



MERROW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

your community voice for over 40 years

Dear Fellow Merrow Residents

There is a lot going on in the Merrow and Guildford area at the moment, with many meetings and consultations. MRA attend as many of these meetings as possible to keep up to date with proposals for our area.

The **Clay Lane Link Road** (CLLR) between Slyfield and Clay Lane is an ongoing, lively topic. There have been various meetings regarding this proposal. There is real concern about the flood risk, the impact on Jacobs Well and the additional traffic that will hit Burpham and potentially Merrow. GBC have now stated that they anticipate submitting a planning application for Phase 1 of the link road in April 2016. Planning application for Phase 1 will be for construction of a new road between Moorfield Road and Westfield Road on the industrial estate. Phase 2 will be the link road, that is the main cause of concern, between Slyfield to Clay Lane. This phase is delayed for 18 months. You can find further information at www.saveguildfordfloodplain.com and www.guildford.gov.uk/Clay-Lane-Link

Newlands Corner has been the subject of a large campaign and petition. Surrey County Council are proposing various changes to the site, which include parking charges, new trails and large play structures, a large new building housing a café/visitor centre/shopping area. There has been strong opposition to these proposals with a petition signed so far by over 10,500 local residents and a protest meeting held at the site. On 9th March there was a public meeting in Guildford, attended by hundreds of concerned residents. It was a heated meeting with the overwhelming majority very much against the proposals. Only one single person spoke in favour and it turns out that this man was a Surrey Heath Councillor. There has been a lot of press coverage of this contentious topic. You can find out more by looking at www.savenewlandscorner.com

An exhibition organised by the company who wish to start a **Day Nursery** in the old school in Down Road took place on 18th December 2015, followed by a bilateral meeting. The proposal would involve substantially enlarging the building from its current footprint. There is very strong opposition from the

local residents, mainly around parking and increased traffic in a road that is already clogged with cars. We are waiting to hear whether the project will be pursued.

As you may have read in the Surrey Advertiser there is a plan to redevelop **Guildford station**. Solum have applied for a £150 million redevelopment of the site of the station, along with 438 homes, shops, restaurants, car park and offices. Planning Officers have recently been given a two month extension on the application to give them more time to make a recommendation as to whether it should be approved or refused. The Solum Guildford Station Redevelopment Plans website can be found here: www.guildfordforward.com. You can write to Guildford Borough Council Planning Department with your views.

MRA are keeping a close eye on all of these plans and consultations to ensure that we are ready to inform our members and comment to GBC, SCC or other relevant parties. We also keep in close contact with our Councillors and GBC Officers.

The Guildford Local Plan will soon be heading our way for yet another consultation. We are working closely with other local Residents' Associations on this as well as our local Councillors, with particular reference to the 'housing need' figures, the application of the requirement for 'restraints' to be applied to this 'housing need' figure and the infrastructure that would be necessary to support any new development in Guildford.

If you are a member of MRA, our **next meeting** is the AGM on 11th April 2016 in the St John's Centre. Councillor Matt Furniss has accepted an invitation to speak about his portfolio, which covers infrastructure and the environment. Our own Ward Councillors, should also be able to join us. We will additionally be talking about the local plan at this meeting. (Non-members can join on the night.)

That's about all for this time. We hope that you are all managing to stay dry and warm and 'see' you again in the May edition of The Merrow Pages with a report of the AGM.

Sarah

publicity@merrowresidents.org
www.merrowresidents.org