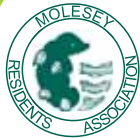


MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2015

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

Nigel Cooper 8224-0712
Elizabeth Cooper 8224-0712

MOLESEY NORTH

Alan Hopkins 8224-1078
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

Remember to make a date to come to our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** at **MOLE HALL** on **MONDAY, 30TH MARCH** starting at **8 pm**.

You will be able to hear what your Association has been up to over the last year and listen to a speaker from Heathrow talking about possible new flight paths. There will, of course, be the opportunity to chat with councillors and committee members. Refreshments will be provided to accompany those chats after the official business is over.

Non-members may join at the door for only £3 per household – hardly a fortune!

PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF RADNOR and SANDRA HOUSE site

No planning application has yet been made but Paragon Homes, the developers of this site on the corner of Hansler Grove and Walton Road, is proposing to demolish both properties (including the old Day Centre) and to build a new affordable development in three blocks as shown in the 'artist's impression' on the right.

The old Sandra House site will contain one block of five 3-bedroom houses and nine 1&2-bedroom flats and will use its existing vehicle entry.

The old Radnor House site (containing thirty-seven 1&2-bedroom flats in two blocks) is planned to use the existing narrow vehicle entry from the already narrow School Road.

Although Radnor House has now been empty for over a year, the occupants of Sandra House are very much in residence and many are 'key workers' (teachers, policemen, firemen, etc). These people were in great fear of losing their homes but MRA Cllr. Ernest Mallett, by persistence, has persuaded Rob Moran, Elmbridge Chief Executive, to speak to Paragon, who had initially denied they had any responsibility but now say they will rehouse the tenants of Sandra House while the redevelopment is going on. Well done, Ernest!



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MAGICAL MOLESEY

This bit of pre-Christmas fun on December 3rd was organised by Molesey Business Association, supported by MRA. The pavements were thronged by parents, grandparents and children enjoying carol singing, free mince pies and mulled wine (for adults). There were many stalls erected on the 'Woolworths' parade' to entertain adults and children - and a good time was had by all.

The Traders' Christmas tree (erected and lit up by MRA and decorated by Molesey WI) was a central attraction for the whole Christmas period.

To spread the Christmas cheer further afield MRA bought and installed two more Christmas trees, one on the Police Station Green and the other on the Central Avenue roundabout.

MRA County Cllr. Ernest Mallett spent a complete day installing lights on those trees but was dismayed to find, when he connected to our usual electricity supply from nearby lampposts, that the supply had been disconnected. This happened when other work had been carried out on the lampposts, in spite of us being assured by Skanska, the contractors, that our feeds would be maintained.

We contacted the Skanska chief who did attend with us and sent two electricians to sort out the problems, but whilst they put in new electrical connectors, there was still no electricity for our trees, so we apologise for the lack of Christmas tree lights - even though we did everything we could!



GLADEDALE Following the financial crisis in 2008, GladeDale, the developer of the unsympathetic Jolly Boatman/Station scheme, was acquired by Lloyds Bank in their takeover of HBOS. Since then Lloyds has been looking to dispose of Avant Homes (the new name for GladeDale) and has now sold it to venture capitalists for £175million. Bearing in mind that in 2008 GladeDale was valued at £1,750million this represents a very large loss – which now forms part of the tax-payer funded bail-out of Lloyds Bank. Lucky you financing this!

At the moment there is no indication as to the new owners' intentions with the Jolly Boatman/Station site - but watch this space! Meanwhile MRA Cllr. Mike Axton has asked Elmbridge to approach the new owners to remove the ugly hoardings around the site and restore the previously grassed area.

For a number of years MRA has been working with the Hampton Court Rescue Campaign to get a full risk assessment of safety issues related to the proposed development and the Station forecourt.

Pressure has now been brought on Network Rail to ensure safety of travellers and those using the station forecourt. When more information becomes available we will let you know.



GOOD NEWS ON SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Back in the 1980's, when Surrey CC was aiming to close and demolish Molesey's Bishop Fox Secondary School, MRA Cllr. Ernest Mallett was part of the governing body delegation which negotiated with the then Minister for Education, Keith Joseph, for Molesey children displaced by the closure to have the automatic right, if they so wished, to attend the school now known as Esher High School. This promise was extracted from Surrey CC and rubber-stamped by Keith Joseph.

The County has pooh-poohed this agreement as either not existing or as being so long ago (1986) as to be of no moment. However, County has now agreed that, in its admission arrangements, children attending Hurst Park, St. Lawrence and Chandlers Field schools, will be deemed to

be attending a feeder school for Esher High and hence have priority to go to that school.

Further Good News, is that, again under pressure from Ernest and local parents, Surrey has also agreed that Hampton Academy, outside Surrey borders, will no longer be considered as a school within the required distance to disqualify some Molesey children from assistance with transport to Esher High. Hopefully, Surrey will now stand by these decisions - which is great for Molesey children and their parents.

ELECTORAL BOUNDARY CHANGES

The Conservative administration at Elmbridge Council has decided that money would be saved by reducing the number of councillors from 60 to 48 (although the savings would be small in Council budget terms). The Boundaries Commission says it is 'minded to agree' to 16 three-councillor wards.

This implies substantial electoral ward boundary changes and the Commission will be consulting on these changes. A public consultation will follow and all councillors will have to be re-elected in 2016.

Before that, on Thursday, 7th May this year, there will be a general election and a local election held on the same day. Whoever you eventually decide to vote for in the national election, we hope that you will support your local Molesey Residents Association candidates in the local election - which is about local affairs, not national issues. Who understands local affairs better than your MRA candidates, all of whom live in Molesey?

DRAKES PARK

Just down Molesey Road towards Hersham, on the far side of the Fieldcommon estate almost opposite Esher rugby ground, lies an open area of land known as Drakes Park. Concerned for the possible knock-on effects for the Molesey area of development proposals, MRA councillors have met the developers to discuss their intention to apply for planning consent to build 1,000 homes on the site (500 of which would be affordable homes), together with a two-form entry primary school and other infrastructure. One effect of the new estate would be to increase pressure on secondary school places - which is very difficult as Surrey County Council is unable to open new secondary schools as the government states that all new secondary schools must be academies or free schools.

To cope with the extra traffic there would have to be road improvements such as a new roundabout at the Molesey Road/Rydens Road junction and improvements to the Barley Mow roundabout.

The land is green belt, so whilst Elmbridge can give planning consent, the final decision would rest with the Secretary of State.

HURST MEADOWS CAR PARK

This car park had got into a very poor state of repair.

Following representations from MRA Cllr. Stuart Selleck, the car park has now been repaired and other MRA Cllrs. are pressing to get the car park extended.

There have also been problems with boats illegally mooring along the Surrey bank of the Thames, often leaving a nasty mess on the bank.

A difficulty is that several authorities are involved but Stuart has now persuaded Elmbridge Council to monitor any complaints and proceed in the same way as when 'travellers' illegally park on land sites. In other words - a request to move, swiftly followed by court action to get them moved on.

Work is also on the way to improve the Hurst Park river banks and to build a proper slipway.

GREEN LANE BRIDGE

The footbridge from Green Lane to Neilsons Field has been shut for a considerable time now since Elmbridge Council, on the advice of its contractors, deemed it unsafe for pedestrians.

Following a lengthy campaign by MRA Cllr. Mike Axton and other MRA councillors, funding for a replacement footbridge was approved at a full meeting of the Council on 3rd December, and this should be installed and opened later this year. Good news for residents living near.

GRANTS AVAILABLE!

Those of you who run community organisations can obtain grants to help you with your projects. All your local MRA councillors can advise you on possibilities for obtaining a grant from the Elmbridge Council scheme which is capable of making grants up to £3000.

Stuart Selleck & Ernest Mallett have control of personal County Grant funds as well as information on the larger schemes which the Leader of the County Council personally organises.

Further than this, Surrey top slices the Education budget to form a fund of £400,000 which is dispensed to schools by the Surrey Educational Trust in blocks up to £25,000 for special school projects---local school governors please note.

Stuart & Ernest have this year aided grants to Molesey Children's Centre, St. Pauls Church organ, Outings for Care Home residents, Molesey Carnival, Molesey Traders events, 1st Molesey Scouts Toilets, Molesey Photographic Club's new projector, Molesey Library furniture, Molesey Ray Road Allotment Association for a new strimmer as well as other projects

ROADS Resurfacing roads is an expensive business – a fairly ordinary residential road typically costs £30,000 (Eastcote Avenue recently was £45,000).

Palace Road is now completed and waiting restrictions are scheduled for 70 metres on the South sides of this road and Wolsey Road at the Bridge Road ends. This is to help Molesey shoppers to find parking spaces for the Bridge Road shops. Please note that, irrespective of claims made about this matter by a Borough councillor, this is the only agreed parking change and has been negotiated solely by Stuart & Ernest.

Resurfacing work is also scheduled for Wolsey Road, Third Close, Beldham Gardens, Spring Gardens and Buckingham Avenue together with a feasibility study for 2 simple pedestrian crossings and/or refuges on Walton Road near the Molesey Centre and near the War Memorial.

BUS SERVICES Surrey CC is doing a major survey and consultation on the £19m it spends annually on bus subsidies including the government concessionary fares requirement of nearly £9m. Surrey CC intends to reduce this expenditure by £2m.

Stuart Selleck is representing Molesey's case to keep our bus services, particularly the lesser used 514 service which is very important for elderly residents to get to Glenlyn Medical Centre and to connect with the Kingston Hospital 'K' services at Kingston.

MRA Cllr. Mike Axton is pressing Transport for London to look at adjusting times of the 411 service to synchronize better with train departures and arrivals at Hampton Court station, as well as encouraging the use of double deckers at peak times. Moves are also scheduled to prevent parking on bus stops in Hurst Road between Graburn Way and Feltham Avenue.

DAFFODIL APPEAL



By the time you receive this newsletter Spring will be just around the corner. We look forward to the daffodils blooming all over Molesey (many planted by MRA) as the signs of approaching better weather. These signs of Spring and regeneration cause many people to think of loved ones no longer with them.

We will be running our usual Springtime charity appeal whereby anyone wishing to remember their loved ones may make a donation to charity via MRA – and we will double any donations we receive (up to a total of £400).

Please send donations for £3 upwards, in the form of cheques made out to MRA, to Ernest Mallett at 20, Walton Road, East Molesey KT8 0DF and we will do the rest.

Memorial boards will be erected at prominent points around Molesey with the names of the giver and those they wish to remember. Resulting from last year's appeal Marie Curie Cancer Care received almost £550 and Alzheimers £200 for which they were very grateful. Thank You!

Of course, we don't only plant daffodils. In the course of the last year we have planted 3 trees on Fleetside (together with more daffodils with help from local residents), maintained the World War 2 memorial gardens at both the West Molesey war memorial and on the Police Station green, planted and maintained the Horse Trough at the junction of Wolsey and Bridge Roads together with more general planting around Molesey.



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 42 Beauchamp Road KT8 2PG

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



MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP - SPRING 2015

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