

Hersham Residents Association

HRA active positive and non-political since 1971

To HRA members

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21 May 2015

Chair's Report to the 2015 AGM

It has been a busy year with some key developments in Hersham, with more change pending as you will see from this report. Towards the end of the year proposed boundary changes in Elmbridge and Hersham became a key issue for debate at the committee.

Round-up of key developments and HRA involvement during the year

- **Queens Road cycle lane.** The HRA has applied for £192,700 (based on a quote from a Surrey County Council contractor) to be spent on providing a cycle lane on the south (uphill) side of the Queens Road from the start of the wooded area up as far as the Eriswell Road / Sir Richards Bridge roundabout. This ambitious application for Community Infrastructure levy funds is still pending discussion with EBC and the CC.
- **Tree replacement.** The HRA has also applied for £5,000 to be spent on replacement of trees where they are missing up the Molesey Road. This application for Community Infrastructure levy funds is still pending an EBC meeting in June.
- **Rydens School.** The HRA responded to a detailed application which is still to be determined. We re-emphasised previous comments about vehicle access, development opportunities for cycle and pedestrian access routes, and the relatively high density of the proposed housing.
- **Lidl development.** The HRA's response recognised that many local people will welcome more local shopping choice, but we commented on some issues of detail about the proposed design, access and delivery arrangements.
- **Updates from last year:**
 - **Speeding in Hersham** - The committee previously supported a campaign for lower speeds in the centre of Hersham. The proposed zebra crossing and two slow down signs are now in place. The HRA's suggestions about lowering speeds in the Queens Road area remain outstanding.
 - **Mark House** has been demolished and flats are currently being **re**-built on the site facing Hersham Green to a lower height than the original planning request. This follows last year's petition and successful campaign by the HRA.
- **Outside Hersham:**
 - EBC recommended refusal to SCC of the fresh Weylands recycling unit application on grounds of odour. SCC is still considering the matter.
 - The HRA is keeping an eye on the proposed Drake Park development. The main concern for the HRA is the increase in traffic, which would be likely to affect road use over a wide area.

Summary of main HRA activity / news since the last AGM

The committee and planning

We have held 10 meetings at which we discussed current Hersham issues, reviewed planning applications and raised issues of concern about particular developments with EBC.

We were all very sad about the death of one of our committee, Laurence Jackman. I should also report that Mike Wyman will be stepping down from the committee this year. The committee would like to formally recognise and thank Mike for his many years of service to the HRA.

Edward Meryon has recently joined the committee but there is space for more new members which would increase our capacity.

Social / community events

- **Walton v Hersham Quiz** was held on 17th May at the Ashley Park. The event went very well and raised the profile of the HRA amongst at least 50 people who took part. The winners trophy (provided by the HRA) was won by a team from Hersham.
- **The Hersham Christmas event** in December 2014 was a great success again this year. After various Christmas activities arranged in the Shopping Centre, a substantial number gathered round the tree on the Green for carols, and the mayor turned on the Christmas tree lights. Many then moved to the

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Waterman's Arms for minced pies and mulled wine. It has been suggested that the HRA's involvement to help draw together the work and support of local councillors, businesses and a range of others to make this event possible is a positive role for the HRA. With that in mind the event has been booked again in the mayor's diary for the 12th December. The HRA would like to work with others to try and ensure we have a larger tree for this year's event.

- **The Big Lunch.** The HRA supported the first ever Big Lunch event last year with support from the HRA. The Big Lunch this year will be on the 7st of June 12.15 on Vauxmead.

Other community activity

- The HRA launched its Sunflower Competition to be judged in September.
- Launched a new walking leaflet for a route up the Molesey Road past 'Hackbridges' etc taking in Hersham's industrial heritage. Both this and the original walking tour around Hersham Green are now posted on the HRA website blog. You can print out the tour instructions as a double sided 3 fold leaflet or download and read it direct from your phone or tablet as you do the walk!
- An HRA wreath was laid at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1st World War.

Communication and Membership

- **Our blog** which the HRA's up-to-date news and information is posted has been updated and improved. Have a look at it you haven't visited this recently.
- **Newsletters.** We have produced 2 newsletters this year; if there are any members who can assist with desktop publishing to increase our capacity to create newsletters, we'd be pleased to hear from you.
- **Member email messages.** Occasional Hersham update messages were sent to members.
- **The monthly articles HRA** in the Surrey Herald have ceased now that this paper has sadly gone out of business. However the HRA still maintains connections with the Surrey Advertiser for publication of items in that paper on an ad hoc basis.
- **The Hersham Hub.** The launch of this online local magazine and information portal has been a significant development. The HRA has linked in with the Hub's organisers and has now created an HRA section of the Hub and is keen to use this to try and reach a wider audience of Hub users.
- **Twitter** the HRA twitter feed has been active since the last AGM and over the year the HRA has increased its followers from 320 to 550 (why not join them?)
- **Membership.** We have generally maintained HRA membership levels during the year which now stands at 80, but would like to increase this number.

HRA donations

- The HRA made £50 donations to Hersham in Bloom and also the friends of Hersham Library.
- The money raised from this year's Christmas Waitrose hamper raffle run at the Christmas event was donated to 'Homestart' a local family support charity.

HRA Consultation responses on proposed ward boundary changes – to be discussed at the AGM

- Response to the Boundary Commission from Hersham Residents Association 27 03 15
- HRA letter submitted to inform discussion at 16 March EBC meeting

Some suggested challenges and aspirations for the HRA next year – to be discussed by the committee – however, before then any views from the AGM would be welcomed

- Arrange 2 or more social events and support the Big Lunch on 7th June.
- Organise another Christmas event on 12th December.
- Increase the number of HRA members and committee members.
- Increase the number of our twitter followers to over 650.
- Create and maintain a list of contacts who we can actively notify about any key pending Hersham community events and the HRA AGM.
- Continue to make the case for better cycling provision in Hersham – and link in with the County Council local committee on this.
- Produce an HRA 'welcome leaflet' for new Hersham residents.
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