



**SPRING
2012**

MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION *NEWSLETTER*

www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk

Chairman: Nigel Cooper, 24 Southfields KT8 0BP 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 - Nigel Cooper 8224-0712 & Ernest Mallett 8979-6446

We will be holding our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** in **CHANDLERS FIELD SCHOOL, HIGH STREET, WEST MOLESEY** on **FRIDAY 23rd MARCH** starting at **8pm**. **Please note the new venue.** All members are welcome and non-members may join at the door - £3 per household. After the formal part of the meeting, there will be a short talk by a representative from Surrey C.C. on the Olympic cycling events which will be coming through Molesey in July.

This will be followed by free refreshments and the opportunity to chat with councillors and committee members.

PAVILION SITE LAND

You may remember from previous newsletters that this open land in Hurst Lane was the subject of a planning application to build about 70 dwellings on the site.

The application was refused by Elmbridge Council after spirited objections by local residents and MRA Councillors on the grounds that a 'section 106' legally binding agreement to keep the site open should not be set aside.

Of course, it didn't end there – the developers went to appeal which was heard by a government-appointed appeals inspector in early January.

The developers had offered over £300,000 for Council projects and some replacement open land near the Leisure Centre in Walton.

We are very pleased to report that the appeals inspector agreed the application should not go ahead, mainly on the grounds that the offered replacement open space was too far away.

Congratulations to local residents Victoria Gibson and Sharon Bolton who led the objections, not forgetting MRA Councillors Tony Popham and Nigel Cooper who spoke forcibly against the proposals at the appeal

WOOLWORTHS PARADE

With the new retaining walls built around the raised gardens, this area is now looking much better and although there may be some minor trimming of the trees, they will stay largely as they are.

CONSERVATION AREA

Elmbridge Council recently consulted on a "Character Appraisal and Management" document for the Kent Town Conservation Area.

A number of residents and organisations including the Conservation Area Committee had serious concerns and made recommendations.

However, the finalised document largely ignored the concerns that had been raised - in particular the need to ensure adequate safeguards to prevent further inappropriate planning proposals for the Jolly Boatman and Station site.

MRA Councillor Ian Donaldson led vigorous protests at Council and proposed the document should be referred back for further consideration.

The Conservative Group at Elmbridge opposed this request, and block voted through approval for the document as it stood, so an opportunity to improve protection for this sensitive site has now been lost.

SUBS

With the new subscription year upon us, please consider paying for five years in one go.

It helps us and will save you being pestered every year for your £3.

We are very short of subscription collectors – can you help?

There is no cold calling – every call is to an existing member. If you could collect just one road it would be a great help. If you can help, please phone Lesley Yauner on 020-8224-2094. Thank You.

IMPROVEMENTS

The vandalised seats on Neilson's field have now been replaced (in a different position) after pressure from MRA Councillor Mike Axton.

Mike has also been pushing for the gate, at the entrance to Grovelands recreation ground, to be replaced after it was removed due to vandalism. The danger was that, without a gate, children on bikes could ride straight out of the ground on to Molesey Avenue.

As a result, the gate has now been replaced by an internal barrier to prevent the possibility of a very nasty accident.

Trees enhance an area but can get out of hand with time. This had happened to trees in Edmund and Carden Courts (off Beauchamp Road) and to others in Hotham Close on Hurst Park.

Money has been found to reduce the size of the trees in Edmund and Carden Courts and some action has taken place in Hotham Close, with more to follow.

RAY JONES

With sadness we report the death of Ray Jones, aged 83, a retired MRA councillor who did much work to secure the building of the Hurst Pool and Mole Hall in Molesey.

Ray was an architect who worked in Africa before settling with his family in Hurst Park in the middle 60's. Well liked for his straight forward approach to problems and his enthusiasm for gardening, he will be much missed by his family, friends and ex-colleagues.

MAGICAL MOLESEY

This pre-Christmas fun day took place around the main East Molesey shopping parade in Walton Road in late November.

It was the best ever, with so many people flocking onto the pavements it was difficult to find room to walk.

There were all the usual Christmas festivities with hot mince pies and fun for the children.

MRA provided the Christmas tree and lights and Molesey W.I. the tree decorations.

Many shops and organisations took part and a good time was had by all.

MRA also provided lighted Christmas trees on the Central Avenue roundabout and the Police Station green.

We bought two trees for the Police Station green (one for decoration and one for planting). These were collected from the tree nursery and placed on the green prior to installation. On return, only about half an hour later, both had been stolen! It seems that even at Christmas time goodwill can be in short supply! This cost us the price of two more trees.

DAFFODIL APPEAL

With the coming of Spring we will be running our annual appeal on behalf of Marie Curie Cancer Care.

If you would like to remember someone we will, in return for a donation of £3 upwards to charity, put their name (and yours) on memorial boards erected at Sadlers Ride, on the Police Station Green and on the Central Avenue roundabout.

At Spring time the blooming of daffodils together with memories of loved ones bring great comfort to many and the donations are much appreciated by the charities.

MRA will DOUBLE all donations (up to a total of £400).

Please send details and donations to Ernest Mallett, 20 Walton Road, East Molesey KT8 0DF, making out cheques to Molesey Residents Association. We will do the rest – Thank You.

SUCCESS AT LAST!

Ever since the 'sleeping policemen' were installed in Island Farm Road in about 2000, this road has been in a very poor state of repair.

At the time Elmbridge Council was in charge of Highways and promised resurfacing. Then Surrey C.C. took charge of Highways and nothing happened in spite of many complaints.

MRA County Councillor Ernest Mallett has been pushing very hard to get something done but, in these financially restricted times, he was met with a blank wall.

Now, however, he has succeeded and Island Farm Road is scheduled for resurfacing in the 2012/2013 financial year.

Two other stretches are also scheduled: Molesey Road from the Pool Road junction to Molesey Avenue junction and Molesey Avenue from Molesey Road to the Central Avenue roundabout.

Well done, Ernest – good news at long last!

Another area that has been crying out for improvement is The Forum, where the rear two corners of the grassed area have been destroyed by heavy lorries being unable to get round the tight corner without going over the grass, leaving it in an awful state of destruction.

The Forum is owned by Elmbridge Housing Trust but the Trust has refused to do anything to improve matters.

Surrey County Council runs a Community Pride Fund from which each County Councillor is allocated control of £5000 for improving their area. MRA Councillors Ernest Mallett and Nigel Cooper have decided to use their allocation to fix this problem in spite of the Housing Trust's reluctance.

The two rear corners of the grassed area will be rebuilt allowing a wider bend in the road so that large vehicles don't have to cut the corner making the dreadful mess we see at the moment.

This is exactly the sort of thing that should benefit from the SCC fund.

MOLESEY FOOTBALL CLUB

The club is in financial difficulty and, to raise money, has put in a planning application with Rushmon Homes to build 16 semi-detached houses and 4 flats.

Most of these would lie between the Club's reduced size pitch and the rear gardens of the houses facing on to Cannon Way, Dunvegan Close and Anne Way.

The football ground is subject to a 'section 52' legal agreement (entered into by the club when it sold land for the Dunvegan Close houses some years ago) which does not allow the land to be used for development.

Local residents have divided opinions over the plan, but Elmbridge Council can set aside the 'section 52' agreement if it sees fit.

If you want to have a look at the plans and comment, they can be found on the planning section of the Elmbridge Council website at www.Elmbridge.gov.uk under application 2011/7916.

MOLESEY BOAT CLUB

This very successful club has now applied for planning permission for a 500 sq.m. single storey building to accommodate a gym, boat storage and a rowing tank.

The application also includes the use of some public land for open boat storage. To compensate for this loss of public land, the children's play area near the boat club is promised to be improved together with enhancements to the public river frontage.

Your MRA councillors will be watching carefully to ensure that these enhancements take place.

HOLES TO FILL

You know what it's like - before one hole gets filled another one comes along!

There is a massive highway verge hole in Down Street, cut up verges in Clinton Avenue and subsidence in Matham Road. Our Cty. Councillors are on to these and others.

Hopefully County will find the funds but it may not happen overnight!

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, 110 Buckingham Gardens KT8 1TN or 57 Pemberton Road KT8 9LG



We will make sure you get a Membership Card

Thank You

MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP - SPRING 2012

I enclose £15 for 5 years
or £3 for 1 year

Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms.:

Address

I may be prepared to help with:

Collecting Subscriptions ☐

Delivering Newsletters ☐

Election Time Work ☐