

# MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2019

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

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## THE LOCAL PLAN – ELMBRIDGE'S DESTINY!

Every few years, Elmbridge Council produces a new Local Plan, which aims to set out how the Borough should develop over the following years. This is usually a big 'switch off' for the average resident – **but this time it is different.**

All the national political parties agree that there is a housing crisis in the country (especially in the London area). The present government has declared a 'national housing crisis' and aims to correct this by setting a number of new homes each council has to provide annually for the next 15 years.

Each Council has to produce a local plan which will be robustly tested by a Government Inspector to ensure it meets government targets. If it doesn't, the Inspector could allocate extra areas for development, so Councils would have no choice but to build more.

At present, approximately 282 new houses are built in Elmbridge every year but the new government requirement is that this must increase to 623 new houses per year – 9,345 over 15 years!

In Elmbridge, there is not enough available land in urban areas to satisfy these requirements. Hence other possibilities have to be considered and the Council has set out 5 options of how the new targets could be achieved and everyone is invited to consider these and make their thoughts known to the Council. The options are:



**Option 1 – Intensify urban areas.** This could mean building on playing fields and allotments as well as very much higher housing densities than we are used to, probably with high-rise blocks of flats. This could mean a loss of open space in urban areas and fundamentally change the character of those urban areas - which have already seen significant development in the past. However, this option would produce the required number of new homes.

**Option 2 – Optimise urban areas and 3 areas of Green Belt release.** This would protect urban areas from significant change of character but mean more 'efficient use' of available land, leading to a higher building density than we are used to, with more much-needed smaller homes and a 3% loss of Green Belt land, around Cobham, Oxshott and Long Ditton. This option doesn't provide the required number of new houses, but other Councils around could be asked to take on our shortfall. However, other Councils around are in the same predicament as we are and are unlikely to be able to help.

**Option 3 – Optimise urban areas and large Green Belt release.** This would protect urban areas as in option 2 but would mean a loss of 11% of the Green Belt in areas such as Cobham, Oxshott, Esher, Hersham, the Imber Court land and the old sewage farm land near Ray Road in West Molesey. This option would produce many more than the required number of new homes, but would give the opportunity to help out neighbouring Councils by taking on some of their requirements.

**Option 4 – Optimise urban areas.** This would treat urban areas as in Option 2 but would not lead to any loss of Green Belt land. This option would not meet our required number of new homes and would mean asking other Councils to take on our shortfall.

**Option 5 – Optimise urban areas and small areas of Green Belt release.** This would protect urban

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areas as in Option 2 but would lead to a loss of up to 6% of Green Belt land in areas such as Cobham, Oxshott, Esher, Hersham, the Imber Court land and the old sewage farm land near Ray Road in West Molesey. This option would produce the required number of new homes.

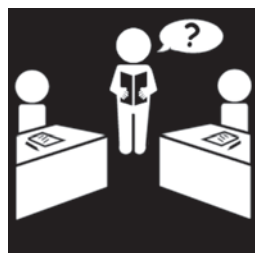
It is important to remember that all the possible sites mentioned are only possibilities and that none of the above options would happen immediately, but would be spread over the next 15 years.

The Council is running a consultation up to the end of September and is anxious to hear the opinions of residents. The five options may be viewed in greater detail, with maps, at [www.elmbridge.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/localplan) including a useful interactive map of the five options, much background information and the opportunity to respond. This information may also be viewed in local libraries, or at the Civic Centre in Esher.

Please do take part in the consultation – your views could influence the future character of where you live! The closing date for your response is 30<sup>th</sup> September – so be quick!

**COUNCIL DECLARES CLIMATE EMERGENCY** and is aiming to become 'carbon neutral' by 2030 (the Conservatives wanted 2050). The signs of global warming are everywhere and are more complex than just climbing temperatures. The planet is warming, from North Pole to South Pole. Since 1906, the global average surface temperature has increased by more than 0.9 degrees Celsius—even more in sensitive polar regions. And the impacts of rising temperatures aren't waiting for some far-flung future—the effects of global warming are appearing right now. The heat is melting glaciers and sea ice, shifting precipitation patterns, and setting animals on the move. Much more information is available at [www.globalchange.gov](http://www.globalchange.gov) Another large problem is single-use plastic waste - in particular, single use plastic water bottles. Everyone is urged to obtain a refillable bottle and to use tap water - cheaper than bottled - and more strictly regulated.

## DON'T MISS THIS!



We shall be holding our Annual Charity Quiz on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at Mole Hall (or Molesey Centre for the Community if you prefer) starting at 6.30pm. Previous such quizzes have been enjoyed by everyone – the questions are intended to be a bit of fun for all. There will be a fish (or chicken) and chips supper and a cash bar. The charity this year is the Mayor's charity - Mencap and the event is supported by our sponsors, Rawlinson & Webber. Tickets are available from Lesley Yauner on 020-8224-2094 at £12 for MRA members and

£15 for others. Make up a table of 6 with your friends. Have a fun autumn evening!

**Note that Magical Molesey** (now Love Magical Molesey) is on Thurs. 28<sup>th</sup> November from 5 to 7pm.

## OUTSTANDING PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Environment Agency has raised concerns about the arrangements to mitigate the effects of possible flooding in the Jolly Boatman/Station site planning application and it looks likely that the application will not now be considered by the Council planning committee until probably December.

A revised application to demolish the Royal Cambridge Homes buildings on Hurst Road has been submitted (application 2019/1802) and to replace them with modern facilities. The scale of the proposals is giving rise to concern.

**IT IS NOT TOO LATE** to renew your annual subscription to Molesey Residents Association, which remains at the staggeringly low level of £3 per household per year – or, more conveniently, £15 for five years. You could send it, in cash or cheque (made out to MRA) to any of the addresses below or, perhaps you would prefer, to send it by bank transfer to our Santander bank account number 86284805 (sort code 09-01-28), confirming this by email to [mra.subs@yahoo.com](mailto:mra.subs@yahoo.com) and we will make sure you get a membership card/receipt. Thank You! .

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



## MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP - AUTUMN 2019

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