



MERROW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Your Community Voice for Over 50 Years

Dear Fellow Merrow Residents

Our Lockdown Events

Since we last wrote we have had our second AGM online during lockdown and also hosted a very successful talk on the fauna and flora of our local heathlands. It was beautifully illustrated and those who missed out can enjoy watching a recording by using the link on the Environment page of our website.

Travellers in Merrow

Some of you may have noticed yet another incursion by travellers onto Merrow Common which is accessible on foot from the Park Lane roundabout with Kingfisher Drive. On this occasion they hacked through the fence near to the new impregnable metal gate. The group comprised some ample caravans, lorries, trucks and some tree surgeon's equipment. The police were soon on the scene, as were GBC, and surprisingly the travellers moved out the following morning. Councillor Deborah Seabrook kept us informed and will be having discussions with interested parties to determine what more can be done to safeguard the land, although it is virtually impossible to make the whole site impregnable.

Merrow Ward Boundary Review

The Boundary Commissioners are currently reviewing the ward boundaries within the Borough of Guildford, which they are required to do from time to time. They will take into consideration the number of new homes to be built in the Borough in the next ten years and then recommend the number of Wards, the number of Councillors representing each Ward and any changes to the boundaries of the Wards. They have already decided that the number of Councillors on the Borough Council will remain at 48.

We have recommended that Merrow Ward should have its boundary aligned with that of the Merrow Residents' Association, as shown on the map on the About Us page of our

website. There will be a further consultation on the Commission's recommendation for a new ward structure in Guildford and any new arrangements will take effect for the next Guildford Borough Council elections in May 2023.

Litter

In February our Merrow Community Highways Volunteers took advantage when the A25 was temporarily closed to traffic between Clandon Park gates and Clandon traffic lights and they managed to clear all the litter from the grass verges of both carriageways. In 4 hours they collected over 25 bin bags of rubbish and had almost enough car parts to assemble a complete vehicle! Many thanks to Andrew (our Chairman), Dave (our Treasurer and Webmaster), Clive, Virginia, Stuart, Ian and Shirley for all their hard work.

Photos showing "before and after" scenes are available on the Community page of our website. If you would like to become a volunteer member, please email us at communityhighways@merrowresidents.org

41 Down Road

The Victorian school building in Down Road, that became the Merrow Centre For Remedial Education, was granted planning permission for housing in 2017. Last year the developer submitted a retrospective planning application to reduce the number of on-site parking spaces from 7 to 6, to allow one space to be used for bin storage. More than 20 objections were made, expressing concern that Down Road already has minimal parking for residents. We spoke at the recent Planning Committee meeting and were pleased that the application was refused.

Tretower House, Merrow Street

A local developer has circulated a brochure informing nearby residents of its outline plan to build housing in the grounds of Tretower House, which is located in Merrow Street opposite the side entrance to Merrow Infant School.

History Repeats Itself

We were fascinated to read a report in St John's Parish Newsletter of January 1919, unearthed by Ian Anderson of The Merrow History Group, containing a plea to parents about their children's education during a previous pandemic -

"The schools broke up for Christmas holidays on Dec 20th. They will re-assemble on 7th January 1919. The last term was rather broken on account of the influenza pandemic; but we hope that now "la grippe Espagnole" is subsiding, steady progress will be made in the New Year. So much of the children's future depends on their education, that we hope all parents and those who have care of the children will do their best to keep them regular at their studies in whatever school they may be. Irregularity and slackness are sure roads to failure."

MRA in the Community

As a reader of The Merrow Pages, it is possible that you either live or work in Merrow and benefit from the work that the MRA does voluntarily on behalf of the local community.

We hope some of you will support us in this role and look at our website, where for a small annual sum you can become a member of the MRA.

If you have a particular interest in any aspect of life in and around Merrow, please email us and we'll tell you a bit more about how you could become involved, whether in the background or foreground. We even have spaces for more committee members!

We send our best wishes to everyone as we emerge from the latest lockdown.

The MRA Committee

Contact us via email:
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www.merrowresidents.org
