Association was set up several years ago to find ways of correcting this.

This was NOT an MRA project but some MRA committee members are members of the Charity and the MRA has helped with funding.

A scheme was produced to install a new war memorial on The Forum, but the cost was too high to allow it to continue, so nothing happened for some years, and committee members fell away and some unfortunately died. Also, the paperwork containing the new names proved to be incomplete and needed more research.

Ernest Mallett, the Chairman of the War Memorial Charity, has been working with interested residents and some MRA committee members and the names list is now considered complete and accurate. Negotiations have been reopened with the Kingston Masonry Company to install two large granite blocks on either side of the entrance path, engraved with the names of those lost in both wars. The target is for completion of the project before Remembrance Day in November.

LATE NEWS

The would-be developers of the open Pavilion site in Hurst Lane have now appealed against the refusal from Elmbridge to allow building there - AND have also entered a new planning application.

Following objections to their plan for a boathouse on the Thames between the Sadlers Ride car park and the cricket club, Molesey Jaguar Sea Scouts have withdrawn their planning application.

The dangerous parking situation in Hurst Road from Church Road towards Hampton Court should soon be resolved by a parking ban on the South side of the road and compensating extended parking on the North side. It should make this part of the road much less dangerous.

EASY SUBSCRIPTIONS

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The subscription remains at the ludicrously low figure of £3 per household per year – or £15 for five years. Please forward your subscription to any of the addresses below or, perhaps more conveniently, send it by bank transfer to MRA Santander account 86284805, sort code 09-01-28. Please also send an email to mra.subs@yahoo.com with your name and, importantly, address – so we know who has sent in the subscription! We will send you a membership card/receipt. Thank You.

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MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP - SUMMER 2017

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