



MERROW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

your community voice for over 40 years

Local Issues for Merrow

Dear Fellow Merrow Residents

Our contribution this month is in the form of notes from our recent Annual General Meeting, held at St John's Centre, Merrow on Monday 26th March 2018.

As usual our meeting was very well supported with 110 MRA members attending. Cllr Jenny Jordan, Cllr Phillip Brooker, Jim Allen from the Burpham Neighbourhood Forum and Tony Teal, Chairman of the Burpham Community Association joined the meeting.

The usual business of the AGM was completed, including re-election of Committee Members. There are some positions free on the committee, so if anyone is interested in joining us, please email any of the committee members via our website or email the Publicity email address below.

Annual Report – Keith Meldrum

Down Road School: Planning consent now given for conversion to residential housing.

Wellington Grove: ex-Redwood care home site. Construction has now commenced. Residential housing being built by Linden Homes.

Parking in Merrow Street: still an issue. This will hopefully be reviewed by GBC later this year.

Parking in Hareward Road: dangerous parking on this busy road. This has been discussed with our Councillors. Hopefully will also be part of the Guildford parking review.

Some concern has been raised by Merrow residents regarding parking on grass verges on Epsom Road and Trodds Lane. This obstructs the line of sight and damages the verges. MRA will also discuss this with our Councillors.

White House Drive: also parking issues caused by parents dropping children at school.

BP Petrol Station: 24 hour alcohol licence application. BP already have 24hr sales licence. Application to vary to alcohol and hot food and drink after 11pm. The meeting was asked for their views by show of hands. The response was 50/50 split for and against for those who raised their hands. Most of those at the meeting were not aware of the application. All three ward Councillors have objected. Apparently other 24hr licences exist in our area with no problems encountered and no licences revoked. MRA will send an email to all members detailing how they can comment on the application.

The Chairman thanked Clandon Park Garden Centre for again planting up our planters. Hopefully members will thank them by utilising the garden centre.

Financial Report - Denise Hilton

MRA has a good level of funds, as last year. Expenditure remains stable. Small payments have been made which were related to the local plan work. These were for documents and a contribution to Guildford Residents Association (GRA) funds for the buying in of expert advice on the local plan.

The Voluntary Independent Examiner of the Association's accounts was appointed for 2018.

Local Plan – Keith Meldrum

Local Plan has gone forward for Examination in Public. The examiner, Mr Bore, is known to have increased housing need figures for other plans he has examined, most recently for Waverley. The housing need for Guildford is currently set at 654 new houses per year over the next 20 years. The Plan includes Gosden Hill Farm, Wisley Airfield, Blackwell Farm, Slyfield and Garlick's Arch developments and a new rail station in Merrow.

Mr Bore has made his first comments and queries on the Plan. He feels the housing need figure should be raised, and is concerned about the level of affordable housing. Guildford may be forced to take some of the Woking unmet housing need. There is concern over the 5 year housing supply and infrastructure keeping up with development. He has asked GBC to explain their policy on the Green Belt and he mentions North Street, asking why it is not in the Plan. He additionally has concerns about the A3, student housing and accuracy of student numbers quoted in the Plan.

MRA has requested to speak at the public examination, which will take approximately 5 weeks, starting on 5th June. Someone from MRA/GRA will attend every day.

Gosden Hill Farm: up to 2,000 houses, primary and secondary schools, retail space, local centre, 1000sq m of employment space, gypsy and traveler pitches. 2-way junction access southbound A3 only. MRA and Burpham Community Association believe it needs

a 4-way junction so drivers can travel northbound without going through Burpham. A possible connector road is being suggested, however would not solve the road congestion problem unless there were a bridge over the A3. The MRA is worried that the necessary infrastructure will not be in place at the appropriate time.

Merrow Lane: Access Gates. There are two areas of Common land owned by GBC either side of Merrow Lane. New gates had been put in in 2014 by Network Rail to access the field for repairs to a transformer. This was an old, unused access and Network Rail enlarged the access point. Network Rail were supposed to reinstate this to its original planted state, which has not yet occurred. Burpham Community Association and the Neighbourhood Forum, supported by MRA have been challenging the fact that this has not occurred.

Newlands Corner: Parking charges will commence in the summer at Newlands Corner and other local sites. The Save Newlands Corner group still keeps asking Surrey County Council on what legal basis the charges are being introduced. SCC are now refusing to respond.

We hope you have found these meeting notes useful. Please do contact us on publicity@merrowresidents.org.uk if you have any queries or are interested in joining the committee. If you wish to join MRA as a resident, please see our website www.merrowresidents.org.uk

We hope you all have a wonderful summer and will 'see you' again in the August/September issue of The Merrow Pages.

Sarah and The Committee

email: publicity@merrowresidents.org.uk
www.merrowresidents.org.uk