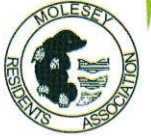
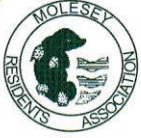


MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

Make a note to come to our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** to be held at **MOLE HALL** (also known as Molesey Community Centre) on **MONDAY, 27TH MARCH** starting at **8 pm**.

You will be able to hear what your Association has been up to over the last year and, after the official business is over, take the opportunity to chat with councillors and committee members. Refreshments will be provided to accompany those chats.

Non-members may join at the door for only £3 per household – a small amount these days!

A DARKER MOLESEY

In February Surrey County Council is implementing, across Surrey, a part-night street lighting policy which will see street lights in many residential areas switched off between midnight and 5am each night. There are some exceptions to this, such as locations where public transport continues beyond midnight – here, lights will either switch off later in the morning or be left on.

Other factors are being identified such as the presence of speed calming measures, formal pedestrian crossings or locations where having the lights switched off could have an adverse effect on either crime or road safety. In such cases the lights near to the area of concern (or if appropriate the entire road) will not be switched off.

These decisions were taken by the Conservative cabinet at Surrey C.C. and forced through the Council. It did not have the support of MRA County Councillors. If you feel that there is good reason why your road should be excluded from the part-night lighting policy you can request a review by filling in a form at: www.surreycc.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/107833/PNL-enquiry-fov2.pdf

RACE GATES

Many newcomers to Molesey (or even those who have been here for some time) are often mystified by the huge brick pillars on either side of Graburn Way on the way down to the Cricket and Boat Clubs.

When this land was part of the Hurst Park racecourse (which closed in 1962 and is now largely occupied by the Hurst Park housing estate) these pillars supported the large gates which were opened, closing off the road, to allow racing to cross the road from the start point much nearer up towards Hampton Court.



The road was then covered with peat and grass to match the rest of the course for the racehorses.

The gates themselves have recently been refurbished and, as part of a wider series of events by Thames Landscape Strategy, on 10th October on the anniversary of the last race in 1962, a brass plaque was attached to one of the pillars to ensure this piece of Molesey's history is not forgotten.

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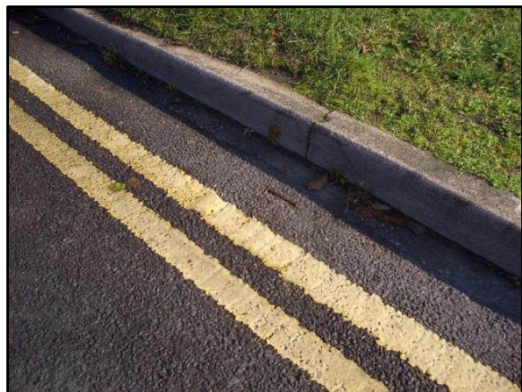
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ON-STREET PARKING REVIEW

With many households owning two or more cars there is an increasing amount of on-street parking, especially close to public venues – schools, shops, railway stations and doctors' surgeries.

In the past Surrey County Council has investigated parking complaints as they arose but recently decided that a long term strategic review of the situation was more sensible. The intention was to introduce restrictions for safety reasons but also to remove any unnecessary restrictions.



It was Molesey's turn in the late summer and a big petition was raised from residents in Palace, Wolsey, Hurst, Arnison and several surrounding roads asking for parking restrictions in those roads.

The result of the review was produced in October. It recommended some minor increase in yellow lines on the corners of some roads, but rejected the petition request on the grounds that most houses in those roads had plenty of off-road parking spaces and pointing out that any restrictions there would result in displacement of many vehicles to other roads (such as Kent, Park and Pemberton Roads) where residents

have no choice but to use street parking due to little off-street parking in their roads.

However, the review considered that parking on both sides of the east end of Hurst Road was dangerous and proposes to allow parking on one side only, but to compensate for the resultant loss of parking spaces by extending the parking area on the other side towards the War Memorial.

There will be a consultation period with the changes expected to proceed later this year.

AUTUMN QUIZ

Our quiz in November was a great success, allowing us to donate £710 to The Silverlining – a charity aiming to help people affected by brain injury. We were grateful to Rawlinson & Webber for sponsoring this event and to Molesey businesses for raffle prizes: Customised Beauty, Tesco, Petritis, KWW Solicitors, Bentleys of Surrey, Wilsons Dry Cleaners, Trade Paints, Belle Epoque, Molesey Fish Bar, Card Collection, The Vine King and Costra Nostra; also to those who produced the delicious desserts. We hope our next fun quiz evening in the autumn will be as well supported!

Keen on bridge? Don't miss our charity bridge supper at 7pm on March 17th at Mole Hall – only £10pp. For details ring Lesley Yauner on 8224-2094, or by email to lesleyyauner@msn.com

FREE CAR PARKING

Since the Borough elections last May, when the Conservatives lost overall control of Elmbridge Council, the present administration (16 Residents Group councillors and 7 Liberal Dems) has been looking to make life easier for residents and better for local businesses by reducing car park charges.

This ambition has resulted in a free car parking period at car parks across the Borough, varying from place to place in accordance with local wishes. For Molesey, this means that you will be able to park in the Walton Road car park on Saturdays for any period up to 3 hours long, free of charge, starting from the first Saturday in April. We hope this will encourage people to shop in Molesey.

DAFFODIL APPEAL

With welcome thoughts of Spring approaching, with all its new growth and vitality, we will be making our usual annual appeal for charitable donations in memory of loved ones who are no longer with us.

Molesey Residents Association will match donations received (up to a total of £400) out of their own funds.

Last year the donations, together with the MRA contribution, amounted to over £450 to Marie Curie Cancer Care and £200 to Alzheimer's.

Memorial boards will be erected at prominent points around Molesey displaying the names of contributors and those they wish to remember.

If you would like to donate please send your donation of £3 upwards in cash or by cheque (made out to M R A) to E. Mallett, 20 Walton Road, East Molesey KT8 0DF.

Thank you so much – we will do the rest!





PAVILION SITE

In the 1980's the Guardian Royal Exchange Insurance Company decided to sell off its sports ground which extended all the way along Hurst Lane from Hurst Road almost to Vine Road. The developer was granted permission to build on half the land (now King's Chase) provided the remainder stayed as recreational land.

This was agreed by the owners and confirmed by the signing of a legally binding Section 106 agreement.

This agreement was reviewed and re-signed by the owners in 2003.

Nonetheless, there was an application to build 76 houses on the open land in 2010 which was

refused, went to Appeal where it was again turned down. It then went to a Judicial Review and a further Appeal hearing where again the developers lost out.

In spite of all this they are at it again and there is an application with Elmbridge Council (2016/2444) to build 42 housing units with garaging on the site, together with a mini football pitch, gym, etc.

MRA will oppose this new application as fiercely as we, and local residents, did the previous one.

The new application will be considered by Elmbridge planning committee at the end of January.

CHRISTMAS FUN

We hope you enjoyed the 'Magical Molesey' evening – a fun evening held annually on the 'Woolworth's Parade' mainly for children but also for parents and grandparents. MRA ran its usual 'sweetie' stall selling 50p bags of sweets for children.

Once again the MRA led the way in getting lighted public Christmas trees. We put up and lighted the 'Traders' Christmas tree next to Musicland. The Music shop proprietor provided the electricity and Molesey Guides and Brownies decorated the tree. Tesco was supposed to fund the tree for the traders but its contribution was less than half the £220 cost, so MRA put in £75 and Paul in the Pet Shop funded the other £70 needed.

MRA put up and funded the Christmas tree on the Police Station green. Unfortunately, after 3 days vandals broke the tree down and destroyed £100 worth of lights. MRA also installed the lights on the growing Christmas tree and the nearby silver birch on the Central Avenue roundabout. We are glad to say that these had better luck and suffered no vandalism.

MRA funded a Christmas tree and lights on the Fleetside estate which was erected by local Fleetside residents who held a carol sing-in around the tree.

We also made a donation to the trader who added a lighted Christmas tree on the Tesco Parade.

Anyone willing to help with installing next Christmas, please contact Ernest Mallett on 8979-6446.

PROPOSED SURREY C.C. 15% COUNCIL TAX INCREASE!

Elmbridge Council collects the council tax but, for every £1 you pay, 75p goes to SCC, 13p to the police and only 12p to Elmbridge.

The Conservative Cabinet at Surrey County Council (SCC) has announced plans to increase its share of Council Tax bills by 15% - a huge increase.

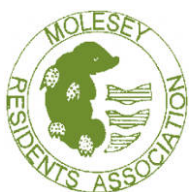
An increase over 5% will trigger a referendum under Government rules, so residents will have the final say. SCC says the increase is necessary to help pay for the rising costs of providing Social Care when the Government has reduced its grant to Surrey by £170 million since 2010.

Surrey will collect the extra 15% council tax in April and May and recalculate bills for the rest of the year if the referendum result goes against the increase.

If Surrey County Council increases its share of council tax by 15% and there are no other increases from other areas of Surrey's budgets, from the police or from Elmbridge, this would result in the following approximate annual increases:

House council tax band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
SCC annual increase in £	127	148	169	190	233	275	317	380

You can have your say at the referendum on County Council election day on Thursday, May 4th.



WHY SHOULD YOU SUPPORT MRA?

Molesey Residents Association was formed over 50 years ago when furious residents opposed a sudden Council plan to demolish a large area of East Molesey.

Thankfully, they were successful and then decided to form themselves into an Association to put up some of their own as candidates for election to the Council - and immediately won widespread support and MRA councillors were elected across Molesey.

Since that time Molesey Residents Association has steadfastly sought to look after Molesey's interests at Council and to foster a great community spirit in Molesey.

There have been many battles and a lot of successes – and many people who have since moved to Molesey are unaware of the improvements resulting from these efforts.

Some of the major successes have been in obtaining riverside lands by the Thames as open space and in the building of Mole Hall, which now also houses the Molesey Community Centre.

More recently we have been the prime movers in the campaign to preserve Molesey Hospital, running public meetings and encouraging residents (via our newsletter) to respond to the consultation – which they did in such numbers that it materially influenced the result, preserving our Hospital..

During the past year, as well as the Hospital campaign, we have also run a public meeting to inform residents about the intended extensive works to the Thames to reduce the chance of flooding.

We have also organised community events that raise funds for charity (see page 2) as well as helping to engender the Christmas spirit (see page 3) and supporting the Molesey Carnival.

We are opposed at every turn by the local Conservatives who, although not living in Molesey, dismiss our every move in their Molesey News circular, whilst doing little themselves - apart from trying to get themselves elected to the Council.

Meanwhile your MRA councillors strongly represent Molesey at Elmbridge and Surrey Councils.

How can you support us? Really, by reading our literature, voting for our council candidates and paying a subscription of just £3 per household per year - a tiny amount - hardly a cup of coffee!

These subscriptions provide the funds to allow us to continue doing what we do for Molesey.

Traditionally, we have collected these subscriptions by door-to-door collections but have introduced a more modern, and probably more convenient, way of doing this – by bank transfer.

Please, therefore, whether you are presently a member or not, pay this year's household sub, by either using the tear-off slip at the bottom of this page or by bank transfer to - **MRA, Santander account number 86284805, sort code 09-01-28**. You can easily save yourself the same job for a few years by paying £15 for five years' sub. in one go, or by setting up a standing order. Please also send an email to mra.subs@yahoo.com, stating your name and, importantly, address. This is to ensure we really know who sent the sub. We will deliver you a membership card/receipt. Thank You!

Remember that you can always access your newsletters on our website (see top of this newsletter).

HEATHROW PLANS

With the proposal for a third runway at Heathrow, MRA Councillor Stuart Selleck, as Leader of Elmbridge Council, has called for an independent noise and air pollution regulator for Heathrow.

At a recent meeting, Elmbridge Council voted against the expansion of Heathrow airport and urged the Government to support the dispersal of flight paths within the existing corridor to ensure the impact on the Borough is lessened. Stuart said "Issues around noise and air pollution need to be urgently addressed and I would encourage the residents of Elmbridge to take part in the national consultation so that the Government is aware of their view on the expansion of Heathrow. Further information will be available on the Council's website and from the Department of Transport."

DRAKE PARK A planning application for 1024 residential units, shops, school, supermarket, etc. opposite Esher Rugby Club ground was refused on Green Belt policies. An appeal could follow

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, 42, Beauchamp Road KT8 2PG or 245, Fleetside KT8 2NL

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



MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP - SPRING 2017

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

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