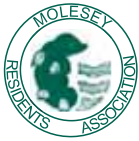


MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2019

www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk

e-mail contact: mjaxton@live.com



Chairman: Stuart Selleck, 2 St. John's Road, KT8 9JH Tel: 8979 - 2466

Molesey Residents Association Councillors at Elmbridge

**MOLESEY
EAST**

Ivan Regan 8224-5357
Stuart Selleck 8979-2466

**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

The developers for this huge proposed development have now submitted their planning application to Elmbridge Council. There will be a special Planning Committee meeting on 4th April.

The proposals are for 97 residential units, a hotel of 84 bedrooms and retail units (within use classes A1, A2 and/or A3) together with access, station interchange, car parking, servicing, new public realm, landscaping and other associated works following demolition of some existing buildings and structures on site including Hampton Court Motors. The new hotel is intended to go on the Hampton Court Motors site, facing across Hampton Court Way to the existing shopping parade (see developer's picture below). Molesey Residents Association (MRA) councillors have met with the

developers and members of the Hampton Court Rescue Campaign to discuss the proposals.

MRA welcomes the plans to make the old Jolly Boatman site into an open, green area but is of the opinion that the development buildings are too high and out of



keeping with this very special site, which acts as an entry to Hampton Court Palace for the many tourists coming to see this Tudor heritage site.

MRA has written to Elmbridge Council laying out the reasons why we feel that permission should be refused. In a nutshell the main reasons are:

1. Height and massing of the buildings
2. Insufficient car parking provision (207 spaces for all railway commuters, the residents of 97 flats and their guests, the guests at the 84 bedroom hotel, the staff working at the station, shops and hotel, let alone any visitors to Hampton Court Palace).
3. Only 12 'affordable' housing units compared with the Council expectation of about 39.

The letter can be found on the MRA website at www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk.

The plans can be viewed on Elmbridge's website www.elmbridge.gov.uk under planning application number 2018/3810. If you wish to comment to the Council on this application you should do so by 3rd March, although later comments will be considered.

NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY

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COME TO OUR AGM ON TUESDAY, 26TH MARCH AT 8PM

in Mole Hall, West Molesey. (Mole Hall is also known as the Molesey Community Centre).
Come and hear what has been going on over the past year and what the future holds. After the official business is over, there will be the opportunity to meet and chat with councillors and committee members over refreshments. Non-members may join at the door for only £3.

CAR PARK CHARGES GOING

UP

UP UP

In 2017, the Residents Group (then running Elmbridge Council, supported by the Lib Dems) introduced the Saturday 3-hour free car parking scheme in Elmbridge's public car parks as a first move toward making life easier for residents - and to improve the attraction of shopping locally, with the aim of helping Molesey's small businesses, many of whom are having a difficult time.

Following the May 2018 elections, the Conservatives took control of the Council and have now clearly shown that they do not support any such ambitions.

At the November Council meeting, Residents Councillors vigorously challenged Conservative proposals for car parking increases across the Borough for the next three years but, regrettably, the proposals were voted through by the Conservative majority.

It is worth noting that, in the past, Steve Bax, the East Molesey Conservative councillor, has published election material claiming that he would fight for free parking in the Walton Road car park.

In spite of this, he voted for the increase, not only for this year, but for next year – and the one after that! All the other Conservatives also voted for the increases.



Please support YOUR MRA CANDIDATES in the May Elections

LESLEY YAUNER for EAST MOLESEY



Having lived in Molesey for 42 years and brought up her two daughters here, Lesley cares passionately about Molesey. Lesley is treasurer of Molesey Ladies Probus and Molesey Antique Society. She has delivered Meals on Wheels for the last 38 years and has been

involved in Riding for the Disabled and teaching adult literacy. She was a Surrey Ambassador at the 2012 Olympics.

TONY POPHAM for WEST MOLESEY



As a previous Molesey councillor, Tony has considerable experience chairing committees at Elmbridge Council and serving on the Planning committee. Having lived in Molesey, Tony is very involved with local aircraft noise problems and keenly engaged in negotiations to

keep flood risks as low as possible for Molesey residents. He is a keen sportsman, coaching youngsters at Esher Rugby Club.

MRA CHARITY QUIZ

Our quiz (ably organised by Lesley Yauner) was a great success, with an enjoyable evening for all. As a result of the evening, The Silverlining charity (supporting people with brain injuries) benefitted by close to £1,000. Of course, this would not have been possible without our sponsors, Rawlinson & Webber, who paid for the hall hire, all the printing and the winners' prizes. We are also grateful to Molesey businesses who provided raffle prizes – Molesey Refrigeration, Mezzet restaurant, L'Affamato restaurant, Boots in Kingston, E & J Wilson, Tesco, Petriti's restaurant, Avena restaurant, Mada deli, EKA, Molesey Fish Bar and The Card Collection.

And, of course, all those helpers who made those delicious desserts. Thank You all!

THE ROYAL CAMBRIDGE HOME

This home on Hurst Road has been a well-regarded feature of Molesey for many years. It was first opened for soldiers' widows but has been a care home open to both men and women for some years now, offering residential and respite care for up to 30 residents.

However, the building is dated and the trustees have decided to apply for planning permission to replace the existing buildings with enlarged premises to provide 60 care apartments, a 30-bed care home and a 30-place car park. The new building would be closer to the road, 4 storeys high and with large 'wings' on the back extending into the present rear garden.

You can see the plans (number 2018/3608) on the Elmbridge website at www.elmbridge.gov.uk
'Before' and 'After' pictures are shown below.



MAGICAL MOLESEY

Molesey Residents Association members put up and lighted the Christmas tree at the centre of Molesey Business Association's Magical Molesey celebrations. The local Brownies and Guide Group very quickly decorated the tree once it was up and as the tree was in a highly visible position at the Matham Rd/Walton Rd junction, it was greatly enjoyed by all and was the centre for carol singing.

Thanks are due to Paul in the Molesey Pet Shop for obtaining and delivering a first-class tree. Thanks also to the Musicland shop owners and staff for lifting assistance and the supply of electricity.

Molesey Residents Association also lighted Christmas trees which the Association has planted in the past, on the East Molesey Police Station Green and on the Central Avenue roundabout.

However, the future of Magical Molesey is in doubt since the present organiser cannot continue. This is a very popular local event, and MRA is actively exploring options for ensuring it continues, perhaps by organising a committee to take over the job. Any volunteers would be welcome!

COUNCIL TAX

Due to government grant reductions many councils are really struggling for money. In particular, Surrey County Council had to 'save' £65m last year and has to 'save' another £85m this coming year.

These 'savings' can only be achieved by cutting services or increasing council tax – or, more likely, some of each. Your council tax is made up of three parts (all collected by Elmbridge) – Surrey C.C., Elmbridge Borough Council and the Police. Of these, Surrey's is by far the largest (about 7/8ths of the total). So when Surrey increases its share, it dwarfs the effect of the others.

It seems likely that Surrey's council tax increase will be virtually 3% and Elmbridge will no doubt be similar and the Police precept has been reported to be 10%. This all means that you can look forward to paying an extra 3% council tax from April.

Residents are advised to take a look on Surrey County's website or ring the County Contact Centre for information on planned cuts and changes to Library services, to education provision for disabled children, to cuts in the time period in which bus passes can be used, cuts to facilities at Waste Collection Centres and much more. The County wants residents' views on quite a lot of proposals, so our advice is not to be shy on getting involved. Where there is little or no comment then County is likely to cut the service concerned. The Contact Centre number is: 03456-009-009.

A 3-YEAR PROTECTIVE INJUNCTION has been granted to Elmbridge Council to prohibit unauthorised encampments or fly-tipping on public land. This will mean that 'travellers' can be moved on without delay on penalty of fines, seizure of assets or imprisonment.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

We are now in a new membership year and, as usual, we are short of subscription collectors. It would be very helpful to MRA if you could forward your subscription to any of the addresses on the tear-off strip at the bottom of this page. The annual household subscription stays at only £3 per year – hardly the cost of a cup of coffee! – 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.

HEATHROW AND AIRCRAFT NOISE

Heathrow has been conducting Airspace and Future Operations consultations around the district. They say they are seeking views on 'How we plan to redesign the airspace around Heathrow', 'How we will operate our three runways in the future if approval is granted for Heathrow expansion' and 'How we can make better use of our two existing runways'.

You can learn more about this and respond if you wish by going to www.heathrowconsultation.com. The closing date for submitting responses is close, so be quick!

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.

Last year the donations, together with the MRA contribution, amounted to over £315 to Marie Curie Cancer Care and £100 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 Ernest Mallett, 20 Walton Road, East Molesey KT8 0DF. Thank you so much – we will do the rest!



MOLESEY HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

As reported in our last newsletter, the Project Initiation Document (the proposals for the present hospital site) was submitted to NHS England. This has now been approved and a more detailed submission (the Outline Business Case) is being prepared and is planned to go to the CCG Governance Committee for approval in November 2019.

GRABURN WAY CAR PARK The surface of this car park has got into a very bad condition. Following representations by MRA Councillor Stuart Selleck, Elmbridge have agreed that it should be resurfaced and this will be done, with a decent hard surface, sometime during March or April. Well done, Stuart – it will be a much appreciated improvement.

BISHOP FOX PLANNING APPLICATION

When the Bishop Fox estate was built in West Molesey in the 1980's, part of the land had to remain open due to large water pipelines buried beneath. This open land was landscaped and sold to a charitable trust. A surprise announcement in Summer 2016 stated that the open land was to be sold by auction. Since the land was designated 'open space' and had to remain so, the auctioneer's expected price was £1,000 to £5,000. The residents of the estate were prepared to buy the land themselves at this price but at the auction it was sold to an anonymous telephone bidder for £56,000!

The purchaser has now presumably identified an area of land that could be built on without infringing the part protected by the water pipes and has made application to build six houses on land by Sovereign Court. You can see the plans (2018/3841) on www.elmbridge.gov.uk

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 2019

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

Address Email (For our use only)

I may be prepared to help with: Collecting Subscriptions ☐ Delivering Newsletters ☐ Election Time Work ☐