

MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2018

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Molesey Residents Association Councillors at Elmbridge

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**MOLESEY
WEST**

Ruby Ahmed 8979-4210
Mike Axton 8979-1502
Vic Eldridge 8979-3905

MRA Councillor at Surrey County Council - Ernest Mallett 8979-6446

JOLLY BOATMAN & STATION SITE

MRA Councillors and committee members have recently met representatives of the new developers to discuss their proposals before a full scale planning application is presented to Elmbridge Council.

We have also engaged with members of the Hampton Court Rescue Campaign, (HCRC) who we support in their extensive work and due diligence in trying to ensure that we obtain an appropriate development.

It is likely that the application will propose the building of 97 flats, an 84 bed hotel on Hampton Court Way which will encompass a small supermarket, and several other smaller retail units on the site.

The Jolly Boatman area itself will be landscaped, with cafe facilities being provided.



Throughout the initial process, the developers have engaged, through meetings and public consultation, with the residents, MRA and HCRC and have listened to some of the concerns that have been expressed. Their current ideas of solving the traffic and safety issues adjacent to the station go some way toward finding a solution to this congested area. Nevertheless, it will require an independent transport assessment to be undertaken.

However, the major issue that we have raised with the developers is the inadequate parking provision across the site relative to the number of residential apartments, the hotel and the guaranteed places for Network Rail customers. They intend to provide only 207 places in total which we believe to be totally inadequate. (Note that the existing station car park has 205 places). Under the old Gladedale scheme which had fewer flats and a smaller hotel, 287 places were to be provided. The difference is not acceptable to us and many others; not least the Molesey residents whose roads are already full of parked vehicles.

Another issue is the lack of affordable housing - about 12 % is proposed. This is way below what the Council would hope to achieve on this site. We do recognise that the landscaping of the Jolly Boatman site will be hugely beneficial but it must not be achieved by an inappropriate development of the whole area.

We are aware that the proposed residential apartments will be higher than the approved Gladedale scheme and would like to see indicative elevations as viewed from Cigarette Island Park before we forward any more feedback to the developer.

We will continue to work with HCRC and other interested parties and further engage with the developers as we are as keen as anyone to see the right outcome for Molesey.

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PUBLIC MEETING ON LOCAL POLICE ISSUES

MRA has arranged for the Police and Crime Commissioner, David Monroe, together with a senior police officer, to come and talk to local residents about local policing issues and concerns on Monday 10th December.

The meeting will take place at 7.45 pm at St Lawrence School and everyone is invited to hear what they have to say and to get any questions answered.

HURST PARK PETANQUE

You may have noticed there's now a Boules Court on the riverbank at Hurst Park, just east of the Sadler's Ride car park. It's large enough for two games to take place at the same time, there's a noticeboard giving the rules, and two benches to sit on. The surface of the court is not yet quite right, and further top-coating is needed, which hopefully will happen in the near future.



Following requests from Hurst Park residents, MRA Cllrs Mike Axton and Stuart Selleck proposed to Elmbridge Council that the pétanque court be installed. A bid for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money from Elmbridge Borough Council was submitted, and was successful. The court now comes under the umbrella of Hurst Park Residents' Association and is open to everyone. It's already being well used – just take along your own Boules (and

perhaps some light refreshments!) and have a go.

This is a great addition to the sporting heritage of Molesey's beautiful riverside park. The basketball court, installed some years ago at the request of MRA Cllr. Mick Burgess, will also be refurbished.

AT LAST! Following repeated urgent appeals for action over a long period by MRA County Cllr. Ernest Mallett, Surrey County Council has now, by overnight work, resurfaced that part of Walton Road between New Road and Rosemary Avenue. Not before time – it was in a very poor state.

AIRCRAFT NOISE

Following complaints from residents, MRA Cllr Mike Axton wrote to our MP Dominic Raab to ask him to bring what pressures he could to reduce the noise impact. Dominic Raab subsequently wrote to John Holland-Kaye, the Chief Executive of Heathrow Airport, relaying the problems faced by Molesey residents. Mr Holland-Kaye replied that he accepted that Molesey had suffered more noise than usual during the summer months, due to winds being predominately from the east for long periods, leading to increased numbers of aircraft overflying Molesey. He also stated that, in view of complaints of low flying aircraft, they are experimenting with steeper gradient departure trials to find if this will reduce noise impact. He continued that they do all they can to get airlines to fly their quietest planes into Heathrow, flying in the quietest manner. Dominic Raab also made it clear that, before the third runway expansion was approved, Heathrow would have to produce binding limits on air quality and noise, which would be legally enforceable.

CHRISTMAS TREES

The two young Christmas trees MRA sponsored and planted on the Police Station Green have been vandalised. One night the Norway Spruce was broken in half and two nights later the more traditional fir was similarly treated. One had been steadily growing for 5 years and the other for 10 years. Both were being grown to replace other trees which had died and the new trees were scheduled to be lighted for this Christmas.

Cty. Cllr. Ernest Mallett usually looks after planting, but a very helpful local resident, Mr Tom Pilgrim, volunteered to find replacement trees and has planted them. The cost to the MRA will be £230 with new support poles and compost. Our grateful thanks go to Mr Pilgrim – let's hope the vandals leave them alone!



On another tree related subject, there is a fungal disease afflicting ash trees. First noticed in Poland in 1992, this serious wind-borne disease is now well established in this country and it is expected that 95% of our ash trees will be lost over the next 5 years!

GREEN BELT FOR MOLESEY HEATH?

MRA Councillor Mike Axton has been making representations to Elmbridge Council to get the old Sewage Farm site (behind Fleetside) and Molesey Heath incorporated into the Green Belt when the new Local Plan is introduced.

He has now been informed that this is being considered and the proposed new Local Plan will be out for public consultation, probably in January. If Mike's idea is successful, this would give that area considerable protection against any plans to build on it (part is currently designated for housing).

MOLESEY HOSPITAL - PROGRESS



In 2016, following MRA public meetings and urgent encouragement to residents to respond to a consultation, local residents objected strongly to the possible closure of Molesey Hospital. The closure plan was subsequently abandoned and assurances given that Molesey Hospital would remain – in an enhanced form.

Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group (which is responsible for local hospitals in this part of Surrey) has now submitted a Project Initiation Document (PID) to NHS England as a first stage of redevelopment on the

Molesey Hospital site to create a centre of excellence that combines several services under one roof.

This PID makes provision for community beds in a new Molesey hospital in modern fit-for-purpose accommodation and much needed additional primary care services including adult Community Services, Children's Services, Outpatient Clinics, Glenlyn Medical Practice, Vine Medical Practice and a Pharmacy.

The aim is to have these services based in and around the Hospital building, the total development capital cost of which could exceed £17m. When the PID is approved this will allow the CCG to proceed to the next stage of planning, the Outline Business Case (OBC), planned to be submitted in February 2019. This will include a further option appraisal. The aim is to reach final approval in August 2019, award a building contract in October 2019, with occupation of the new premises at the end of 2021. These proposed timescales will however be confirmed at OBC stage.

WHAT'S YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR DOING THIS MONTH??

Ever wondered what councillors actually do? Well, MRA Cty. Cllr. Ernest Mallett is now dealing with:

- 1) Allocating £1000 of his Highway grant to get a disruptive tree pruned.
(His remaining grant funds have been taken to complete resurfacing of Buckingham Avenue).
- 2) Still fighting to get Berkeley Drive/The Crescent/Boleyn Drive resurfaced against SCC resistance, as these are concrete based roads which are always difficult to get resurfaced.
- 3) Involved in continued pressure for pedestrian crossings on Hurst & Walton Roads to aid safety for school children as well as adults.
- 4) Organising opposition to garden property development for houses through Seymour Close access.
- 5) Trying to get the new short term waiting areas installed in Hampton Court Parade and other changes which appear to be delayed by East Molesey/Esher Cty. Cllr. Szanto.
- 6) Trying to get Secondary School bus services for Molesey children but being opposed by Surrey Education Department.
- 7) Supporting the fight to prevent Children's Services being drastically cut—currently an issue parents have taken to the High Court.
- 8) Trying to get Surrey County Council to hand over lands for two different local groups to establish community headquarters.
- 9) Negotiating with the Electricity Authority to make sure electricity is available this coming Christmas to light public Christmas trees.
- 10) Organising buying and funding for a bird table for the new garden at Molesey Centre in Mole Hall on the Bishop Fox estate.
- 11) Advising on how the maintenance of Bishop Fox open space might be permanently achieved.
- 12) Supporting residents trying to stop HGV's running through the Bishop Fox estate.
- 13) Advising and supporting parents of autistic young adults who are trying to get special facilities built in conjunction with Surrey C.C.
- 14) Organising tree and daffodil planting with a number of residents.
- 15) About to organise a resident working party to resurface a path across Cow Common.
- 16) Facilitating grants for Molesey British Legion and St. Peter's Church.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Has your MRA subscription expired? If so, we would really appreciate it if you would forward your renewal subscription to any of the addresses on the tear-off strip at the bottom of this page.

The annual household subscription stays at the ridiculously low sum of only £3 per year – or, to save having to subscribe every year, £15 for five years.

If you prefer, you can pay by bank transfer to the MRA Santander account number **86284805**, sort code **09-01-28**. Please also send an email to mra.subs@yahoo.com with your name and address – to make sure we know who sent the money! We will send you a membership receipt. Thank You.

MAGICAL MOLESEY

Make a diary note of this fun pre-Christmas evening, aimed at parents and children, run by the Molesey traders. It is being held around the 'Woolworth's Parade' on Thursday 29th November from approximately 5pm to 7pm. There will be all the usual attractions together with some extra entertainment and, of course, the switching on of the Christmas Lights. Don't miss it!

The Bridge Road traders are running their annual pre-Christmas 'Winter Wander' on Thursday 6th December from 4 to 8pm. There will be live reindeer, Father Christmas, music & entertainment and festive food. Another date for you!

After all the Christmas celebrations are over, you may be glad to get rid of your Christmas tree. For a donation of £6.50, the First Weston Green Scout Group will collect your tree over the weekend of 5/6th January. Go to www.collectmytree.co.uk for details.

ILLEGALLY MOORED BOATS

The problem of illegally moored boats on the Thames continues. The Council's officers are in regular discussion with the Environment Agency about the ongoing problem of the boats which keep moving from one stretch of the river to another. The EA, as the navigation authority and landowners of much of the riverbank, is monitoring these movements closely and have served formal enforcement notices on all the vessels moored on their land. The EA has stressed that it does appreciate and understand the concerns expressed by local residents, but they do have to follow the formal legal process carefully, and they cannot bypass the legal constraints which currently apply.

MRA Cllr. Mike Axton has written to our local MP, Dominic Raab, to specifically ask him to raise this problem with his colleagues within Government. Mike has received a letter from Dominic's office advising him that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has now agreed to conduct a review into how the law and powers available to Councils and other landowners to address the issue of boats moored without authorisation on the UK's river network might be strengthened. This is very welcome and hopefully will, at last, result in some decisive action to address this long-standing problem.



OUCH! In many parts of Molesey there are hedges and garden shrubs in residents' gardens which, over the years, have grown and are now overhanging the pavement, sometimes producing a substantial restriction in the pavement width. For most passers-by this can just be an inconvenience but for anyone with poor sight it can be positively dangerous. Without being patronising, could we respectfully ask all residents to check that no growth from their front gardens extend beyond their boundary to encroach on the pavement – and if it does, to cut it back to their boundary. Thank you.

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 - AUTUMN 2018

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