

MERROW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

your community voice for over 40 years

Report following the AGM on 11 April 2016

Dear Fellow Merrow Residents

It was a real pleasure to see so many of you at our Annual General Meeting on 11th

April; thank you all for coming along. We counted over 140 attendees. The official part of the meeting was guickly

dispensed with and we went on to hear from our speaker for the meeting, Councillor Matt Furniss. Cllr Furniss has been a Borough

Councillor for 9 years, is on the Planning Committee and has lead responsibility for infrastructure and the environment. He is

very supportive of the residents of Merrow. Following is a summary of his presentation: Guildford Borough Council (GBC) have no official say over the infrastructure in our area, however, strongly believes that a robust infrastructure must be put in place to support any new developments. GBC are

heavily involved with stakeholders and are

starting to get good traction and influence

with the various groups. The new Guildford Borough Transport Strategy was published only four hours before our meeting so we were the first public group to hear about it. It has been produced by independent professional

transport planners, commissioned by GBC.

The aim of the plan is to reduce hold ups are on the A3 and A31. The expectation is to achieve a normal traffic flow status that

significant transport issues

the infrastructure. outarown current Businesses are starting to consider moving out of Guildford due to the challenges.

Although we have excellent links to Gatwick. there is no Heathrow link. An overland link to Heathrow is planned.

To achieve all items in the transport plan, a large investment would be required. The realistic expectation is that we would receive funding for some of the proposals,

mainly for A3 improvements. An amount is designated to the A3 for 'quick wins', which could include junction improvements at Tesco, Stoke and the 50mph sections. Plans might also include southbound on/off at Burpham and/or a 4-way junction slightly

further north of Burpham.

Highways England funding, which could be used for A3 lane widening (3 lanes all the way) or to tunnel the whole road. The tunnel option is the one preferred by GBC. The M25 junctions 10 to 16 will be upgraded

From 2020 onwards, there should be

by Highways England. Rail Infrastructure: Funding has been earmarked to upgrade the mainline station;

increase in train numbers; new railway station at the Merrow Depot and a second

gyratory system and come up with plans to improve it and plan to increase the number of car parks, encouraging us to park in the

at Park Barn, outside the hospital. and gueues at the 36 identified hot spots around the borough. The majority of these GBC has had funds granted to assess the

equates to the traffic loading we experience during school holidays! nearest car park. The number of Park & Cllr Furniss stated that Guildford has Rides will be increased.

on the site is being handled by SCC and have forced this to be 'called in' for scrutiny. More information Emergency Planning: GBC have published on www.savenewlandscorner.com and a a surface water management plan and are petition with over 10,000 signatures. working with the Environment Agency (EA) to mitigate river flooding. The EA have purchased The new draft Local Plan has been published quick deployment barriers for Guildford. and will go to formal consultation in June 2016 for 6 weeks. The housing target is 693 Recycling and Waste: 20% of all our recycling is garden waste; almost 60% of new houses per year. The Guildford Residents general recycling levels but there is a need Association (GRA) will be fighting this figure. to reduce the amount going into general MRA is heavily involved with GRA. waste, which goes to landfill. The new local plan includes, amongst Guildford Crematorium: GBC are looking at others, the following development sites:

Surrey

development.

Burial Provision: There is less than three years burial space left in Guildford, GBC are looking at acquiring sites to last for the next 150 years. Guildford Spectrum: The roof needs replacing and this will take more than a year. An improved combined heat and power plant is planned.

replacing the crematorium with a new facility.

Slyfield Area Regeneration Project (SARP):

there are plans to move the sewage works

and council depot and to build new houses

Next, Keith Meldrum gave the MRA Annual Update. The MRA Newsletter, Merrow Life, is the main record of work undertaken on your behalf by MRA. Parking at the Merrow shopping parade: There will be 3 hour restricted parking with no return within three hours, Monday-

Saturday, 8.30am-6pm. School in Down Road: Fennies Nurseries had planned to open a nursery here. Due to residents' concerns, they have decided to consider converting the site and the existing building into 6 flats with gated parking.

County Council's (SCC) proposals for the development of Newlands Corner. These

are: Phase 1 Parking charges and play

Clandon Residents' Associations about this. **Redwood site**: The first planning application by Linden Homes was refused which they have appealed. The 2003 Local Plan contained

structures: Phase 2 New building for a Visitor

Centre/Café/shopping opportunities. Some

SCC Councillors are unhappy with how this

Gosden Hill Farm, a new rail station at

Merrow Depot and the Wisley airfield

Merrow depot is no longer in the Local Plan

Gosden Hill Farm is for up to 2,000 houses.

This will have a large impact on Merrow.

MRA is in discussion with the Burpham and

for residential development.

a figure for the number of care home places in Guildford: this has been carried over into the new local plan, which may mean there is an issue with the Redwood site being used

for residential purposes.

This was a big update this month but we felt we wanted to share as much of the information from the meeting as we could.

With good wishes from the Merrow Residents' Association Committee.

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Newlands Corner: There is an enormous amount of concern regarding