



MERROW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

your community voice since 1969

Dear Fellow Merrow Residents

We are writing this as we recover from the joys of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and reflect on a brilliant 4 days.

Since our last report in February, a great deal has happened in Merrow, and also in the wider Guildford area. Here are a few of our highlights:-

- Our **AGM** was held in March with a good turn-out and the involvement of ward councillors, so much so that we over-ran! The hybrid arrangements were a success, allowing members to either attend in person or from home.
- A further members' meeting was held in May to discuss some of the many **major developments taking place in Guildford** but outside Merrow, including the Weyside Urban Village, St Mary's Wharf, North Street, Garlick's Arch, the Wisley Airfield and the A3/M25 junction improvements that will start later this year. The development of Gosden Hill Farm between Burpham and West Clandon, that will affect Merrow, was also discussed in some detail, although no plans are yet available.
- We were involved in rejecting a proposal to reduce the amount of car parking within a development in **Down Road** - which is crammed with cars at the best of times - and the Planning Inspector took careful note of our evidence.
- We were also successfully involved in discussions to re-position an **electricity substation on Merrow Common** where we joined forces with affected MRA members and with Cllr Deborah Seabrook to get some changes made to the plans to mitigate the overbearing impact.
- We had very helpful and constructive discussions with the developer of the garden of **Tretower House in Merrow Street** on flooding, invertebrates (toads), and carbon neutrality, which led to agreed conditions in the planning approval to meet our concerns. We only wish that other developers took local consultation so seriously.
- More recently we've been concerned at the planning application for the replacement of a house in **Holford Road** with 11 flats to which we and many others have objected.
- Our willing team of **highways volunteers** have continued their work and have recently cleared away a mass of debris by the bus stops in Epsom

Road and also from Trodds Lane.

- Volunteers from MRA also joined other **volunteers on Merrow Downs** in a most impressive effort to hand clear the perniciously invasive Perfoliate Alexanders. This is necessary as the plant spreads so easily and can only be controlled by being pulled up.
- Surrey County Council have allocated £15k to review the **traffic and speeding problems in Trodds Lane**. We will attempt to reflect the views of the local residents who are affected.
- The Boundary Commission have completed their **review of the ward boundaries in Guildford** and as a result Merrow will retain three ward councillors. Merrow ward will be increased in size to include both Boxgrove Gardens and Boxgrove Park.
- The evidence gathering stage of the **Review of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** has been completed and Natural England are assessing over 2000 responses before issuing their recommendations for change in early 2023.

Many of you appreciate the **colourful tubs outside the Horse and Groom**. We are very grateful to Edwins Garden Centre (previously called the Clandon Park Garden Centre) for providing the flowers and planting them out, and to the volunteers led by Kate Dumbleton who maintain and water them.

We are now planning for our **Autumn Meeting on 17th October** and very much hope that you will think of joining us. The more members we have, the more representative we are of the voices of local residents and the more significant our role is when liaising with Councillors and other bodies on behalf of Merrow. New members are always welcome and you can sign up via our website www.merrowresidents.org. This also has articles on the history of Merrow, more details of some of our activities mentioned above and other local information.

Until we write again, or we see you in person in October, we wish you a sunny and healthy summer.

The MRA Committee

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