



# MERROW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

*Your Community Voice for Over 50 Years*

## ***Dear Fellow Merrow Residents***

Our Autumn Event was open to all, an opportunity to introduce MRA to friends and neighbours. This year we were delighted to listen to Merrow residents Ken and Gillian Elsom, who talked of the natural delights of Merrow Downs based on their years observing and researching plants and butterflies locally. It was beautifully illustrated with an extensive portfolio of photos, many of which are now on the Environment pages of our website. Holding the event via Zoom as a result of COVID 19 gave us an increased audience of around 130 people. Thank you to all those who attended an MRA event for the first time. We hope it encouraged you to take a look at our newly refreshed website [www.merrowresidents.org](http://www.merrowresidents.org), and possibly support us by becoming a member for a small annual subscription.

## **Levyldene Bus Stop**

The lay-by at the Levyldene bus stop has recently been removed and the pavement widened. We are concerned that this could slow down traffic waiting behind stationary buses and cause more traffic congestion on Epsom Road. Apparently this is part of a larger programme to provide faster passage for buses throughout Guildford. Information on SCC's website refers to improving access at bus stops by providing better pavements and kerbs but removal of the Levyldene

lay-by was not mentioned. We have raised with SCC the lack of consultation with local people who understand the traffic conditions in Merrow.

Recently the lay-by even became the subject of discussion on BBC Radio Surrey who interviewed both SCC and MRA!

## **Coronavirus Support**

MRA's initiative in the first Coronavirus lockdown provided support to those struggling with its consequences - obtaining food supplies, prescriptions, social contact etc. We were very pleased that many more volunteers came forward to offer their help than the number who asked for assistance and we are grateful for the generous offers of time and effort. The pandemic has spurred the creation of neighbourhood groups to look after those who need support and this new neighbourliness is welcomed.

Hopefully we will be out of the second lockdown soon but we are aware that there may be some, especially the more vulnerable, who are still shielding and finding life difficult. If you do need assistance then please get in touch - this offer is to all Merrow residents, not just members of the MRA. We have a dedicated support email [coronavirussupport@merrowresidents.org](mailto:coronavirussupport@merrowresidents.org) and a dedicated telephone number 07928 809458. Further information about sources of support is available on our website.

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## **Planning**

A great deal has happened on the planning front since our last report in The Merrow Pages. The Government has issued two new consultations on proposed changes to the whole planning system, suggesting that the current system must be modernised to increase the number of new homes to over 300,000 per year, especially so called “affordable” homes, to be built before the next General Election.

If these proposals are implemented, it would mean the Guildford Local Plan, that was adopted in April 2019, would have to be re-made within the next 4 years, and that Guildford’s housing target would be increased. MRA has responded

to the Government and will scrutinise the legislation that will flow from these proposals with great care and with some trepidation.

If you are a member of MRA and haven’t received emails from us this year, email [secretary@merrowresidents.org](mailto:secretary@merrowresidents.org) asking to be added to our list to be kept informed of local issues. Details of these and other items of local interest are on our website.

At this uncertain time, we especially wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas.

### *The MRA Committee*

Contact us via email:  
[secretary@merrowresidents.org](mailto:secretary@merrowresidents.org)  
[www.merrowresidents.org](http://www.merrowresidents.org)

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