

MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2018

www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk

e-mail contact: mjaxton@live.com



Chairman: Nigel Cooper, 24 Southfields, KT8 0DP Tel: 8224 - 0712

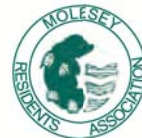
Molesey Residents Association Councillors at Elmbridge

**MOLESEY
EAST**

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

NEW JOLLY BOATMAN & STATION SITE PROPOSALS

At the end of 2008, against all opposition, the then Conservative-controlled Elmbridge Council pushed through a huge redevelopment plan for the ex-Jolly Boatman and Station sites, involving a hotel on the riverbank opposite Hampton Court Palace and dense 4-story housing on much of the rest of the site. That planning consent still stands, although the site is now under new ownership.

MRA councillors, Council officers and other interested parties have, over the last two years, had discussions with the new owners – who have now produced some new plans which are clearly an improvement on the previous scheme, but still a major redevelopment.



The new plans propose that the ex-Jolly Boatman site (presently boarded up) should be an open green space, affording open views to the Palace from the station entrance area. This green area will be served by a café and there will be a second retail outlet by the station entrance. A hotel, with a retail outlet on the ground



floor, is proposed to be built where the present car sales area is, opposite the BP petrol station.

The new proposal also aims to build about 97 flats, mainly in three 3-to-4 storey blocks, where the present station car park is situated.

These will be built above a two-storey part-underground car park with capacity for 205 cars - to service the station, hotel and flats. Entry and exit to the car park will be via a service road between the river and the green area.

To allow the development to proceed as quickly as possible, it is proposed that a small

part of Cigarette Island should be used as a temporary station car park while the work is taking place. It will be landscaped and returned to its present state once work is complete.

There will be alterations to the forecourt area of the station and extra traffic lights will be installed on Hampton Court Way around the Creek Road and Hurst Road exits on to Hampton Court Way.

If the application is approved it is expected to take about 2 years to complete the development.

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LOCAL ELECTIONS



Molesey Residents Association is pleased to report that our candidate for Molesey West, Ruby Ahmed, was re-elected to Elmbridge Council in the recent local elections on 3rd May.

But we were sorry to see Tony Popham lose his seat in Molesey East. Tony has been a councillor for many years, working hard on many issues - aircraft noise, flood risk, overdevelopment, etc.

We regret losing Tony's vast experience on Planning and his continual fight against overdevelopment, such as when he represented the views of local residents (and the Residents Association) in speaking out at the various Pavilion site Appeal hearings.

Before the elections the 48 seats on the Council were occupied by: 22 Conservatives, 19 Residents Associations and 7 Liberal Dem. councillors, so the Council was run by the Residents Associations in co-operation with the Liberal Democrats with MRA Councillor Stuart Selleck as Leader of the Council.

After the elections the Council make-up is: 24 Conservatives, 15 Residents Associations and 9 Liberal Democrats. This means that even if the Residents Associations and the Liberal Democrats continued to work together, they would no longer outnumber the Conservatives, with 24 seats in each group. Hence control of the Council has now passed to the Conservatives, as the largest party, with Cllr. Tim Oliver from Esher as the new Leader of the Council.

FAKE NEWS! We normally hear this from Donald Trump's USA. But it is here as well!

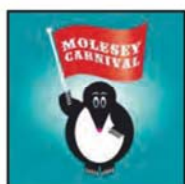
In the Conservative election manifestos for the recent elections was the statement "We opposed the present RA/Lib Dem coalition administration's proposal to build over 5,000 houses on our Green Belt". This was completely untrue – there never was any such proposal!

Rob Moran, the Chief Executive of Elmbridge Council (and Returning Officer for the recent elections) has reported this distribution of false information to police and to the Electoral Commission.

We are appalled that anyone should set out to deceive the electorate in this manner.

The only purpose must be to get into power - at any cost! This may sound like sour grapes – but it leads the electorate to disbelieve anything that appears in Conservative literature.

We cannot say what effect this falsehood had on the election result– but it leaves a very nasty taste.



MOLESEY CARNIVAL On a gloriously sunny day on 9th June, Molesey Carnival was a great success, with crowds thronging the Recreation Ground to welcome the floats coming in and to enjoy the many stalls run by local organisations.

MRA Cllr Ernest Mallett had arranged for the Carnival Committee to receive a £3500 grant from Surrey County Council – to help in the costs of running the Carnival.

We ran our usual electric trikes stall for the little ones, donated £130 cash prizes to the best school floats and contributed £80 to the costs of the Carnival Prince & Princess's rig-outs.

A great day out was had by all! Well done once more, the Carnival Committee.

DRAKE PARK PLANNING APPLICATION

As mentioned in previous newsletters there has been a large planning application on the 147 acres of land known as Drake Park, which is on the left-hand side of the road to Hersham, just past the Field Common estate, almost opposite Esher Rugby ground. The proposal was to build 1024 residential units on this land, together with a school, medical centre, dentists and pharmacy, supermarket, offices, pub and restaurant, community hub, parking, etc.

This land is classified as green belt land and, as such, the application was refused by Elmbridge Council. The developers then went to Appeal and, with the pressure from the Government to build more and more houses, it was an important 'test case' for possible similar applications on green belt land. MRA Cllr. Stuart Selleck, as Leader of the Council, (then run by the Residents Group/Liberal Coalition), ensured that sufficient resources were available to employ the best QC and Counsel and planning experts to challenge the Appeal by developers Bonnar Allen

The Inspector's report backed the Council's refusal on the grounds that the site is green belt land and to build on it would destroy the purpose of the green belt land (which is to prevent communities merging together and forming one large densely populated sprawl) and would have worsened the queueing of traffic to get through the Hersham railway arch and the congestion on Rydens Road.

Since this was an important 'test case' the Inspector's report went to the Secretary of State, who agreed with the report's findings and backed the refusal of permission by Elmbridge Council.

GDPR stands for General Data Protection Regulations. This is a new, revised and enhanced version of the Data Protection Act and aims to prevent the unauthorised passing-on of a person's information without that person's consent.

Molesey Residents Association naturally holds records of names, addresses (and sometimes phone numbers and email addresses) of our members, subscription collectors and newsletter deliverers.

We wish to assure everyone that this information is kept purely for our internal usage and we do not, and will not, pass this on to any outside body. Should any of our members, collectors or deliverers not want their information retained, they can inform us via our website or by emailing or phoning any of our councillors or officers and their information will be removed from our records.

Our newsletters will, of course, continue to be distributed to all properties in Molesey as usual.

ILLEGALLY MOORED BOATS

MRA is continually hearing concerns from residents about the large number of boats which have been moored on Cigarette Island (opposite Hampton Court Palace) for many weeks. The situation is frustrating, and MRA Cllrs. Mike Axton and Stuart Selleck have met Council officers a number of times to press for action. The officers take the matter very seriously and are doing what they can.

Unfortunately the boat owners are well aware of the legal difficulties faced by landowners seeking to remove them, and have consistently exploited the situation to thwart efforts to move them on.

Most recently, Elmbridge Council served formal notices on the boat owners to leave the land, and were granted a hearing date of 17th April.

At that hearing the Council applied for a possession order requiring the boats to leave the Council's land.

Given the situation, we had expected the result to be a formality but, at that hearing, one of the defendants disputed the Council's claim that it owned the land - and the Court refused to grant a



possession order, effectively deferring the decision for consideration to a future hearing, set for 5th June. However, shortly before that date, the boat owners moved their boats up to close by Molesey Lock, which is Environment Agency land – so now the whole legal merry-go-round starts again!

But, at that hearing, the owner of the large vessels gave an undertaking to the Court that any vessel owned or controlled by him would not moor at, or adjacent to, Cigarette Island in future.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A planning application to build 75 dwellings (61 flats in 2-3 storey blocks and 7 pairs of semi-detached houses) backing on to Monks Avenue, behind a commercial property off Pool Road, was considered by the planning committee in April. Since this land is zoned as employment land, MRA Councillor Vic Eldridge spoke to support the refusal of the application and it was duly refused.

The Pavilion Club (off Hurst Lane) application for 42 houses was eventually given approval by the Appeals Inspector after many similar proposals had been refused at previous appeals. At all appeals, MRA councillors Ernest Mallett and Tony Popham, with support from local residents, spoke against the application, but the developers finally got their way at the last appeal.

However, the owners had previously entered into a legal agreement with the Council that the land should remain open leisure land. In light of the Appeal Inspector's decision, legal advice was that the Council could not uphold the legal agreement so it had no choice but to agree that it be set aside.

Meanwhile, Bellway's new development of 95 mixed properties at Rivernook Farm, near Apps Court Farm in Walton, will obviously increase the traffic flow along Hurst Road and, should the proposed 900-place secondary Free School close to the Rivernook Farm site go ahead, this will further increase the traffic flow.

MOLESEY HOSPITAL - UPDATE

In 2016 Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group (which controls local hospitals in this part of Surrey) announced a consultation which included the possibility of the closure of Molesey Hospital.

MRA ran a big campaign against any closure plan with public meetings and an enlarged newsletter laying out the options and encouraging everyone to respond to the consultation. Public opinion was heavily against any thoughts of closure and a large response to the consultation resulted in the CCG deciding to retain and improve Molesey Hospital, although not necessarily on the present site.

At a meeting in June the CCG announced that it was putting together a case for capital allocation to rebuild or refurbish and extend the Hospital on the present site, possibly with the Hospital, GP doctors' surgeries, clinic, pharmacy, etc. all in one 'Health Hub'. It is still very early days and things may change – but at least they are moving in the right direction – we're very pleased to say!



AIRCRAFT NOISE We hear many complaints from residents about low-flying aircraft, especially at unsocial hours. We recognise the problem and inconvenience caused and have written to our MP, Dominic Raab, who consistently says he is fighting our cause, to ask him to strongly raise these concerns with Heathrow and the Department for Transport.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

It would be very helpful to us if you could forward your MRA subscription to any of the addresses on the tear-off strip at the bottom of this page, since we are short of subscription collectors.

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.

SUMMER'S HERE!

Have you noticed this glorious display in the Memorial Horse Trough by the junction of Wolsey and Bridge Roads?

It was planted and is maintained on behalf of MRA by MRA County Councillor Ernest Mallett.

Ernest also looks after the displays on the Police Station Green, the World War II memorial garden there and the one at the West Molesey war memorial.

It's easy to dismiss this as 'only a few flowers' but we feel it really adds to the friendly 'village feel' of Molesey.



UPCOMING EVENTS **151st Molesey Regatta** with over 700 crews - Senior racing events on Sat July 21st and Juniors on 22nd. There will be a beer festival, live music, children dancing, luncheon marquee, BBQ, hog roast, bar, food festival, choir, vintage fairground and evening fireworks on Saturday. Entry Free. Parking £4. A great fun weekend at Hurst Park by the Thames!

MRA Autumn quiz – Sat. November 17th. Don't miss it! Fish/Chicken & Chip supper. Information and tickets from Lesley Yauner on 8224-2094. Join us for an enjoyable Autumn evening!

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



MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP - SUMMER 2018

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