

MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2022

www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk

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AIRCRAFT NOISE HAS NOT GONE AWAY!



The pandemic has so reduced the number of flights from Heathrow that it is easy to forget how noisy life sometimes was in the past.

However, the pandemic will eventually pass and aircraft movements will increase again.

Meanwhile, the use of the airspace above the UK is undergoing a major redesign and Heathrow is in the process of formulating its plans for submission to the Civil Aviation Authority for their portion of airspace, based on a two-runway operation with up to 480,000 air traffic movements per year.

The redesign process is split into 7 stages – at the moment Stage 1 is setting the Design Principles – fundamental to where routes will eventually run; how concentrated air traffic will be; and how much respite communities will get from aircraft noise.

The Heathrow Community Noise Forum (HCNF) has been a consultee, containing representatives from local Councils and community groups. Both the process and outcomes of setting the Principles were formally challenged in a joint letter signed by several HCNF members and supported by the MRA and Elmbridge Council. The main objections were that the design principles did not sufficiently prioritise reduction in noise impacts and implied route concentration. The incoming compulsory use of Performance Based Navigation – sat nav for planes – has led previously to route concentration into very narrow corridors to the significant detriment of those below.

The main opportunity for local people to respond to Heathrow's plans will come at Stage 3, which is likely to be in late 2022/early 2023. If we wish to avoid being under a 'noise sewer' and having a permanent repeat of the 2014 route concentration trial, we need to be engaged with this process. New airspace design will be with us for many years to come and communities that are overflowed must not miss their chance to have a say. In the meantime, you can keep abreast of developments on the CAA website and on Heathrow's portal; and know that the MRA and Elmbridge are working hard to try to ensure a fair outcome for Molesey and the wider area.

<https://www.heathrow.com/company/local-community/noise/airspace-modernisation>
airspacechange.caa.co.uk and look for Heathrow Airspace Modernisation (FASI South)

77-79 Walton Road
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Make a note to come to our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** to be held at **MOLESEY METHODIST CHURCH** in Manor Road, East Molesey on **THURSDAY, 17TH MARCH** at **8 pm**.

You will be able to hear a short presentation on the Heathrow flightpath changes with time for questions, what your Association has been up to over the past year and, after the official business is over, take the opportunity to chat with councillors and committee members.

Non-members may join at the door for only £4 per household – a tiny amount these days!

ENHANCED CYCLING AND WALKING

Following guidance from the Department for Transport, Surrey County Council is developing a series of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) for the County. to encourage more cycling and walking. The only LCWIP in place so far covers Woking, but SCC is aiming for further Plans, including for Elmbridge, to be in place by the end of 2022.

These are still being prepared, but draft proposals shared with local councillors indicate that the Elmbridge Plan could affect a large area of East Molesey, centred around the 'high street' part of Walton Road, from the old police station corner to Langton Road. Proposals could include a 20mph speed limit along the 'high street', a ban on pavement parking in Pemberton, Park and Kent Roads and several 'raised table' pedestrian crossings over an area much larger than just the 'high street.'

We understand there is also a possibility of the area around St Lawrence School becoming a 'School Street' with limited vehicle access; traffic light crossings at the old police station corner and some built-out pavements. These are only proposals at this stage, and will be subject to decisions at Surrey, funding availability, and public consultation.

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.

Molesey Residents Association will add to donations received out of its own funds.

Last year the donations, together with the MRA contribution, amounted to over £420 to Marie Curie 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 cheque (made out to M R A) to E. Mallett, 20 Walton Road, E. Molesey KT8 0DF. Thank you so much – we will do the rest!



MOLE BRIDGE REBUILD?

Since Surrey County Council officers mis-led us to report previously that no work was going to take place on the Mole Bridge near the old Police Station, it now appears that work is likely starting in July this year. This will cause disruption – probably for 6 months. The area is best avoided once work starts.

PARKING

It has been reported to us that some residents have resorted to leaving bins, cones or other obstructions in the road outside their house in order to 'reserve' a personal parking space. Whilst we understand why this is done, we sought advice from Surrey Highways who advised that this practice is illegal and that no-one, and no organisation, can be legally given a personal space on public roads – not even in 'Permit' areas. The persons concerned could be prosecuted for obstruction and could be liable for damages if an accident was caused, or contributed to, by a privately placed road obstruction.

VINE HALL

As reported in our last newsletter, there were fears that, having been closed during the lock-down periods of the pandemic, Vine Hall may never re-open.

A local group, Save Vine Hall Group, was formed, with representation from MRA, to ensure the retention of this important community asset.

All the Molesey Councillors then worked with Elmbridge Council who agreed to look for a local group to take over the operation of Vine Hall, organising its bookings, retaining the income and maintaining the hall.

We are glad to report that Elmbridge Council has come to such an arrangement with the Vine Hall Community Group which is now running Vine Hall.

The newly formed Group started with no resources behind it for this operation, so MRA was pleased to make a donation to the Group of £1,000 as a start-up fund.

This money came from profits we have made in the past from the sale of our reprinted copies of The Book of Molesey and Thameside Molesey. These profits have been held to allow us to fund a community need such as this.

The Group has also recently received a grant of £2,500 from MRA County Councillor Ernest Mallett's councillor allowance to support the community. This will be used for the much-needed refurbishment of the ladies' toilet.

We wish the Group every success in their venture and hope that all goes well for them.

Incidentally, we have sold all copies of The Book of Molesey, but have some of the Thameside Molesey books left, which may be purchased at only £15 each (less than the price they were when first published back in 1989) by a call to 020-8979-6446.

NIGEL COOPER AND VIC ELDRIDGE

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Nigel and Vic, two of MRA's long term stalwarts.

Nigel Cooper came from Leeds where he played rugby league to a high standard while obtaining a degree in education and then, with a Fulbright scholarship, an M.A. at Iowa State University. This enabled him to lecture in Physical Education at Middlesex and Loughborough Universities before obtaining a law degree back at Leeds. He went on to hold educational posts in Germany and Canada before heading up educational reorganisation in Brisbane, Australia.

In 1982 Nigel was appointed the first professional chief executive of the British Amateur Athletics Board, the national governing body for athletics. This was in the days of Coe, Ovett and Brasher. Nigel was responsible for bringing the South African-born athlete, Zola Budd, to Britain in spite of many anti-apartheid objections.

In 1988 Nigel became Championship Co-ordinator at the All England Lawn Tennis Club at Wimbledon. In the days before roofs were added to the Centre and No 1 Courts, rain could cause havoc with the scheduling of matches and top seeds would complain about being put on outside courts. He once told an unnamed player to "sit down and take the weight off your ego".

After retiring from the Wimbledon position in 1995, Nigel was an MRA Councillor for East Molesey on Elmbridge Council for 17 years from 1999 and was a County Councillor for 4 years as well as serving a prolonged period as Chairman of the Molesey R.A. He was also Mayor of Elmbridge for 2008-9.

In later life Nigel suffered considerable health problems but was always cheerful with a smile and a ready joke. He leaves his wife, Elizabeth, 3 sons and a daughter.

Vic Eldridge was born in Molesey and lived in and for Molesey all his life. Vic had a career in the RAF as an electronics technician and later worked for a major U.K. electronics manufacturing company which he often represented overseas.

He was a force as Chairman of the Molesey Self Build Group which built the houses in Redland Gardens and Minster Gardens where Vic lived.

Vic was an MRA Councillor for West Molesey on Elmbridge Council for 25 years until he stepped down in 2019 and was Mayor, during which he presented a cheerful face throughout the Borough.

Vic always said his prime interest was to make Molesey an increasingly pleasant place to live. This translated into his enthusiasm for open spaces and community facilities and he was a regular at Molesey Day Centre in his later years. Vic leaves a son and a daughter.



SUBSCRIPTIONS

We have not been collecting subscriptions door-to-door during the pandemic but are hoping to be able to restart during this new subscription year. However, we are very short of collectors and are unlikely to be able to cover the whole of Molesey. We do need incoming subscriptions to cover our expenses, such as the production of this newsletter, and to enable us to continue representing Molesey on a long-term basis. Everyone on the MRA committee is a volunteer so all income is used solely to cover our expenses.

If you would like to take an active part in supporting MRA in maintaining Molesey as a great place to live and work or, if you have not yet renewed your subscription for this year, it would be a great help to the Association if you could forward your subscription to any of the addresses at the bottom of this page or, if you prefer, you could make an online payment to Molesey Residents Association at Santander account number **86284805**, sort code **09-01-28**. Please also send an email to mra.subs@gmail.com with your name and address – to make sure we know who sent the money! We will make sure you receive a membership card/receipt. The annual household subscription is only £4 per year – or, to save having to subscribe every year, £15 for five years. If you could see your way clear to making the 5-year subscription it would help greatly in reducing the amount of administration involved. A big Thank You in anticipation of your support

PLANNING



1 The application for a much-enlarged Royal Cambridge Home on Hurst Road was refused by Elmbridge Council but has been approved after an appeal and can now go ahead.

The Appeals Inspector agreed with the Council that the proposed building was not in keeping with its surroundings but decided that the value of the improved facility for Molesey outweighed the 'downside' of the application.

2 The application for the proposed huge development on the Jolly Boatman/Station site was

refused by Elmbridge Council but we understand that the developers are going to Appeal.

DOMESTIC ABUSE It's absolutely shocking that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men will, at some stage in their lives, be subjected to domestic abuse. Domestic abuse can be mental or physical but no one should be a victim. If you, or anyone you know, is experiencing abuse of any kind, there is no shame in reporting it. It is a crime. North Surrey Domestic Abuse Service is here to provide help and support - Tel 01932 260 690 or nsdas@caew.org.uk

MOLESEY CARE

Molesey Care is a voluntary organisation which provides transport for the elderly, disabled or frail people of Molesey to allow them to keep vital hospital or doctors' appointments. However, the charity is in need of more voluntary help. They need drivers and duty officers. A duty officer takes the phone calls for help (in their own home on a provided mobile phone) and passes on the request to a driver who can help out. The driver then, at an agreed time, collects the patient and delivers them for their appointment and may reclaim the cost of fuel from Molesey Care. The duty officer normally covers one morning every three weeks, while drivers can specify when they can't help and can always decline inconvenient requests. If you can help – or if you need to find out further information, please ring 020 8941 1010. Thank you!

Your Membership is Greatly Appreciated

If you would like to pay direct, please return the tear off slip with £4.00 or £15.00 to one of the following addresses:-
20 Walton Road KT8 0DF or 42, Beauchamp Road KT8 2PG

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



MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP - SPRING 2022

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