

MERROW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

your community voice for over 40 years

Local Issues for Merrow

We would firstly like to say it was wonderful to see so many Merrow residents at our Autumn meeting on 24th October at St John's Church hall. Our guest speaker was from the National Trust: Claire Nodder, the House Manager of Clandon Park. She gave a wonderful talk on "Clandon Park - rising from the Ashes" and we heard first hand about the fire and the positive plans for the future of the historic building.

Our Chairman, Keith Meldrum gave an update on the **Local Plan**. It has now been announced that there will be yet another consultation on the Local Plan in 2017, to be completed by the summer. They will only be consulting on the changes to the plan. This was to be expected and is a direct result of the 32,000 comments that they received on this year's version. In the August/September issue of The Merrow Pages we wrote at length about the local plan and the objections that MRA submitted.

We objected on the following points:

- no Town Centre Master Plan
- "housing need figure" was far too high
- housing target figure had been inflated
- advice of Government on the preservation of Green Belt was ignored
- the University was not required to provide more accommodation for its own students
- insufficient numbers of smaller houses were proposed to be built
- policies did not reflect the UK's decision to leave the EU
- the additional traffic proposed would increase traffic congestion significantly
- proposed development of the Sustainable Movement Corridor was neither cost effective nor realistic
- one site had been included for development even though it had a high flood risk

We were particularly concerned at the high housing target which was not supported by clear evidence, that large swathes of Green Belt would disappear, particularly along the corridor between Burpham and the M25, that the effect of all the proposed new housing and the schools would have a massively detrimental impact on traffic flow. MRA also track various planning applications if we feel they might have an important impact on Merrow or we receive substantial comments from our members. Some of the items currently ongoing are:

Former Redwood Care Home, Epsom Road

The planning application to develop this site was turned down. The applicant has appealed this decision, which will be subject to a Hearing on 22 November 2016. They will present amended plans at the same time as the hearing

takes place. We intend to be present at that hearing and we shall ask to speak if there is any need to do so.

Aldi, Burpham

Aldi took the Breach of Conditions enforcement notice against them to Judicial Review in the High Court and lost. Their appeal against the Planning Committee refusal to change operating hours and delivery vehicle conditions went to a public hearing on 5 July 2016. We await the Inspector's decision on this appeal.

Down Road Infant School

Fennies, who own this site submitted a planning application to convert the school into six apartments, a house and parking. These proposals were subject to detailed discussion between MRA, local residents and Fennies. The application went to Planning Committee on 10 August and was refused.

Solum - Guildford Station Application

The resubmitted Solum planning application for the redevelopment of Guildford station was rejected by Guildford Borough Council last year. It has just been announced that Solum have decided to appeal this decision. The £150 million redevelopment involved a new station building, 438 homes, office space and an enhanced station environment.

Charges for Waste Disposal at Slyfield Recycling Centre

You may be aware that from 1st September 2016 Surrey County Council is making some new charges for the disposal of some waste items at the Slyfield recycling centre. There will be a charge of £4 per bag or item or sheet for waste arising from the construction, alteration or repair of your home or garden, although there will be a free allowance for one bag or item per customer per day.

Newlands Corner Update

As you are all no doubt aware, Surrey County Council (SCC) want to make changes to Newlands Corner. The Government Inspectorate have received 1,500 comments on the Surrey County Council application for commons consent to erect three parking meters. This is viewed as the start of the commercialization of the site and has caused a high level of concern amongst those who use Newlands Corner. More details at : www.savenewlandscorner.com

As always we will keep a close eye on all the above and any new items.

If you wish to join MRA and receive our email updates, please go to: www.merrowresidents.org.uk

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year!

Your Merrow Residents' Association Committee.