

MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 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



ELECTION RESULTS. Molesey Residents Association is very pleased that both our candidates were elected to Surrey County Council at the recent elections but was disappointed at the low turnout – only about 28% in both wards. We assume that the other 72% of the electorate is happy with everything and have no complaints!

In Molesey West Ernest Mallett was returned with a very good majority (which is well deserved considering the amount of work he puts in for the benefit of Molesey). In Molesey East/Esher ward Stuart Selleck was elected in a closely fought election. Stuart is a long standing MRA Elmbridge Councillor and is leader of the Residents Group at Elmbridge. His day job is in finance and often involves Council finance – so he should be a big asset at the County Council.

Of the 81 seats in Surrey County Council, Conservatives hold 58, Lib Dems 9 and Residents Associations 9. The Molesey election results are shown in the green box.

Some people are confused by the different ward names that are used for the Elmbridge and Surrey elections. The wards for Surrey elections are bigger than those for Elmbridge elections, hence Molesey North and Molesey South wards are combined to form Molesey West for Surrey elections. East Molesey is combined with Esher to make the larger ward for Surrey elections. In this case, MRA worked with Esher Residents Association to fight the recent election.

Elmbridge Borough Council is responsible for parks, leisure, planning, environment, refuse collection, licensing, housing and collection of council tax. Surrey is responsible for social services, schools and education, highways, street lighting, refuse disposal, sewage, quarries, oil/gas extraction and the Surrey pension scheme.

SURREY C.C. ELECTION RESULTS

EAST MOLESEY/ESHER (Poll 28.6%)

Bax, Steve – Conservative	1110
Chinners – Raving Loony	34
Marshall, Trevor - UKIP	291
Nagle, Paul – Lib. Dem.	63
Selleck, Stuart – Residents	<u>1134 ELECTED</u>
Threlkeld, Irene – Labour	107

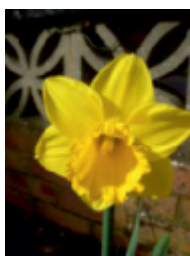
WEST MOLESEY (Poll 27.2%)

Clements, Steve – UKIP	353
Crazy Dave – Raving Loony	41
Elmer, Christine – Conservative	265
Mallett, Ernest – Molesey RA	<u>1947 ELECTED</u>
Sturgis, Alastair – Lib. Dem.	73
Willey, Matt – Labour	57

DAFFODIL APPEAL

Many thanks to those who so generously contributed to our 'Daffodil' appeal in our last newsletter.

As a result of these contributions, supplemented by MRA, we were able to send over £350 to Marie Curie Cancer Care, £150 to Alzheimers and £100 to Parkinson's UK. All the charities were very grateful for these donations. Thank You again to all who donated.



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WHAT IS GOING ON BEHIND THESE HOARDINGS?

Many residents have been concerned that Gladedale, the developers for the Jolly Boatman/Station site, appear to have started work on the site before they have complied with the 51 conditions that have to be satisfied before development could commence. These conditions have to be complied with before 15th June, or a new planning application has to be

made to Elmbridge Council. Gladedale has said that they are carrying out archeological works that have revealed remains of the old turntable and railway footings from earlier times of Hampton Court station. Many people were concerned that they seemed to be doing this using heavy digging equipment that could easily destroy any archeological remains. However, Elmbridge Council say that the work has been supervised by archeological staff.



One of the 51 conditions is the so-called Travel Plan, which would involve Surrey County Council in reversing the traffic flow along the narrow shopping section of Bridge Road. This is now subject to an enquiry, the results of which are expected shortly.

There was a recent report on Sky News that Gladedale is about 30% owned by Lloyds Bank, which is looking to sell Gladedale by either a stock market flotation or a private sale. Watch this space!

BARCLAYS BANK

We much regret the decision to close Barclays branch in West Molesey which makes life difficult for traders and customers alike.

Objections and appeals made no impact - we have to accept that banks are not interested in the difficulties they cause the community – their only interest is their own 'bottom line'.

This leaves Lloyds as the only bank in Molesey. Not many years ago there were six!

However, two new cash ATMs have been installed in shopfronts, one in the parade opposite St Peter's church in West Molesey and another in the ex-Woolworth's parade in East Molesey

ISLAND FARM ROAD

In our last newsletter we said that Surrey County Council had promised that Island Farm Road would be resurfaced by early April. As residents living there will be well aware, this didn't happen.

MRA County Cllr. Ernest Mallett had many times sought confirmation that this was actually going to happen and was constantly assured that it was.

It seems that, in spite of this, a new schedule had been arranged which puts this back to 2014/15.

Since the road has a concrete base it requires more than just resurfacing and maybe a possible complete road reconstruction.

We are not happy with this delay and, no doubt, neither are the residents of Island Farm Road.

However, we hope residents will understand that the article in the last newsletter was written in good faith, based on the best available info. at the time.



DAY CENTRE MOVE TO MOLE HALL

The Council decided (with virtually no consultation with users or Councillors) to move the Day Centre to Mole Hall. The Centre is at present attached to Radnor House in Hansler Grove. Radnor House will shortly become empty

and the Housing Trust will want to redevelop the site. The Council has decided to sell the Centre site and to move the Centre operation (including meals on wheels) to the Mole Hall site.

Molesey Residents Association feels this is a sensible idea in principle but feels strongly that the Council's plan misses a great opportunity.

The Council plans to remove the stage from Mole Hall, put in a suspended ceiling, and then divide the hall with a foldable partition, providing the Centre with the section of the hall nearest the entrance. The remaining space would be further divided into two with another foldable partition for general use.

Since the Centre operates during the day for 5 days a week, this arrangement means that the whole hall will only be available for general usage in the evenings or at weekends, although one or other of the smaller divided areas would be available at any time.

Councillor Ian Donaldson, on behalf of MRA, presented an alternative plan to the Council which would entail building an extension on the front of the hall facing the car park. This would give the Centre their own permanent carpeted space, giving a more 'homely' feel, with large South facing windows to enjoy the best of the weather while the original hall would always be available for general usage. We think this would be the best arrangement for both the Centre and the general public in so many different ways. And it would cost less than the Council's scheme (although they deny this).

MRA has had meetings with the Council officers to explain the advantages of this alternative arrangement but the officers are adamant that their scheme will go ahead and this has been passed by the controlling Conservative group on the Council. We feel a great opportunity has been missed, which will be regretted in the future.

As a further insult, we discover that the Mole Hall site is listed by the Council as an 'opportunity site'! 'Opportunity site' means a site with development potential. Do they know what they are doing?

Of course, MRA has responded vigorously to this listing.



MOLESEY CARNIVAL

On a pleasant sunny day the Carnival float parade, headed by the Carnival Princess in all her finery, past pavements thronged with people, wended its way through Molesey.

When everyone arrived at West Molesey Recreation ground there were many stalls and attractions on display.

Molesey Residents Association ran their popular entertainment stall for the little ones (small electric trikes to drive round a marked-out course).

We were also glad to provide cash prizes for the winner and runner-up of the school float competition and to provide financial support toward the cost of the Carnival Princess's rig-out. A great fun day for all!

THE PAVILION SITE

This site in Hurst Lane is subject to a section 106 order (resulting from MRA action in the 1980s) to keep it as open sports land. In 2010 developers applied for planning consent to build 76 houses and flats on the site. This was strongly opposed by MRA Councillors and residents and the application was refused. The developers then went to appeal and the appeals inspector agreed with the council refusal decision.

Then the developers applied for a judicial review on a technicality in the inspector's report and the court upheld their complaint and a new enquiry was held in March/April with a QC representing the developers.

Again local residents and MRA Councillors Selleck and Popham spoke against the application. The appeal is not yet complete and we await the inspector's decision.

SCHOOL PLACES CRISIS

Several pupils from Molesey have been unable to gain entrance to Esher High School for September 2013.

MRA County Councillor Ernest Mallett has been working with County Cllrs. Peter Hickman (Thames Ditton) & Mike Bennison (Claygate) to try and get more temporary capacity at Esher High School.

Whilst this is proving difficult and may not be successful, discussions are still going on and there may well be legal action by Claygate parents.

Esher High is technically a 6-form entry school but is currently operating as a 7-form entry. By September 2015 it will have had new permanent buildings to extend it to 8-form entry. It currently has a new large gymnasium and planning permission for other buildings.

Ernest has been pressing to have temporary classrooms either retained or added while the new building is in progress or have the new gymnasium temporarily used as classrooms. These solutions are not being welcomed but pressure is still on.



BUSES AND TRAINS

The public transport network serving Molesey is both infrequent and poorly coordinated, and the MRA is pressing for improved bus and train services for our community. Unfortunately we are dependent on the companies running these services, and so far they have been very reluctant to engage with us in any meaningful sense.

MRA Councillor Mike Axton has discussed the 411 bus timetable with the operators, Epsom Coaches. They recognise that it is not coordinated with

the train service to and from Hampton Court, and have kindly asked their drivers to wait at Creek Road for a few minutes to allow passengers arriving at Hampton Court by train to catch the 411 bus in the evenings. But they say they cannot formally change the timetable itself, as this is set by Transport for London.

Mike has therefore gone direct to TFL asking them to revise the timetable to link with the train services, but so far has not received a reply. Cllr. Axton has also formally asked Southwest Trains for more frequent rail services to and from Hampton Court in the evening (when it reduces to one an hour), and for a later service back from London (the last one leaves at 11.35). They insist this can only be considered when the franchise is next renegotiated (believed to be 2015/16) but we are raising this now to make sure it is considered in the next franchise

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 - SUMMER 2013

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

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