



MERROW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

your community voice for over 50 years

Dear Fellow Merrow Residents

Our Lockdown AGM

Last month we told you that we were tentatively trying to arrange for our delayed AGM to be held online during lockdown. We are pleased to say that it successfully took place on 1st June, via Zoom. The IT worked well and over 50 members tuned in to watch and listen – it was an extraordinary way to celebrate our 50th AGM! Thank you to those who joined us on a very hot June evening. We particularly welcomed those of you who hadn't attended one of our AGMs or Autumn Events before.

During the AGM Stephen Rudd, our newly elected Environment Officer, gave an interesting illustrated talk setting out his initial ideas for various environmental opportunities and activities that MRA could pursue locally. Stephen is looking to put together a team of local volunteers to develop a strategy for MRA's key environmental activities. If you are interested in finding out more or joining his team, please contact him (details at the end).

Planning Application near Merrow

Downs

Urnfield Sports Ground at the end of Downside Road, next to Merrow Downs,

is used by several private and state Guildford schools. The recent planning application to redevelop it includes the creation of a floodlit artificial hockey pitch with an all-weather running track, a football pitch, cricket nets and athletics facilities. There will be additional hardstanding parking for both cars and coaches.

As we write this, many letters of support for the proposal had been received by GBC, although concerns have been expressed in respect of light pollution, privacy and noise, effects on wildlife, surface water drainage and even archaeological disturbance. More information can be found on GBC's website, planning ref. 20/P/00825

Part Two of the Local Plan

Since last month when we provided an update on the Local Plan, the next extensive consultation has been launched on Part Two of the Local Plan which sets out GBC's "Development Management Policies" and closes on the 22nd July. This is the first stage in the development of these new policies that will be subject to considerable further consultation. Details can be found online at

www.guildford.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/LPDMIO/consultationHome

These policies cover housing quality

and density, infrastructure, the natural environment and wildlife, air quality, climate change, open and green spaces, flooding and rainwater disposal, community facilities, parking standards and a borough cycle network.

GBC suggests that these detailed policies will be used to ensure that future development meets the highest standards in terms of design quality and meeting the climate change emergency. They also suggest that the policies will protect the special character of Guildford and will be used to guide decisions on whether or not planning applications are granted permission.

If anyone has time to read part or all of this consultation and would like the MRA to consider their views in formulating our response, please contact Keith Meldrum, who leads on the Local Plan for the MRA, (details below). It really is a massive job to read, dissect and comment on such a long detailed document, so any comments from Merrow residents, however short, would be very gratefully received.

The importance of local associations such as MRA has become very clear during the coronavirus pandemic and we ask everyone in Merrow who is not already a member to consider joining. Details of our many activities locally and a joining form can be found on our website www.merrowresidents.org.

Any members who have not given us their email address are encouraged to email the secretary with your name and address. It allows us to update you with local news and information quickly and saves our postage costs - our privacy policy is on our website and we send emails sparingly.

You can contact Keith or Stephen via: secretary@merrowresidents.org

We wish you and your families a safe journey through lockdown and beyond.

The MRA Committee

Contact us via email:
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www.merrowresidents.org

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