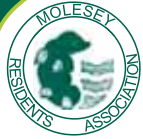


MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2024

www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk

e-mail contact: mjaxton@live.com



Chairman: Stuart Selleck, 2 St. John's Road, KT8 9JH Tel: 020-8979-2466

Molesey Residents Association Councillors at Elmbridge

Ruby Ahmed 020-8979-4210 Pat Gormley 07983-376419 Tony Popham 07970-107937

MRA Councillor at Surrey County Council - Ernest Mallett 020-8979-6446

WATCH THE WORLD (AND THE BOATS) GO BY

Back in 2002 MRA arranged for a bench seat to be installed by Molesey Lock so that residents could sit and enjoy the river views. The seat commemorated two significant events in Molesey – the founding of the Royal Cambridge Home in 1851 and the founding of Molesey Residents Association in 1965.

Since 2002 the seat has been well used and enjoyed but, over the 22 years, it has suffered with age (and some vandalism). It had got into a poor state and was in need of replacement.

The Association has therefore financed a new teak bench seat which was assembled and treated with preservative by MRA County Councillor, Ernest Mallett and, in late August, with the help of our Treasurer, installed it on the towpath overlooking the lock. We hope that residents will enjoy the new seat – and that it will not suffer from vandalism, as the previous one did. Enjoy!



SCHOOLS SAFETY

Moves are taking place to improve children's safety around Molesey schools:

St Alban's School – 20 mph speed limit around the school and road crossings have been introduced.

Chandler's Field School – 20 mph speed limit soon to be introduced in roads around the school

Hurst Park School – road crossing with signals to be installed on Hurst Road.

ROADS RESURFACED (with costs): Dennis Road - £144,499; Upper Farm Road - £64,350; Second Close - £40,000; Hurstfield Road (pavements) - £27,102.

Rosemary Avenue and Weston Avenue are being assessed for 20mph.

ACTION ON 'SLUM BOATS'

On 24th September, Officers from the Environment Agency, Elmbridge Borough Council, Surrey Police and Surrey County Council conducted a joint enforcement operation along two stretches of the River Thames in Molesey - around Cigarette Island and Hurst Park.

Two large vessels and an associated smaller vessel that have been moored without permission for a considerable time have been removed and will be scrapped, trespass notices have been served, sunken vessels surveyed for future removal, fly-tipping enforcement notices served, warnings issued to remove possessions and registrations checked in a joint operation to ensure legal and respectful use of the river. Further action is planned to follow up in the coming weeks.

This enforcement operation was led by the Environment Agency and Elmbridge Borough Council with support from Surrey Police.

77-79 Walton Road
East Molesey
Surrey KT8 0DP

Sales ☎ 020 8941 1234
Lettings ☎ 020 8941 6554
enquiries@rawlinsonandwebber.co.uk
lettings@rawlinsonandwebber.co.uk

NEWSLETTER SPONSORED
BY YOUR LOCAL ESTATE AGENT

RAWLINSON & WEBBER

www.rawlinsonandwebber.co.uk

2 Station Road
Thames Ditton
Surrey KT7 0NR

Sales ☎ 020 8059 0929
Lettings ☎ 020 8941 6554
thamesditton@rawlinsonandwebber.co.uk
lettings@rawlinsonandwebber.co.uk

HEATHROW – WHAT IS HAPPENING?

A Molesey resident, active in local community consultation groups for the Heathrow expansion, summarises the main things that may have a noise impact on Molesey::

Airspace reorganisation

UK airspace is being reorganised to 'make it more efficient' including rationalising and concentrating the routes planes fly in and out of Heathrow. Many residents have thought planes were coming over them in a more concentrated pattern already and this is what is happening.

Almost all planes can now fly routes based just on GNSS (like sat nav) data - called PBN or Performance Based Navigation. It means they can fly very accurate routes with little sideways spread. Airlines use slightly different methods to programme their routes so we still get a bit of spread in the flight paths over us. But it is a long way from the 3km wide spread we used to get when ground-based beacons were used for navigation. Once Heathrow has decided the paths of the new sky 'motorways', it will set the PBN co-ordinates for all airlines. So, the only spread we will get will depend on wind direction, runway alternation and any other planned respite strategies

Community representatives on the Noise & Airspace Forum at Heathrow are trying hard to ensure that no one community is disproportionately blighted by PBN in terms of noise or pollution, but it is an uphill struggle. Molesey could find itself under a 'noise sewer'.

Full public consultation may not happen until 2026 by which time we may be choosing between route options that are all unhappy outcomes. Keep up on the Heathrow website and the CAA's portal:

<https://www.heathrow.com/company/local-community/noise/airspace-modernisation>

<https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/>

Ending the Cranford Agreement (Easterly Alternation)

Heathrow has not used the north runway to take off to the east before, but will shortly. Easterly operations always affect Molesey with more planes. Depending on the routes the planes fly from the east end of the north runway we could get more aircraft over us.

To find out more go to: <https://www.heathrow.com/easterlyalternation>

Potential Expansion

Heathrow says it needs to increase capacity and has reconfirmed that a third runway is an important part of their strategy. Rachel Reeves has indicated Labour is supportive of airport expansion as part of their growth agenda - but balanced with their desire for net zero!

Short-term, Heathrow may ask for capacity to be increased by about 25,000 aircraft movements using existing runways. PBN routes and shorter times between landings/take-offs and using runways for both could facilitate this.

There are currently 480,000 aircraft movements a year at Heathrow. A third runway could mean an increase of 260,000 to 740,000. Flying concentrated PBN routes, this could be a disaster for the sleep, health and wellbeing of those living below.

Do keep informed and complain to Heathrow when the planes bother you:

Noise complaints: 0800 344 844 noise@heathrow.com

MAKING THINGS LOOK GOOD

Our councillors Ernest Mallett and Pat Gormley have had a difficult gardening summer, first with inclement weather and then with a lot of dry spells. However, a lot of planting survived with late night watering until the last dry spell. Planting was at the Bridge Road Horse Trough, the East Molesey War Memorial, the Police Station Green, the West Molesey War Memorial and on Fleetside.

Highlight at West Molesey Memorial was when some kind person left a bunch of flowers, Ernest quickly installed a watered bowl - and there you have it in the picture. Not so kind, was when some unfriendly person pulled out a newly planted rhododendron and threw it over the electricity sub-station fence!

Pat Gormley was responsible for the pavement and road clearance of a lot of tree debris at the junction of First Avenue and Molesey Avenue.

Special mention and appreciation must be given to Dr. Nick Tate and his team who independently planted up the 5 large planters on the Walton Road Tesco Parade. Did you see the splendidly coloured Geranium planting of the word 'MOLESEY' taking up one of the planters?



THE HERITAGE MARKER AT HURST PARK

Several residents have commented on how pleased they are that the Heritage Marker on Hurst Park has been refurbished, and the missing plaques replaced.

The MRA took this forward with the Hurst Park Residents Association, and in July 2022, the Molesey Community Infrastructure Spending Board at Elmbridge Council approved funding for this work.

Whilst it has taken a little time to get the job done it has enhanced this important local landmark.

Following pressure from former MRA Councillor

Mike Axton, Elmbridge Council has also confirmed that it has accepted responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the Marker.



SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Surrey CC has decided it is spending too much on school transport. In the financial year 2023/24 the cost came to £64m, and this amount is likely to grow.

Currently children under 8 qualify for free transport if they live more than 2 miles from their allocated school. For children over 8, the qualifying distance is 3 miles from their allocated school. SCC allows non-qualifying pupils to pay to use school buses if there are spare seats. This concession is under review and could affect Molesey pupils at all schools from September 2025.



At the new secondary school, Heathside, at Waterside Drive, Walton, all pupils will be over 8. The official distance for Molesey pupils is 1.59 miles. At the moment, only a small number of classes exist but the school's capacity is 900 pupils, increasing to this level gradually. There are no plans for SCC, or the school itself, to provide school buses for the eventual large intake from Molesey since, under the rules stated above, Molesey pupils will not qualify for free transport. The stretch of Walton Road between the QE2 and Bessborough/Knight reservoirs has been

updated with a 40mph limit and new junctions and pavement. This road is now considered by SCC as a safe walking/cycling link from Molesey for Heathside pupils.

Currently, Falcon 461 public service buses run on a modified route at appropriate times between Molesey and Heathside school and can cope with a modest number of pupils. It is not known whether Falcon will run more buses at the appropriate school times when the intake numbers from Molesey become significant. The MRA is concerned with these recent developments. We will be urgently seeking meetings with SCC to discuss what alternative arrangements can be put in place to assist Molesey children get to school.

ELMBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN

This very important document sets the broad parameters for deciding planning applications received by the Council over the years ahead up to about 2040. The new Plan was unanimously approved by Elmbridge Council (EBC) in March and, following a public consultation period, was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for approval. The plan proposed that no building should take place on Green Belt land and suggested that Elmbridge should expect to build 452 houses a year, as opposed to the Government guidelines for Elmbridge of 650 per year.

This plan was deemed 'unsound' (i.e. unacceptable) by the Government Inspector, who suggested that Elmbridge should reconsider their plan, based on the 650 figure, including using some Green Belt land for extra building.

Elmbridge has written to the Planning Inspector, providing a timetable for the additional work needed to produce a "sound" Local Plan. The Inspectorate initially asked for a six-month timetable, but EBC argues that a 12 month timetable (and ideally 15 month for consultation with residents), is more realistic.

Elmbridge awaits the decision of the Inspectorate. For more information, visit:

<https://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/news/2024/elmbridge-draft-local-plan-examination-public-update>

Should Elmbridge not submit a 'sound' plan, a government Inspector could be appointed to instruct Elmbridge where the extra houses are to be built. So, doing nothing is not an option!

HAMPTON COURT STATION

It has now been almost ten years since Alexpo acquired the Jolly Boatman site, and over six years since their current scheme was first presented to the public. Planning permission granted on appeal in July 2022 expires in 2025, so the clock is definitely ticking.



Residents who attended the public consultation in July 2018 were shown a scheme that Alexpo claimed was only nominally higher than the Gladedale scheme but remained under the all-important 50-foot height threshold, beyond which consent is required from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) under the South Western Railway Act of 1913.

Alexpo's initial response to the 1913 Act was to have Network Rail write to DCMS on their behalf, essentially saying: 'The scheme is under 50 feet, and to avoid any complications, could you kindly endorse our plan so that we don't have to deal with objections'.

However, DCMS wasn't cooperative, and Network Rail later admitted that the scheme was, in fact, over 50 feet high, and requested DCMS approval. The height of any development on this site will always be a critical factor in assessing its impact on the conservation area and Hampton Court Palace.

That Network Rail and Alexpo misled residents, Elmbridge Council, and the Planning Inspector on such a fundamental issue is unconscionable.

Molesey Residents Association, Elmbridge Council, Historic Royal Palaces and the Hampton Court Rescue Campaign all made strong representations to DCMS/the Minister to refuse approval.

However, it has just been announced that the Minister, the Rt. Hon. Secretary of State, Lisa Nandy and her Department, have approved the development.

We are very disappointed that the 1913 Railway Act, which protected building in the vicinity of the Palace for over 100 years, has now been overturned on the altar of the lack of housing supply in Elmbridge. People were not against development but merely the height to which buildings are allowed to be constructed.

MRA Cty. Cllr. ERNEST MALLET HELPERS GET £50,000 GRANT

County Cllrs. have £100,000 of Surrey CC Community grant funds which they can personally sponsor for local Community & Infrastructure projects. They can also encourage community organisations to apply for much larger grants, but these are allocated by a committee at County. Ernest says, 'This £50,000 grant is for extensive remodelling of **THE HUB** in Ray Road, West Molesey, to aid the fantastic work which the vicar of St. Peter's Church, West Molesey, has organised. The Rev, Alex Monro and his skilled team are the people who have done all the work to qualify and get this grant for West Molesey'.



Congratulations to them!

Alex is backed by brilliant staff and volunteers who, under his direction, run Youth and Children's clubs with a wide selection of activities. County provides the basic building, but it is Alex who finds the valued funders who support the activities financially, plus heading up all the organisation needed. In addition to the young person's activities, THE HUB facilitates the local Foodbank and secure accommodation for rough sleepers'. Contact Alex at 518, Walton Road or alex.munro@spwm.org.uk

Your Membership is Greatly Appreciated

If you would like to pay direct, please return the tear off slip with £4.00 or £15.00 to one of the following addresses:-
20 Walton Road KT8 0DF, 10 Molesey Park Road KT8 2LE or 7 Mole Abbey Gardens KT8 1QD (off New Road)

We will make sure you get a Membership Card **Thank You**



MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP - AUTUMN 2024

I enclose £15 for 5 years or £4 for 1 year Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms.:

Address Email (For our use only)

I may be prepared to help with: Collecting Subscriptions Delivering Newsletters Election Time Work