

# MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2015

[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**

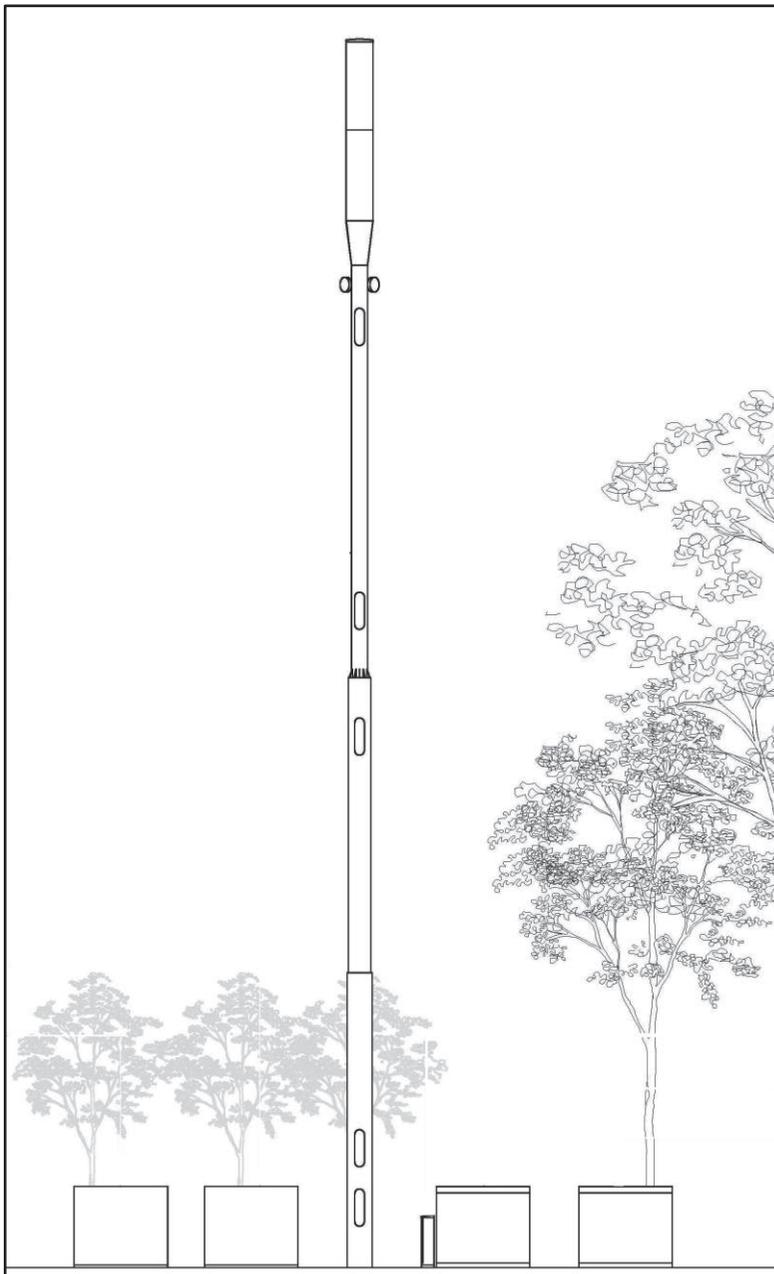
**MOLESEY EAST**  
Nigel Cooper 8224-0712

**MOLESEY NORTH**  
Ivan Regan 8224-5357  
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**

## A HUGE PHONE MAST FOR WALTON ROAD REC?



In the summer a planning application was made to Elmbridge Council to erect a huge 25-metre tall phone mast and four large cabinets on the Walton Road verge close to the entrance of West Molesey Rec. (where the Molesey Carnival is held annually).

At 25 metres (81 feet) it is a very tall mast – nearly three times taller than the houses nearby and projecting way above the very big conker trees there.

The picture on the left (the developer's own picture from the planning application) shows how the mast would tower above the tallest conker tree on the verge and dominate the green and pleasant view at that point.

The mast would be accompanied by four large cabinets on concrete bases

MRA councillors were alarmed at the thought of such an ugly installation in that sensitive position, to say nothing of possible dangers to health so very close to the children's play area on the Rec.

MRA wrote a letter of objection, as did other committee members and local residents and we are relieved to report that the application was refused by Elmbridge planning department. Of course, the proposal could still be taken to appeal. We hope not!

There are other phone masts situated away from residential areas and children's play spaces – such as between the reservoirs or on the factory estate - and we consider that any new masts should be sited in those, or similar, positions.

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## NEW HURST PARK SCHOOL OPENS

The new Hurst Park Primary School opened, a short way along Hurst Road from the old school, for the autumn term in September. The new school is almost twice the size of the old school, with space for 420 pupils as well as a nursery



The new school is hardly an architectural masterpiece but benefits from a purpose built drop-off/pick-up area at the rear of the school together with space to accommodate 52 teachers' and visitors' cars on site. MRA County Councillor Ernest Mallett fought a long campaign at Surrey County Council to achieve this in order to avoid the congestion in neighbouring roads that would have resulted if the original plans had gone through without this provision.

Cobham Free School is now using the old Hurst Park School building on a two-year lease from Surrey C.C. to accommodate part of their senior school. This is to allow the Cobham school time to find alternative expansion premises.

## ELECTORAL BOUNDARY CHANGES

Our last newsletter explained the proposal by the dominant political group on Elmbridge Council to reduce the number of Elmbridge councillors from 60 to 48 with three councillors in each ward. This meant there had to be 16 instead of 22 wards across the Borough for Elmbridge Council elections.

Their proposals involved large boundary changes across the Borough with Molesey being reduced from three wards to the two extended wards of Molesey North and South, with no East ward. The section of East Molesey over the Mole bridges towards Imber Court would be joined on to Thames Ditton for voting purposes.

These proposals were submitted to the Boundary Commission which rejected them and came back with a new plan which splits Molesey into East and West wards, but still keeps the 'over the bridges' part of Molesey in Thames Ditton ward.

The proposed new boundary between East and West includes all of the Hurst Park estate into East ward and, broadly, runs up part of New Road, down between Spreighton and Avern roads, along Beauchamp Road and down lower Seymour Road to the Mole.

MRA did not support the breaking up of clear communities such as Molesey for electoral purposes, but reluctantly accepts that the section of East Molesey 'over the bridges' will become part of Thames Ditton ward for voting purposes. However, we are opposed to that part of the new proposal which also moves Bridge Gardens, Cedar Road, Kingfisher Court, Queens Reach and everything on the south side of Bridge Road and Creek Road into the Thames Ditton ward.

Hence MRA has written to the Boundary Commission objecting to this part of their new proposals and awaits a response.

By the time you receive this newsletter final decisions will have been made and, because of the boundary changes, the whole of Elmbridge Council will have to be elected next May, thus you will have the opportunity to vote for three candidates in that election.

We would emphasise that these changes are for Elmbridge electoral purposes only and do not affect any other boundaries or postal areas.

## CAR PARKING

On-street parking controls are the responsibility of Surrey County Council (SCC) and it was decided in February 2015 to adopt a new comprehensive parking review strategy across Elmbridge, running from April 2015 to March 2018. Molesey's turn will be in 2016/17 commencing next April.

The main aim of the review, starting in 2016, is to change or add restrictions which will make parking/sight lines safer, particularly on corners. Other changes might be possible if they add to safety but overall the review will be looking to maintain parking space capacity. SCC will look carefully at all highway points made to them and will be concerned to examine any knock-on effects of proposed changes, for example, on displacement parking, which might result.

Requests should be sent to: *The Parking Team, Rowan House, Mellow Lane, Guildford GU4 7BQ and should include the proposer's name and address, the location of the parking restriction and explain why they think the restrictions are needed or should be changed. If you want to speak to SCC before sending in a request you can call 0300 200 1003 or email [contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk)*

After pressure by MRA councillors at Elmbridge a couple of years ago, the Walton Road car park was reclassified as a 'village car park' resulting in lower charges to park there.

In a previous Conservative manifesto our party political opponents said they would work to make Walton Road car park free and, more recently, to campaign to get the first hour free – both of which we very much support. However, it is interesting to note that both East Molesey Conservative councillors recently voted to increase car park charges across the Borough! So much for their manifesto promises!

### DOG WALKERS

Some residents have reported increasing numbers of professional dog walkers on Molesey Heath, and the extent to which they control the large numbers of dogs for which they are responsible. There have also been many complaints of dog fouling on the Grovelands site.

The Council has agreed to conduct periodic reviews to keep an eye on this, and will also be putting up additional notices to encourage responsible behaviour by dog walkers.

### WEIR IMPROVEMENTS

Residents have also been concerned about the delay in restoring Barge Walk and the area at Hurst Park occupied by the compound used during the work on Molesey Weir.

MRA Cllr. Mike Axton has been in touch with the Environment Agency about this, and has been assured that parts of Barge Walk would be resurfaced in the autumn, and that the compound area would be re-seeded and replanted so that it should be fully restored by the Spring.



A note for your diary – MRA is very pleased to announce that we shall be introducing 'Molesey in Bloom'. This will be a competition to make Molesey a more attractive place to walk around.

We hope as many of you as possible will enter into the spirit of the event and turn your front gardens into a blaze of colour next summer. There will be several classes such as Best Front Garden, Best Private Hanging Basket and Best Business Hanging Basket.

We are very grateful to local solicitors Kenwright Walker Wyllie for sponsoring this, which we hope will become an annual event. More info. in our next newsletter but until then please start planning. If you would like to know more please contact Lesley Yauner on 8224 2094 or email her at [lesleyyauner@msn.com](mailto:lesleyyauner@msn.com).



To improve the appearance of Molesey, MRA (mainly Ernest Mallett) has planted many flowers around Molesey over the years and maintains the gardens on the police station green.

Ernest was very upset to find that beds of snowdrops he had planted there last winter had been dug up and removed. In the summer, this was followed by all 12 Lobelia clumps and some 30 Petunias being taken from our two gardens there. Two more raids then followed when all the Cosmos plants disappeared. Plants Ernest has put in the horse trough by the Wolsey Road/Bridge Road junction have also been stolen. All these plants are not just torn out by jobs 'for a laugh', but carefully dug out and removed for replanting or maybe even for resale.

Can you believe anyone could stoop so low?

## GLENLYN SURGERY

A number of residents have contacted us with concerns about the Glenlyn Medical Centre, including delays in getting appointments, and difficulties in getting through on the phone.

MRA Councillors Mike Axton and Ruby Ahmed met the Practice Manager recently to discuss these issues, and were assured that the Practice is aware of these difficulties, and is taking steps to address them. Some disruption inevitably followed the merger of Glenlyn with the Giggs Hill Centre, but the Practice is confident that new arrangements they have introduced will make a real difference.

The introduction of Urgent Care Clinics should free up more doctor appointments for complex ongoing cases, and with urgent 'on the day' needs now being dealt with at Giggs Hill, more GP time should be freed up at Glenlyn for doctors to see patients needing regular attention. If people have to go to Giggs Hill, please remember that the 514 bus still links the two surgeries and Molesey Care, with notice, may be able to help with transport (ring 07891 321 986 from 9am to midday, Mon - Fri).



MRA will be running a quiz night at Mole Hall on Saturday 6th February. All profits from the quiz and raffle will be passed to Shooting Star Chase and to Canine Partners (a charity that trains dogs to assist people in wheelchairs with many everyday tasks). Please either download an entry form from our website or collect one from the event's sponsors Rawlinson & Webber. A team to enter will comprise 6 people and the cost will be £10 per person to include supper. There will be a cash bar.

Any queries please call Lesley Yauner on 8224 2094 or email her at [lesleyyauner@msn.com](mailto:lesleyyauner@msn.com). We look forward to seeing you there. Numbers are limited so get your team together soon! The closing date for entries is 25th January.

**NEILSON'S FIELD FOOTBRIDGE** This footbridge has been closed for some time due safety concerns. MRA Councillors have fought hard to persuade the Council to reopen this well-used access to Neilson's Field, but we are frustrated by the long delay in doing so. We have now been advised that Elmbridge Council is at last inviting tenders for the construction of a replacement bridge. This will be prepared off site and is expected to be installed early in the New Year. The work may involve some temporary road closures.

**RADNOR & SANDRA HOUSE SITES** MRA shares the concerns raised by residents about the scale and density of the proposed development together with the entrance via School Road and MRA Councillors will ensure these points are properly considered during the planning process.

We are also concerned that the 'Key Workers' who were granted special tenancies of Sandra House in 2005, will have the option of a tenancy or shared equity in the new development. The developers, Paragon, are not definitely promising this and our councillors are working with Elmbridge Chief Executive, Rob Moran, to try and put this right.

**JOLLY BOATMAN/STATION SITE** We hear a rumour that Hampton Court Palace is possibly buying the 'Jolly Boatman' part of the much larger overall site. Another rumour says the 'new' owner of the total site has sold it on again!

**MAGICAL MOLESEY** Make a note of this pre-Christmas fun event between 5pm and 7pm on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December around the Walton Road shops. There will be the usual Christmas tree, lit by MRA, stalls supporting local charities and stage performances by local school children and hopefully a few surprises. Keep an eye open for program information nearer the time for more details.

Bridge Road will be hosting a 'Day' of Christmas activities on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> December with entertainment throughout the day – there may also be some special bargains to be had!

## 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, 110 Buckingham Gardens KT8 1TN or 245, Fleetside KT8 2NL

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



### MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP - AUTUMN 2015

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