

MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2013

www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk

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
Tony Popham 0797 010 7937

MOLESEY NORTH

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

MOLESEY SOUTH

Mike Axton 8979-1502
Ian Donaldson 8979-9845
Vic Eldridge 8979-3905

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

MOLESEY WEIR

You will have seen the large crane active by Molesey Lock and its associated weir.

The work in hand is to replace the sluice gates as they were in a poor state of repair. The work will take place over two years and we are nearing the end of the first year.

You can see from the picture, taken from the island on the far side of the weir, that a coffer dam has been built to allow half of the gates nearest the island to be removed and work is underway to replace those old gates with more modern and efficient 'radial gates' – the same type as used in the Thames Barrier. Next year the other half of the gates will be replaced.



The work meant removing the old footbridge across the weir (the remaining half of the footbridge can be seen) and a temporary footbridge has been constructed. The whole job is a big project and when it is complete it will include a fishladder to allow fish to travel upstream past the weir.

PAVILION SITE LAND

In Hurst Lane, next to the Pavilion Club, is an open piece of land. This land was part of the old Guardian Royal Exchange sports field which extended from Hurst Road up to the back gardens of the houses in Vine Road. When the Kings Chase development was built the developers, following action by MRA, entered into a legally binding agreement that the open section of land would remain open for use as sports land. Elmbridge Council, however, had the ability to set aside the agreement if conditions changed in the future.

The owners of the Pavilion Club sold off the open piece of land to a development company, Bloor Homes, who applied for planning permission to build 76 houses and flats on the site. This was opposed by MRA councillors and Elmbridge Council refused permission.

The developers went to appeal at which local residents and MRA Councillors Tony Popham and Stuart Selleck spoke and the appeals inspector agreed with the refusal from Elmbridge.

The developers then went for a Judicial Review on the grounds of a technicality in the appeal inspector's report. The judge found for the developers and another hearing was ordered.

This took place in March and the local residents and MRA councillors again spoke but were given a very hard time by the QC employed by the developers on their behalf,

We are very pleased to report that the hearing decided that the original refusal should stand. This is the end of the road for this application but the developers are unlikely to go away and could come back with a revised application at some time in the future.

NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY

RAWLINSON & WEBBER

YOUR LOCAL ESTATE AGENT

☎ Sales 020 8941 1234

www.rawlinsonandwebber.co.uk

☎ Lettings 020 8941 6554

GREEN LANE BRIDGE

This bridge over the River Mole connects the end of Green Lane (off Molesey Park Road) with Neilson's Field and is, as the picture shows, in a poor state.

Furthermore, some of the railings alongside the river by the entrance to the bridge were badly broken allowing potentially dangerous access for young children.

When MRA Councillor Mike Axton pointed out the dangers to both Elmbridge Council and the Environment Agency each said that the bridge was owned by the other!

To avert the immediate danger MRA decided to pay to get the riverside railings repaired and they are now safe.

After lengthy delays, it was eventually decided that the bridge belonged to Elmbridge Council and there has since been an inspection of the bridge. This concluded that the bridge was structurally safe but was in dire need of having the metalwork sand blasted and repainted with a primer followed by two coats of Hammerite protective paint. Elmbridge assure us that they are now seeking contractors to carry out this work.



A JOB WELL DONE, ELMBRIDGE

The footpath across the Police Station green (alright, there's no police in the police station now) had got to be very bumpy with holes that filled with water during wet weather, making what should be a pleasant walk a rather messy and unpleasant experience.

After 3 years of pushing by MRA Cllrs. Ernest Mallett and Nigel Cooper, Elmbridge resurfaced the path with a decent tarmac finish.

MRA is very pleased with the result and feel Elmbridge should be congratulated on a good job well done.

MOLESEY LIBRARY

After the scare that we may lose Molesey Library there was much relief when Surrey County Council decided that the library was safe after all.

However, there is now concern that the danger of closure could return. The number of people using the library has declined and it is on these figures that decisions about its future are made.

We therefore encourage Molesey people (and their children) to make good use of the library, or you may not have it forever.

As the old saying goes - **use it or lose it!**

MAGICAL MOLESEY

Yes, we know it is far too early to talk about Christmas – but it will be upon us before we know it.

Please make a date in your diary for this fun event. It will be held on Wednesday, December 4th starting at 5pm.

All the usual attractions – children's competitions, hot mince pies, perhaps a glass of hot wine, Father Christmas, switching on the Christmas tree lights, stalls along the 'Woolworth's' parade and much more.

Don't miss it!

DEEN'S GARAGE

This garage, on Walton Road in West Molesey, has served the area well for many years but is now the subject of a planning application to demolish the garage and replace it with a retail outlet (rumoured to be Sainsbury's).

The initial application was for a three storey building with four flats above the retail premises but this was withdrawn after protests.

Many local residents were against the revised scheme and the application was opposed by MRA Councillors for two basic reasons – lack of parking for customers and because the presence of another

supermarket would decimate the small local businesses nearby. The shortage of parking facilities would force cars to park on Walton Road close to a corner and a busy junction in the road. With a large Tesco's only a quarter of a mile away another similar outlet was considered to be very detrimental to the shopping parade opposite St Peter's church.

At the council planning meeting a representative of the developers spoke on their behalf. A local resident and your MRA councillors (Vic Eldridge, Ian Donaldson and Nigel Cooper) spoke against the proposal. After some discussion the planning committee refused the application.

The developer is going for an appeal – to be at 10am on 31st October at the Civic Centre in Esher.



JOLLY BOATMAN AND STATION SITE



When, on Elmbridge Council, the Conservative majority block-voted through planning permission for the enormous development proposal from GladeDale, some 51 conditions were imposed before development could start, to be complied with by June this year.

Many of these conditions were routine, for items such as fences, but one outstanding condition concerned the 'travel plan'. It was important because, depending on what was produced, it could have a massive impact outside the development area – such as the possibility of reversing the traffic flow along Bridge Street.

However, the developers insisted that the condition only related to traffic inside their site.

The developer's travel plan was rejected by the planning committee, including MRA councillors, because of the effect it would have outside the site.

The plan went to appeal and the appeals inspector decided that the developer's interpretation of the condition should stand. This resulted in costs against the Council and the developer now being in a position to start the development.

The intended development includes a 40-bed hotel on the Jolly Boatman site next to the Thames, a two-storey underground car park, 3-storied shops and offices, a care home (for which there is no tenant at present) and multiple blocks of 3-storey flats, including some hard up against Hampton Court Way, between it and the railway line.

MRA councillors spoke out forcibly against this plan as it was initially going through Council, but were outvoted by the majority party as detailed above. We consider it to be a thoroughly bad plan with a huge over-development of the site facing across the river to Hampton Court Palace – one of the country's greatest heritage sites. Would the French allow this next to Versailles?

Have you seen the 'Molesey News' publication that has been circulated around Molesey recently? Some residents have mistaken it for a renewed version of the old independent local newspaper for Molesey. It is actually a Conservative party-political publication which frequently seeks to run down the Molesey Residents Association and its Councillors.

In the most recent edition the editor, Steve Bax, appears to associate MRA Councillors with the progression of the monstrous over-development on the Jolly Boatman/Station site which MRA has consistently opposed. In fact, MRA councillors, working with the Hampton Court Rescue Campaign, fought tooth and nail at Elmbridge Council to prevent planning consent going through. But, regrettably, it was forced through by the majority Conservative Group at the Council in spite of all the opposition. Unsurprisingly, this is not mentioned in the 'Molesey News'.

Be careful what you read in the 'Molesey News' circular – it can be very misleading.



SPRING BLOOMS

Ernest Mallett has been up to Spalding in Lincolnshire to buy the bulbs for MRA and we have already started the Molesey 'Marie Curie' daffodil planting for Spring blooms.

Winter planting of the War Memorial gardens, Police Station Green gardens and the Horse Trough (on the corner of Wolsey Road and Walton Road) are next on the list.

If any organisation would like some bulbs for public planting areas, please contact Ernest on 8979-6446.

ROAD REPAIRS

This is another area where Mr. Bax in the 'Molesey News' is claiming some success through lobbying. In fact, it is MRA County Cllrs. Stuart Selleck and Ernest Mallett who have had meetings with the Highway chief, Mark Borland, and agreed the programme.

It is these same councillors who have direct access to getting the highway programme amended or added to.

Both councillors have direct control over some £55,000 each of highway expenditure. The new safety and speed reduction refuges in New Road have been negotiated by Ernest Mallett and paid for out of his allocation. He has also agreed a £40,000 drainage programme in St.Peter's Road (which has suffered severe flooding problems for years).

The recent new surfaces on the Vine Road junction and the Manor Road junctions are a direct result of our councillors' intervention, as is the recent resurfacing of the Hurst Park Tesco access road.

Both Stuart & Ernest have this year's and next year's road programme fully agreed and under control. Again, don't be misled by claims from other persons. Here is the Agreed Road Programme:

2013/2014: East Molesey – Hurst Road, Hurst Lane, Seymour Road (some already complete).

West Molesey – Hurst Road, First Avenue, Molesey Avenue, Langton Road.

2014/2015: East Molesey – Palace Road, Wolsey Road, St Mary's Road.

West Molesey – Molesey Road, Island Farm Road, Poole Road, Molesey Park Road.

Note that different treatments may be applied to different roads and only specific parts of some roads may get treatment. Contact either Stuart or Ernest for exact start and finish points on each road.

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 7 Mole Abbey Gardens KT8 1QD

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

MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP - AUTUMN 2013

I enclose £15 for 5 years **Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms.:**
or £3 for 1 year **Address**

I may be prepared to help with: Collecting Subscriptions Delivering Newsletters Election Time Work