



MERROW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN EVENT 2000

Guildford's Parks and Countryside Wednesday, October 4th at 7.30 p.m.

Mike Beckwith, of the Parks & Countryside Department,
will give an illustrated talk on the
Public gardens and parks of Guildford

Come along and enjoy a pleasant evening

* Free admission *

* Refreshments *

* Non-members welcome *

**At Jefferies Hall, St. Pius X Church,
Laustan Close, Horseshoe Lane East, Merrow**

MERROW LIFE

The Newsletter of the Merrow Residents' Association
Autumn 2000 Issue No 8

MERROW MATTERS

The editorial team is to be congratulated on the superb 2000 commemorative issue *Memories of Merrow* which has recently come through our letter boxes. It is a first class production and Members can be pleased that the MRA's initiative in setting up a Millennium project has borne such fruit. The Association will be again taking its usual page in the tri-annual editions for the next year.

Chairman's Comments

Since the Annual General Meeting in April your Committee members have been involved in a number of issues that are of concern to most Merrow residents.

Provisional plans for the projected *Park & Ride* facility for the east side of Guildford have now been seen by the MRA. At the time of going to print with this Newsletter no formal planning application had been made. Members who attended the AGM will recall that Simon Birch, Director of Guildford Environmental & Planning Services, referred to the proposal in his address. Contrary to what has been publicly reported elsewhere, the MRA had not been consulted by any of the parties concerned.

The plan provides for an 18-hole Pay and Play golf course for which outline planning consent already exists. Added to this plan is the new provision for a *Park & Ride* on the site of the present Merrow Cricket Club. It is proposed that the cricket club will be given a new site and pavilion to the east of their present site. Car parking for 485 cars would provide space for the users of both golf and cricket clubs together with *Park & Ride* needs. Access would be from a new roundabout on the Epsom Road half way between Clendon traffic lights and the Merrow roundabout.

The MRA has advocated the provision of *Park & Ride* in the Merrow area for a number of years. Some of these proposals will certainly be contentious! For this reason your Committee has asked Patrick Robson, immediate past Chairman, to liaise with all the parties on our behalf. This he has kindly agreed to do.

Peter Reeve
Chairman

THE NEW BUSHY HILL SCHOOL

The Governors were delighted to discover that funds raised from the sale of the Merrow Street field would enable the intended refurbishment of the school to be improved to a redesign and rebuild of the entire site and were pleased to receive planning permission for the new buildings in September.

They had gone to considerable lengths to consult the immediate and wider community in drawing up the plans for the future, the planning consultant liaising closely with the Borough Planning Department and the plans modified to accommodate local needs wherever possible. The final application was submitted to the Department in May with the expectation that the Officer's report would go to the Planning Committee before the end of July, within the required 8-week period. The projected timetable for the rebuild was therefore fine tuned in anticipation that the main works could be commenced this term, with the site prepared during the summer holidays.

Regrettably, the 8-week requirement was not met and the Planners notified that the application would come before the Committee on 1st August, missing the target date for commencement of enabling works on the site. A meeting was held with the Officer in an attempt to find a solution since if the work did not commence in the holiday, the project would be delayed a further year and a raft of children denied the benefits of the new site. Also, during the year costs could be expected to rise. Subsequently the Officer advised that the application would be heard towards the end of August and requested a separate application for the all-weather pitch. This was to be built during the holiday to act as a substitute playground during the building period - the new school being sited on the current playground. There was no law to prevent commencement of essential preparatory work and the Governors therefore reluctantly decided to proceed with the works as the

timetable would be dramatically affected by delay at this stage, but undertook to do so at their own risk. It was felt that on balance the work should proceed for the benefit of the children and the long term success of the project.

Objections to the creation of the all-weather pitch were, however, raised by two local residents and further modifications were required to the plans. Applications went to Committee towards the end of August with the Planning Officer's recommended approval. However the neighbouring residents' opposition to the all-weather pitch prompted the Committee to defer its decision pending a site visit, notwithstanding additional landscaping had been introduced around the pitch. The Committee was not concerned with the plans for the school building but chose not to exercise their right to separate the building from the pitch. Consequently work was stopped except that necessary to make the site safe for the children's return.

Early in September the plans were again presented with the Officer's recommendation for approval and on this occasion the Committee agreed to deal with the applications in two parts. The building plans were approved and work can now proceed but plans for the all-weather pitch were rejected against the recommendation of the Officers.

The Governors have issued a statement that they wish to create a wonderful centre for the education of junior children in Merrow and are working strenuously to achieve this. They regret the situation that has now arisen but feel there was no option but to accept with the hope that an amicable and reasonable solution will result from their continuing efforts. They look forward to showing all the School's special facilities to the Merrow community as the building develops and when the children move in, hopefully September 2001.

Annual General Meeting - 12th APRIL 2000

The 30th Annual General Meeting of the Association held in Bushy Hill School hall on Wednesday 12th April was attended by over 100 members. A report by the Chairman on the proceedings was published in the summer issue of the *Merrow Matters* magazine (issue no.8, p.5). A list of the elected Officers and Committee members appears elsewhere in this *Merrow Life*.

After the formal business of the evening there were two very informative and interesting presentations. The first an illustrated talk by the Director of Operations for **Surrey Waste Management** on the disposal of waste matter and a description of the projected incineration plants to be built at Capel and Redhill. The MRA having already lodged its concern regarding the waste lorry traffic this would

generate, members were greatly relieved to learn it was not now likely to pass through Merrow. SWM's competitor for the County contract, **Thames Waste Management**, had supplied the MRA with literature on their proposal to build an incinerator at Slyfield and this was distributed before the meeting. Members were in a position therefore to compare the rival schemes.

The second address was by Simon Birch, Director of Guildford's **Environmental and Planning Services**. He gave an outline of the work of his Department and then concentrated on the *Park & Ride* services established in the Borough. He gave a brief outline of the projected *Park & Ride* for Merrow and as was to be expected this generated a lively discussion with his audience! Since the proposals had not

been finalised and no planning application had yet been lodged, he was not in a position to debate detailed proposals but he did offer to meet representatives of the MRA for consultation as and when.

On display in the foyer were the architect's plans for the redevelopment of **Bushy Hill School** which was still subject to planning approval but from which it was evident the new school and facilities will be an attractive and functional asset for Merrow.

The evening concluded with the popular cheese and wine get together for members and the Secretary breathed a sigh of relief that the planning and arrangements for yet another AGM had worked well to ensure a very successful evening. ❖

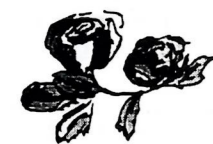
Merrow War Memorial

You will have probably seen the article in the Surrey Advertiser (8 September) with a photograph of Malcolm Hinkly representing the MRA and Tony Neale.

Tony says that stonemasons appear to be very busy these days as he has had to wait several months to get estimates for the repair work. He has one on file, is awaiting a second requested in

May, whilst a third withdrew their offer because of over-commitment. Tony is still looking for funding and is asking for anyone with information on the name of the architect to make contact with him (01483 564292). When he has the required estimates the MRA will make an application for grant aid.

Guildford In Bloom



Doubtless Members will have noted that the MRA has once again sponsored a flowering basket to hang on the Village Sign at Levysdesene. The Chairman would also thank all Merrow residents and businesses whose efforts helped to bring the *South East in Bloom* winning award back to Guildford this year.

Orange, Vodaphone and One-2-One

Although so many people now use mobile phones, many are worried and/or angry at the proliferation of antenna poles and boxes by the service providers. (See comment in the last edition of this Newsletter.) General planning



approval already exists nation-wide for the installation of telecommunication apparatus, but the siting, style and colour of the equipment has nonetheless to be approved by the local planners on each application. If

there are 10 or more written objections from the public they have a right to be heard at the planning meeting, but it needs to be borne in mind that objections are more likely to succeed if based on environmental grounds rather than health or safety arguments. The MRA has already successfully objected in two recent cases locally and there are two more in the pipeline. Anyone wishing to have more information on this matter should telephone *Weldon Developments* and speak to Tom Clary (01932 411011) who will be able to send you an excellent booklet produced by Orange PCS Ltd.

Shops

Members will be disappointed that the *Spar* store in the Epsom Road parade has recently

closed thus causing two of the larger shop units along here now to be empty and awaiting new occupiers. The other unit is, of course, the former *Capelli* hair dressing salon (which moved next to *Spar*) on which the landlord has now been twice refused planning consent for change of use, firstly to a restaurant (which was also lost on appeal) and more recently as an estate agents office. It is to be hoped that both units will be reopened in the not too distant future as retail shops.

Traffic Flow - Trodds Lane and Epsom Road



Several Committee members recently had a meeting with the County Principal Engineer (Guildford) and our County Councillor Nick Brougham. We understand that consideration is to be given to alter the angle of access to Trodds Lane from the A25 at Newlands Corner in order to slow traffic at that end of the road and possibly deter commercial vehicles from using it. Another idea is to close the slip road onto Epsom Road at the Horse & Groom. Traffic would then need to continue round to the Clandon Park Gates roundabout and this may also have a deterring effect on northbound traffic. Likewise if *Park & Ride* is introduced many who presently use Trodds Lane to travel into Guildford may find access easier from the east along the A25/A246. ❖

Bury it or Burn it?

There seems to be little choice today and the arguments in favour of incineration as a means of disposing of much of the waste we create, is overwhelming. Moreover it is the declared policy of the Borough and County Councils. However it is the siting of such disposal plants that is the subject of great debate - one could say it is today's real *burning issue* for the people of Guildford!

Members will recall the presentation at the AGM made by Surrey Waste Management regarding its proposal to build incinerators at Capel and Redhill and recently there have been the well reported public meetings debating the locally more contentious matter of Thames Waste Management's competing proposal to build a massive Energy from Waste (EfW) plant at Slyfield. Both proposals have been put forward for County Planning consid-

eration and if you are interested to know more ask to see the plans at the Guildford Planning Office under ref. 00/P/O1421 (TWM) and 00/P/O1493 (SWM). Written comments have to be made by 16 October to R A Hargreaves, Head of Planning, Surrey County Council, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames KT1 2DY.

There is little doubt that most residents of Merrow, Burpham and surrounding areas would favour the Surrey Waste Management proposal, more particularly now that SWM has publicly stated its waste lorry traffic from Slyfield depot will use the A3, M25 and A24 to access the Capel site (see Surrey Advertiser 8 September) ie it will not now come through Merrow as was originally envisaged. Your Committee will consider the matter at its next meeting and will respond to the proposals in due time. **Peter Reeve** ❖

TREES AND HEDGEROWS

Several years ago Surrey County Council set up a Tree Warden Scheme as part of a national initiative with volunteers acting as contacts for any matters concerning local trees and woodlands. Noreen and Roy Sherlock are currently **Tree Wardens** for the MRA and have in the past traced the Parish boundary for the *Great*

Hedge Survey. Their role is essentially a point of contact and one of information gathering.

Should any resident learn of any matter concerning local trees and woodlands which is felt should be followed up, in particular any matters affecting trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders, or further information is needed, please telephone them on 01483 569879. If it is then considered that any action need be taken they will report to the Committee. ❖

AUTUMN EVENT 2000

We are fortunate and delighted that Mike Beckwith, now the Guildford Leisure Strategy Officer, has agreed to give an illustrated talk on **Guildford's Parks and Countryside** - see the back page. This is always a popular meeting and those of you who have heard Mike speak on other occasions will know that we are in for an extremely interesting and entertaining evening. He headed the successful team that won the South East in Bloom competition for Guildford for some 13 years before transferring to Leisure Services. We look forward to seeing as many as possible at Jefferies Hall on 4th October. ❖

COFFEE IN THE COMMUNITY

The *Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice*, Farnham has launched a community-wide coffee morning programme and we have been asked to give it publicity to MRA members. You invite ten friends to come and have coffee for which the Hospice will provide a set of Phyllis Tuckwell mugs, coffee and biscuits and, if you would like, a member of staff to come and talk about the work of the Hospice. If you are interested telephone Claire Walker at 01252 729400.

Merrow Residents' Association Executive Committee 2000

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Secretary
Road Safety
Committee
(Environment)
(Membership)

Mr. Peter Reeve
Mr. George Gunson
Mr. Dennis Mabey
Mrs. Catherine Smith
Mrs. Pat Cousins
Mr. Mike Drayson
Mr. Malcolm Hinkly
Mrs. Claire Rymell
Mr. Ken Martin
Sgt. John Cable

Community Police Officer

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Hon. Treasurer would welcome payment of your 2000 subscription if it is still outstanding. Please send your cheque (Household Membership £4, Single Membership £2.50) to: Mr G Gunson.

Merrow Life is published by Merrow Residents' Association for circulation to its members. Unless stated, the views expressed may not always represent the views of the Committee of the Association or those of individual members of the Committee. Any enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary.