

# Hersham Residents Association

HRA active positive and non-political since 1971

Residents Newsletter

Spring 2017



HRA website



HRA Facebook

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*Hersham Residents Association (the HRA) is a non-political organisation whose aims are to promote the community of Hersham and the interests of its residents*



## Changing Hersham and the Elmbridge Local Plan

Change is inevitable and usually a good thing if it can be planned carefully in consultation with local people and the pros and cons are properly balanced. Renewal of Rydens School is of course welcomed but the associated house building on the old school site will bring more traffic and congestion. The new Lidl development, likely to be open early in 2018, has been welcomed by most, but is also likely to create some traffic and parking issues.

Against the background of these developments which are already underway, the HRA was cautious about the new Elmbridge Local Plan proposals which set out a framework for all future planning decisions. The reason for this caution was that the proposals incorporate a government target of building nearly 10,000 new homes across Elmbridge by 2035.

Our response, was sympathetic to the need for new housing, but suggested that the target of building nearly 10,000 houses is excessive and needs rethinking. This is because we feel it would be impossible to achieve this target without damaging the local environment and quality of life in Hersham and across Elmbridge.

Focussing specifically on Hersham, we had concerns that the land either side of Queens Road near Sir Richard's Bridge might be considered for development. We highlighted this as the 'lungs' for this part of the borough, and also a barrier between built up areas, and for these reasons we said it should not be built on. We suggested however that the amenity of this land could be improved further by providing cycle lane and walkway options parallel to this stretch of road to promote cycling / walking and road safety for cars and cyclists.

I would like to thank those who emailed views and committee members who helped shape our response to this challenging consultation. You can see [our response in full](#) on the HRA website. The Elmbridge acknowledgement of our submission on 24 February said that responses would be taken into account when preparing a more detailed local plan to be published in the summer.

David Lock (HRA Chair)

## Now spring has arrived why not discover Hersham with our walking tour history leaflets?

The [DIY walking tours](#) were designed to be printed out double sided and then folded into three as a handy leaflet, but you can just download them onto your phone. The idea is to follow the instructions and take your own tour around the village and learn a few things en route. There are currently 2 leaflets:

- A Tour Around the Green
- An Industrial History Tour



The HRA consulted our membership to check the historical facts presented. However if you have any further insight or historical knowledge which you think would usefully add to or improve our information – then please <mailto:info@hershamresidents.info>

## HRA AGM 18<sup>th</sup> of May at the WI Hall Burhill Road 7.30

Please come and hear about CIL\* and other key issues in Hersham - members and non-members welcome - You can check and renew your membership – or become a member for the first time if you wish; or just come along to enjoy a glass of fine wine and hear about what is going on in your local area.

\*(Community Infrastructure Levy, an important new fund which Hersham can benefit from – more details in this newsletter)

Can you measure up? - The Hersham Sunflower competition is now on - back again for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year by popular demand sponsored and supported by:

**SQUIRES**  
GARDEN CENTRES

## The HRA Sunflower Competition!

### *Plant a seed and have a go!*

Entries will be judged in late August / early September  
... in the following categories:

#### **Height for an individually planted sunflower**

1. Tallest - measured to the highest part of the plant
2. Nearest to a particular measurement between 2 feet and 6 feet randomly selected on the day before judging

#### **Displays visible from the Street**

3. Best street facing front garden display featuring several sunflowers
4. The street with the most number of sunflowers in different front gardens visible from the street.

#### **Cash and other prizes**

There will be a £25 cash prize for the tallest sunflower; and a £25 Squires voucher for the winners of prize categories 2 and 3. For category 4, participating households in the winning street receive a certificate and a free packet of seeds.

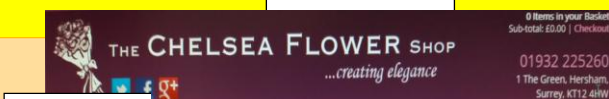
### **Rules and further information**

The competition is open to anyone who plants a sunflower in Hersham. The type of seed is not specified. Sunflowers seeds may be your own or may be collected free from the Chelsea Flower Shop in Hersham.

If your seeds grow and you decide you would like your sunflowers to be judged as part of the competition just email [info@hershamresidents.info](mailto:info@hershamresidents.info) before the end of August...../

The competition is designed to help brighten up Hersham, and that's why some of the prize categories focus on flowers which you can see from the street. Last year West Grove won the prize for the street with the most number of visible sunflowers and growers there all received prize vouchers from Squires – for more seeds!

To encourage those who don't think of themselves as green-fingered, there is also a £25 Squires voucher prize that growers of short sunflowers can win; the prize for the nearest to a randomly selected height decided on the day before judging. Last year this prize went to a plant along Molesey Road which was just 1.2m tall.



The winner of the tallest category last year went to a fantastic specimen grown in Pembroke Avenue who clinched the HRA £25 cash prize



Last year's winner from Queensway North in the best street facing front garden display category



# Improving Hersham?? – having your say!

## CIL What is it and why should be interested?

CIL stands for Community Infrastructure levy - it is a fee that developers must pay the council to help fund infrastructure improvements in the area of the development. The fund can be used for a wide range of community improvements. *With the Rydens and other developments in progress, Hersham is accumulating a considerable CIL fund running into many thousands of pounds.* The HRA and other local organisations can apply for these funds and by representing the community, influence how the money is spent; that's why we would like your views. Between now and the end of the year the HRA will be encouraging debate about ideas and priorities.

## Elections in Hersham

The HRA is not a political organisation and welcomes membership from people of all political persuasions and those who have no strong feelings about local politics. However, we do support local action and community representation, and are of course very much in favour of local democracy. That's why we would encourage all to vote on 4<sup>th</sup> of May in the elections to select a Hersham representative for Surrey County Council.

Surrey County Council provides many of services which are currently in the news because they are essential but very costly including - roads maintenance, education and care for the elderly etc. With the serious lack of funding in these areas a continuing issue, this is an important time to have a strong voice representing Hersham at the County Council.



## Ideas for Hersham??

Have you got any thoughts about what Hersham needs and what could improve the village? The HRA committee recently brain-stormed some ideas and posted some of them on our website. Since then various other ideas have been added - and a few of the less ambitious suggestions have become a reality. Take a look at the [current ideas on the blog](#) – and let us know what you think.

**Signs and plaques in Hersham.** Some years ago the HRA made the arrangements for the Hersham Robin sign to be set up on the Green - and it now provides a real landmark in the village. The HRA are looking again at what further signs and plaques might be a good for Hersham to help highlight points of interest in the village - what do you think - any ideas? Contact us at: [info@hershamresidents.info](mailto:info@hershamresidents.info)

**We would like to hear from you if you have any ideas about what needs improving in Hersham or would like more information about the HRA** – please see details on our website and get in touch. Otherwise fill in the slip below and post it to Briktor 19a West Grove Hersham KT12 5PF **please also leave your contact details.**

.....cut here and return to the HRA at the address above.....

**Name: -**

**Contact point / Email address:-**

**Any ideas for improving Hersham / or to request information about the HRA**

## Planning in Hersham and the HRA

We review planning matters at our monthly committee meetings, and you can help us do this by keeping an eye on planning matters in your street. If you have any concerns or want to alert the HRA to particular planning issues we would like to hear from you.

The HRA think that it is important to maintain the character of Hersham and support new developments which improve the village. For more about planning and the HRA's role – please see the [HRA planning guidelines](#) which you can find on the HRA website.

Some of our more significant recent responses

### HRA Drake Park Comments

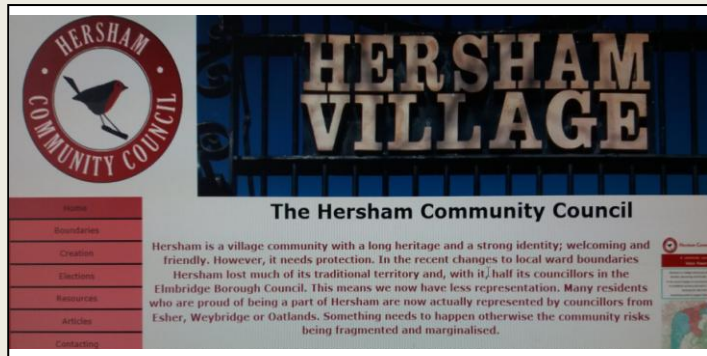
The Drake Park application to build over 1000 housing units on the border of Hersham generated much discussion at the HRA committee. Our response to this consultation at the end of last year objected to the use of green belt and the likely huge increase in traffic which would put a strain on local roads in the surrounding area including in Hersham. The councillors voted to reject the application.

### Turners Lane and lodge gates at Burhill

The HRA didn't have any objections to the application to change the lodge gates at the entrance to Burhill Golf Club - but used the opportunity to express concern at the continuing incremental changes to Turners Lane linked to the intensification of its use as a one way exit route from the club. Many are concerned about the seemingly inevitable change to the character of this previously quite rural part of Hersham. Our response also flagged the HRA's desire to see footpaths and rights of way maintained, improved and re-established where a route has been closed or where access has been denied or discouraged.

**Tree watch:** At a recent committee meeting it was suggested that the HRA might do more to work with the Borough Council to identify trees in Hersham which need protection. If you know of particular trees which you think we should have a look at – please send details to: [info@hershamresidents.info](mailto:info@hershamresidents.info)

## Hersham Community Council



The front page of the new website - take a look at: [www.hersham-community-council.org.uk](http://www.hersham-community-council.org.uk)



### The Hersham Community Council initiative

...is driven by a group of passionate Hersham residents who don't want to see our community diminished. They have just launched a new website which gives an overview of proposals for the creation of a Hersham Community Council, (otherwise known as a parish council) including how it should work and what it could mean for residents.

### Why should Hersham have a Community Council?

Every town, village or community needs its own local voice to help maintain and develop its sense of identity and an associated caring and inclusive community spirit. This is particularly true of Hersham following the ward boundary review carried out in 2016 which cut the number of Hersham councillors representing the area most people still think of as Hersham.

In contrast to the HRA, a community council would be a legally recognised body, with an official status and remit which can substantially help to represent and argue for Hersham in matters of concern affecting our village. At a time of real uncertainty about the quality and continuation of services, funding generally, and the green belt, the group are quite sure that establishing a Community Council is the best way to secure a solid future for Hersham.

Much of the work of the community council would be on a voluntary basis, and all the money allocated to it from the council tax in Hersham would be spent in Hersham. The council could also apply for funding and grants for projects and local initiatives, provide support for local organisations, and plan, encourage and arrange community events.

**Creating a Community Council will help the community of Hersham retain its identity and give it a public voice.** The HCC group are also looking for volunteers and like-minded individuals to join them in developing a community council: a legally recognised level of governance closest to the community that it serves. At present, a community council for Hersham is just a proposal, but with your support it can be made a reality. If you think you can help or just want to find out more leave your details on their website - or cut off the slip below and post it to Briktor 19a West Grove Hersham KT12 5PF.

..... cut here and return to the address above .....

I would like to help or find out more about the HCC initiative.

Name:

Contact details: