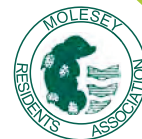


# MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2019

[www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk](http://www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk)

e-mail contact: [mjaxon@live.com](mailto:mjaxon@live.com)



Chairman: Stuart Selleck, 2 St. John's Road, KT8 9JH Tel: 020-8979-2466

Molesey Residents Association Councillors at Elmbridge

**MOLESEY  
EAST**

Stuart Selleck 020-8979-2466

Lesley Yauner 020-8224-2094

**MOLESEY  
WEST**

Ruby Ahmed 020-8979-4210

Mike Axton 020-8979-1502

Tony Popham 07970-107-937

MRA Councillor at Surrey County Council - Ernest Mallett 020-8979-6446

## CAR PARK CHARGES

Do you remember this article?  
It followed quickly from the Conservatives taking over running Elmbridge Council after the local elections in May 2018.

They pushed through increases in car park charges, with charges going up, not just in 2019, but again in 2020 and

yet again in 2021! In spite of his previous claims to support lower charges, East Molesey Conservative Councillor Steve Bax voted for those increases!

Fortunately, the Residents Group and the Lib Dems gained seats in this May's local elections, allowing them to form a new joint-administration at Elmbridge Council. In accordance with their election manifesto, these two future increases will be **CANCELLED**.

Hopefully, this will encourage people to shop locally, improving the viability of our local shops, which Lesley Yauner is seeking to enhance by organising Mid-Summer Madness (see the back page).

In Molesey, we were delighted to see both Lesley Yauner and Tony Popham elected as your Molesey Residents Association councillors for Molesey East and Molesey West, respectively.

The detailed voting numbers may be seen in the box.

Following the elections, the make-up of Elmbridge Council is now: Conservatives 21 seats, Residents 17 seats, and Lib Dems 10 seats.

With the new arrangement, Molesey Residents Association Councillor Stuart Selleck is now Leader of the Council and Tony Popham was elected Deputy Mayor, expected to become Mayor next year. Tony has long been a devoted campaigner on environmental issues, including aircraft noise.

Vic Eldridge, long standing MRA councillor and past Mayor, decided not to re-stand for election this time and we owe him a debt of gratitude for his past service for Molesey and wish him well for the future.

**MOLESEY CARE** is a local voluntary organisation which aims to provide transport for those (often elderly) people who cannot otherwise get to doctor's and dentist's appointments, etc.

Molesey Care is desperately short of drivers, who use their own cars for transport – for which fuel costs are refunded. Drivers have no permanent commitment and are only called on as needs arise.

If you can help out this very worthwhile organisation, do please call Anne Byass on 8941-1010.

### 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.



### MOLESEY EAST (TURNOUT 40.5%)

FERGY, SUSAN - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT 252

HOWARD, LISA - GREEN PARTY 208

RENDELL, ROSIE - LABOUR PARTY 125

WANG, XINGANG - CONSERVATIVE PARTY 790

YAUNER, LESLEY - MOLESEY RESIDENTS 1268

### MOLESEY WEST (TURNOUT 28.9%)

GOULD, JOHN - CONSERVATIVE PARTY 295

POPHAM, TONY - MOLESEY RESIDENTS 1211

SHELDRAKE, DAVID - LABOUR PARTY 174

STURGIS, ALASTAIR - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT 227

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## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS ON HOLD**

### **ROYAL CAMBRIDGE HOME ON HURST ROAD.**

This application to demolish the existing buildings and replace them with a much bigger building with large rear 'wings' occupying most of the garden, has been temporarily withdrawn, awaiting the completion of a bat survey. As we go to press a revised application is anticipated, following a further public exhibition.

We will update residents with further details via our website.



### **6 NEW PROPERTIES ON BISHOP FOX ESTATE IN WEST MOLESEY**

This application, next to 17, Sovereign Court, was withdrawn but a new application can be found at [www.embridge.gov.uk/planning](http://www.embridge.gov.uk/planning) under application 2019/1362. We shall scrutinise this carefully.

### **JOLLY BOATMAN & STATION SITE**

The developers for this huge proposed development submitted their planning application to Elmbridge Council and it was expected to be decided by a special Planning Committee meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April. However, the meeting was postponed, principally to allow the Environment Agency to provide more information.

The proposals are for 97 residential units, a hotel of 84 bedrooms and retail units, together with access, station interchange, car parking and other associated works following demolition of some existing buildings and structures on site including



Hampton Court Motors, which would be replaced by the new hotel (shown above) opposite the existing shopping parade on Hampton Court Way.

MRA opposes this application because we consider that the height and massing of the buildings is too great, the car parking insufficient and too few 'affordable' units are provided.

While MRA welcomes the plans to make the old Jolly Boatman site into an open, green area we are of the opinion that the proposed development is 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.

The application can be viewed at [www.embridge.gov.uk/planning](http://www.embridge.gov.uk/planning) under application 2018/3810 and, for amended plans for a 110 place temporary car park on Cigarette Island, application 2018/3803.

## **MRA 'DAFFODIL' APPEAL**

We were delighted with the response to our Spring Daffodil Appeal.

As a result of generous donations from the people of Molesey, topped up by the contribution from MRA, we were able to send £100 to the Alzheimers Society and £420 to Marie Curie.

The charities were very grateful for these donations. Thanks to you all!



## **THE PLANNING PROCESS**

Note that Elmbridge Council is under great pressure from the government to allow more houses to be built to relieve the housing shortage. Due to the lack of suitable sites, the choice is between building on green belt land or building developments of much greater density than we are used to.

The proposed Jolly Boatman/Station site scheme is a dense development.

If the Council doesn't allocate some housing sites a Government Inspector will take over and do so.

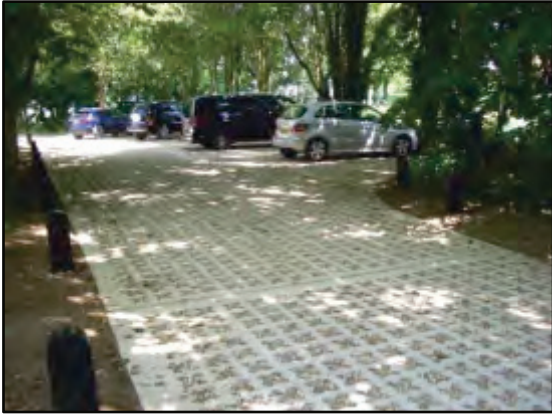
If a planning application is refused by the Council, a would-be developer can go to an appeals process, where the appeal is heard by a government appointed appeals inspector. While the inspector won't ride roughshod over planning rules, he or she will aim to follow government policy.

When an inspector makes a decision on an appeal, that is the end of the process – there is no appeal against an inspector's findings, provided the appeal process has been conducted correctly.

A fine example of this process was the application to build on the Pavilion site land in Hurst Lane. The developers made a planning application to build 42 houses on the site. Since there was a binding section 106 agreement between the Council and the developers stating that the land would remain open space, the application was refused. The developers went to appeal and the appeals inspector found in their favour, even when previous similar appeals had found against the developer.



## GRABURN WAY CAR PARK



The surface of this well-used car park (officially called Hurst Meadows car park), on the entry road to Molesey Boat Club, East Molesey Cricket Club and the Thames river bank, had got into a very poor state.

Concerned by the situation, MRA Councillor Stuart Selleck pushed Elmbridge Council to improve conditions there and it has now been resurfaced with a long lasting hard surface designed to allow water to pass through, avoiding any increased flood risk.

This is a great improvement, much appreciated by the visitors to the above places and by walkers going to Hurst Park riverside lands.

## GRABURN WAY RACE GATES

These very large gates, right next door to the car park above, are all that remains of the old Hurst Park Racecourse which, back in 1913, had its grandstand burnt down by suffragettes and finally ceased operation in October 1962.

Following closure, the bulk of the racecourse land was used to build the Hurst Park and Rivermead estates, whilst the remainder (after a huge fight by Molesey Residents Association) became the open riverside land we all enjoy today.

In the horse racing days, the start of the racecourse was on the Hampton Court side of Graburn Way and the horses would race over Graburn Way toward what is now the Hurst Park estate. On these occasions, the race gates were opened across Graburn Way and the road surface covered with layers of peat and grass cuttings to simulate racing on grass.



MRA Cllr Mike Axton observed that the race gates are showing signs of age, with corrosion setting in and the paintwork in a poor state. Mike has been pressing EBC for some time to take action to restore this important historical landmark and a professional survey was commissioned to establish the true state of the gates. The result of the survey showed that Mike's apprehensions were justified and Elmbridge officers have hence agreed to prepare a capital bid for refurbishment of the Hurst Park Racecourse gates, to be considered for the next financial year.

## HEATHROW EXPANSION PLANS

have considerable implications for Molesey.

There will be a consultation exhibition at Imber Court Sports Club, Ember Lane, East Molesey on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July from 2 to 8pm, giving you a chance to inspect the proposals and to have your say – or you can do both at: [aec.heathrowconsultation.com](http://aec.heathrowconsultation.com)

**MOLESEY CARNIVAL** took place on June 8<sup>th</sup> on a dry but rather windy day, with more motorised floats than usual in the long procession, led by Mr Mole.



We ran our usual electric 'trikes' entertainment stall for small children – which they much enjoyed. The Molesey Carnival is a great community event and MRA was glad to be able to support it by donating £80 toward the costs of the rig-out for the Carnival Princess and her helpers, together with prizes of £80 for the best school float and £50 for the runners-up.

An enjoyable day was had by all – long may it continue!

## MRA SUBSCRIPTIONS

Since we are so short of subscription collectors, it would be a huge help to the Association if you could pay your annual subscription by bank transfer or directly by cheque or cash to any of the addresses mentioned at the foot of this newsletter.

The subscription is ridiculously small at only £3 per year per household – or £15 for five years.

If you would like to pay by bank transfer, our bank account is with Santander, sort code 09-01-28, account number 86284805. So that we can be sure who the money is from, please confirm by email to [mra.subs@yahoo.com](mailto:mra.subs@yahoo.com) Thank You! We will make sure you receive a receipt/membership card.

## LOWER MOLE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME



This extensive and expensive scheme was built in the 1980's to ensure that the 1968 devastating flooding of Molesey, from an overflowing River Mole, could never happen again.

Now, over 30 years on, the Environment Agency says that various gates and weirs installed then are nearing the end of their estimated lives and expensive maintenance or changes are needed.

The Environment Agency has held consultations about possible actions (including possible removal of some of the gates and other modifications) for the future.

None of the proposed alterations would increase flood risk, but could lead to lower river water levels (by up to 1.6 metres), leaving the river banks and maybe part of the beds exposed, making the rivers less scenic and less suitable for recreational purposes. Full details and the chance to respond can be found at: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/ksles/lower-mole-flood-alleviation-scheme/>

## MOLESEY MID-SUMMER MADNESS

Our newly elected East Molesey councillor, Lesley Yauner, has lost no time in getting active! She organised the above event in the form of a day for participating shops in Walton Road to give discounts or gifts to shoppers on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June. It all went well with happy shoppers and happy shopkeepers. It didn't take long for Lesley to get going, did it? Well done, Lesley.

## COW COMMON FOOTPATH

This footpath across Cow Common, from the end of Orchard Lane, had become a mud-bath in the winter and was in dire need of resurfacing. This sounds a simple job but led to a long saga to achieve it. Since the MRA sponsors councillors we cannot apply for direct council grants – but we can help others to do so.

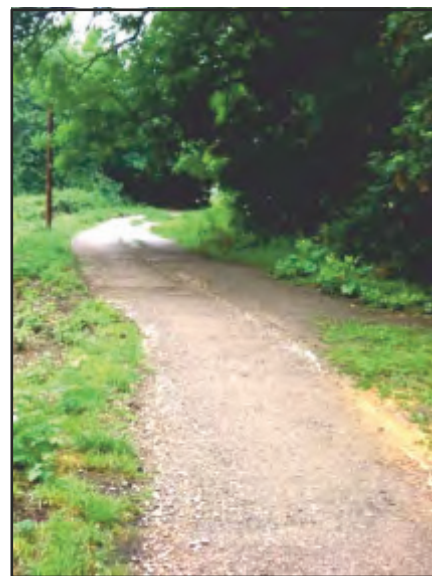
MRA County Councillor Ernest Mallett wanted to get the path resurfaced, so arranged a quote from Wickes for materials and for a local residents group, run by supporter Tony Nockles, to apply for a grant from Surrey County Council.

Surrey C.C. was happy to supply a grant of about £635 but insisted on knowing who the owner of the land was. We think the owner is the Diocese of Guildford, but as with the Thames towpath, nobody wants to admit to ownership of an asset which provides no income but could lead to expensive maintenance.

This caused more hold-ups.

After a year's delay, local residents from Orchard Lane, Ember Farm Way, etc. got fed up with waiting and got on with the work anyway and did a fine job - but perhaps a bit too fine, since the cost was double the amount of the grant! A generous resident paid the extra amount and Ernest and Cllr. Peter Szanto are now trying to see if they can get Surrey to reimburse that resident.

The picture shows the footpath now in a fine state. Congratulations to all those involved.



## 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 - SUMMER 2019

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