

# The Molesey News

Issue 24

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## Molesey parking 'free-for-all'

**M**OLESEY'S two Residents Association county councillors have given a green light to commuters to flock to East Molesey and use its leafy residential streets as a free alternative to the Hampton Court Station car park.

Councillors Ernest Mallett and Stuart Selleck refused to support a Molesey Conservative petition for limited parking controls in Wolsey Road, Palace Road, Arnison Road (and surrounding streets), which was overwhelmingly backed by the local residents and retailers.

Together with householders and Bridge Road traders we proposed an hour of 'residents only' parking on weekday mornings. If implemented this could have stopped the streets from being parked-up all day and freed up space for visitors to the local shops. It would have encouraged commuters to use the two-thirds empty station car park, rather than park a distance away from the station.

However, at a meeting of the Elmbridge Local Committee in October, residents were furious to learn that our carefully considered proposals had been rejected out of hand by Surrey Parking Review without any consultation.

We believe this is due to politically-motivated opposition from the Molesey Residents Association councillors. Mr Mallett dismissed the idea as a "petty proposition"



### The Parking Review proposed the following changes:

- Creek Road parking restrictions to be extended to Saturdays;
- Double yellow lines introduced outside 50-80 Hurst Road;
- Double yellows on corners of Hansler Grove and Arnison Road, Arnison and Manor Road, Vine Road junctions with Pemberton

### Road and Hurst Lane.

- Removal of double yellows and cycle lane from 14-26 Hurst Road
- Yellow lines in St John's Road
- Double yellow lines introduced to Kelvinbrook at junctions with Linkfield and Mountwood
- Also at juncture of New Road and Balmoral Crescent and where Cannon Way meets Dunvegan Way

and arrogantly asserted the petitions must not have been done properly or residents would not be in support. In fact 356 (82%) of households and 52 (88%) retailers and traders understood what was being requested and were firmly in favour.

Mr Selleck, rather than standing up for the residents, complained: "This is going over old ground and I don't support it."

While denying parking controls to

neighbouring streets, he was happy to accept yellow lines in his own street, St John's Road (keeping out commuters for not just an hour but from 8.30am until 6.30pm). No wonder he told the meeting: "If we employ professionals (the review team) we need to listen to them."

Peter Szanto, who led on the petitions for the Molesey Conservatives, said: "The Surrey Parking Review's objectives were to improve

road safety, increase access for emergency and refuse vehicles, improve access to shops, reduce traffic congestion and better regulate parking. We believe our proposals were aligned with these objectives.

"Instead the MRA councillors have made a clear statement to all that Molesey is the place to come to for free rail commuter parking. We question whether the MRA's 'free for all' approach is the right one for our residents or our traders."

Angry residents have been writing to Surrey Highways to demand they look again at the proposals. One wrote: "The proposal was supported by 82% of the residents and 88% of the retailers. How is it possible that only two people have sufficient influencing power in the council so that the petition is dismissed? "We want to support our local community not offer free parking to commuters who have no contact with Molesey."

The MRA councillors have treated local residents disgracefully, forgetting perhaps that they are each paid £12,418 per year to represent them.

*The arrogance demonstrated by the current MRA councillors should not be allowed to continue. The County Council elections next May will be the perfect time for Molesey voters to elect councillors who listen to and act on their residents' and businesses' needs.*



**HELLO and welcome to the Autumn Molesey News - your community newsletter written, delivered and funded by the Molesey Conservatives. I am Steve Bax, the editor (pictured above, left, with Peter Szanto).**

We have a packed edition for you with lots happening locally, in particular the unsatisfactory outcome of Surrey County Council's parking review for Molesey and the current state of play with Molesey Hospital.

Healthcare has been at the forefront of our concerns, with Peter and I engaging the views of Glenlyn patients.

The most recent GP Patient Survey (which compares UK practices) found that only 58% of respondents would describe their experience at Glenlyn as good, compared to the local and national average of 85%. And only 17% say they usually see their preferred GP (the national average is 59%).

We met with MP Dominic Raab to discuss a range of issues regarding Glenlyn, from the lack of appointments to staff turnover, the policy on requiring Molesey patients to travel to Gigg's Hill and why the surgery is advertising for new patients while struggling to cope with the existing ones.

Dominic has agreed to raise these with the practice owners and we will keep you posted in an upcoming edition.

### Elections

As 2016 draws to a close, all our thoughts are turning to Christmas and the New Year. Surely 2017 cannot be half as eventful or unpredictable as this year, can it? One fixture on the calendar will be elections to Surrey County Council.

This is your opportunity once in every four years to give your verdict on the state of our roads, schools, libraries, youth services, and more.

Peter and I have been selected as candidates for the East Molesey & Esher and West Molesey seats and we are looking forward to listening to residents about what changes you feel are needed and taking positive action after many years of MRA rule. We'll have lots more to say in upcoming editions.

We're looking for helpers to assist with delivering the Molesey News and literature. If you can spare a little time to do your road or more, please email moleseySteve@gmail.com or moleseypete@gmail.com

## Molesey gathers for remembrance



**THIS year's Remembrance Sunday service at the West Molesey memorial was extremely well supported once again.**

The sun brought out a crowd of hundreds and Rev Richard Lloyd of St Mary's East Molesey led the

service, while Bill Maskell of the Molesey British Legion provided a few laughs, ensuring the service was moving, serious and fun in equal measure. Thanks are due to our scouts, clergy and police, for providing a memorable occasion.

Sadly, the names of the local men who fell in World War II have still to be listed on a Molesey war memorial, 71 years on - a travesty.

A committee was formed 12 years ago, led by Cty Cllr Ernest Mallett, to rectify the situation. It has yet to deliver, despite promises made in the papers earlier this year. Come on Mr Mallett what's the hold up?

## Court battle to evict 'Slum boat'



**THE 'Molesey slum boat' finally left Hurst Park in the summer, only to find a new and equally unacceptable berth outside residents' riverside homes.**

After a lengthy court process involving the Environment Agency and the owner of the floating lodging house, Mr Alistair Trotman, it was towed downstream to Molesey Lock on 22 August.

Tony Wilson, a resident of Hampton Court Crescent (pictured above with Peter Szanto), said he and his neighbours were jubilant at first, until they realised to their horror that the boat was being moored outside their homes.

Earlier this year it had featured on BBC London where a reporter went aboard with an insurance

expert who declared the vessel a fire trap.

Former Molesey Conservative councillors Peter Szanto and Steve Bax met with Tony and his wife and involved Dominic Raab MP to try to influence the Environment Agency (EA) to expedite matters.

Finally, on 8 November a judge at Kingston County Court granted the EA Possession Orders for Molesey Lock and Teddington Lock (where the defendant has other vessels). He is required to move his vessels by Court Order.

Peter said: "It is heartening to see the full arm of the law being effectively exercised against the outrageous, anti-social behaviour of this boat owner, who has caused much distress to many residents."



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## COUNCIL ROUND-UP

ELMBRIDGE Council is run by seven Residents Association political groups in coalition with the Liberal Democrats. The Conservatives are in Opposition. Here's what's been happening recently.

**ONE of the largest applications for houses in Elmbridge's recent history will be debated by councillors on 21 November.**

**The North and East area planning committees will meet together to approve or reject Bonnar Allan's 'Drake Park', a scheme of 1,024 homes just up the road from West Molesey (on green belt land next to Field-common).**

**It has prompted 1,000 letters to the Council, raising concerns including the impact of traffic.**

COUNCIL leader Stuart Selleck's decision to sit on a committee which scrutinises his own administration's financial performance was called into question by a Conservative opposition councillor.

Cllr Simon Foale compared the East Molesey councillor to a Harry Potter villain, saying: "I have to ask why the Leader feels that he has to sit menacingly on the Audit and Standards Committee like a real life Lord Voldemort."

Cllr Selleck initially pledged to remain on the committee and not vote, but later stepped down.

**DESPITE decrying 'national political parties' at every local election our Molesey RA councillors had no qualms about joining with the Lib Dems when a chance for power presented itself after the May elections.**

**However, now they are in office they appears to be rowing back on election commitments, in particular the pledge to make car parks free on Saturdays.**

**Lib Dem Cllr Andrew Davies, who speaks for the Coalition on transport matters, was asked by the Conservatives to say when the free parking would start and if council tax would go up to replace lost income. He declined to confirm it will happen, saying only that he would review parking charges across the borough and decide what is appropriate.**

SPEAKING of Cllr Davies, he recently raised eyebrows with some odd remarks about fly tippers.

He told a local newspaper that the blame lies with councils who are not doing enough to make those who illegally dispose of waste 'feel like they belong in the community'.

Elmbridge Tory leader Tim Oliver called the comments "patronising", adding: "I don't see why people who don't feel part of their community should display that by not bothering to go to a tip."

**MOLESEY Jaguar Scouts' application to build a Waterside Activity Centre at Hurst Meadow has attracted 568 letters of support versus 328 against, with no date set as yet for when a vote will take place.**

**The group hopes to secure permission for a single-storey timber structure providing easy access to the river and a base for Surrey Search & Rescue. It will be named in memory of PC Andrew Duncan, a Met police officer from Molesey who was killed on duty in 2013.**

# CCG hints at 'new Molesey Hospital'

Steve Bax reports

**ON 29 July Peter Szanto and I joined members of the Molesey community at Leatherhead Leisure Centre to hear the very welcome news that Molesey Hospital had been saved from closure.**

That announcement, made at a governors' meeting of Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), which runs the local NHS, was greeted with cheers and applause by campaigners. Although there had been a cross-party effort to keep hospital services local, in a bigger sense this was a victory for 'people power'. All those who wrote letters and emails and who spoke up at the consultation events – you made the difference.

What was all this about? The CCG carried out a review of the five hospitals in its remit and drew up four options which were put out to public consultation over 14 weeks earlier this year.

These included two controversial proposals to close the 120-year-old hospital in Molesey and transfer its



■ The crowd at Leatherhead Leisure Centre, where the CCG governors met in July

12 inpatient beds to Cobham. While a newer facility, Cobham Hospital is remote and around an hour away by public transport. It would have been a disaster for our elderly or unwell residents to expect them to travel when there is a perfectly good and much-loved facility here in Molesey (where a larger population exists than in Cobham) just needing investment.

Peter and I were delighted that the CCG made the right decision and has promised to reverse the shame-

ful neglect of Molesey Hospital, but as I told BBC Surrey radio the following day, many questions remain.

The CCG has hinted that it may knock down Molesey Hospital and replace it – if so with what? Might some of the land be sold to pay for a rebuild and will any new facility be on the current site or elsewhere?

I recently put these questions to James Blythe, the CCG director of commissioning and strategy.

He confirmed that NHS Property Services has been asked to con-

duct a detailed estates review and present the options for Molesey around May next year. Until then it will be "business as usual", he said.

Asked for an assurance that any new hospital will be in Molesey, Mr Blythe would only say: "Once we have the findings from the feasibility study we will be able to consider the options available to us – but we are not at that stage yet."

Given the pressure on our existing GP surgeries, Glenlyn and the Vine, the Molesey Conservatives would like to see a new practice – preferably based in West Molesey. Could this be a possibility as part of any Molesey Hospital redevelopment?

Mr Blythe confirmed: "Following feedback, we have incorporated this into the feasibility study – to look at what might be possible."

With funding likely to be the biggest obstacle it is clear that the community will need to remain vigilant and keep up the pressure to ensure our area gets the hospital facilities we've been promised and deserve. We will continue to keep a watchful eye on developments and report back in upcoming editions of *The Molesey News*.

## Bishop Fox land auctioned off

**MYSTERY surrounds why an auction bidder has bought up land on West Molesey's Bishop Fox Estate, even though it cannot be developed due to the presence of underground water pipes.**

The green spaces were previously maintained by a charitable trust from the 1980s until 2010 when the money ran out and hedges went untrimmed.

Residents hoped to buy the land when it was put up for auction in July with a guide price of £1,000 to £5,000.

But a bidding war broke out between another party in the room and a buyer on the end of a phone

line, who clinched it with £56,000.

Molesey Conservatives' Richard Doxford, who was involved with the residents' bid, said: "We were all shocked. We heard that the room bidder hadn't read the sales pack and was fully thinking they could use the land how they pleased."

Residents are wondering whether the winning bidder may also be unaware of the building limitations. They are considering making an application to Elmbridge Council to change the designation of the land from Open Space to Common Land or Village Green Status to enable a greater degree of protection.



## Council to debate Heathrow

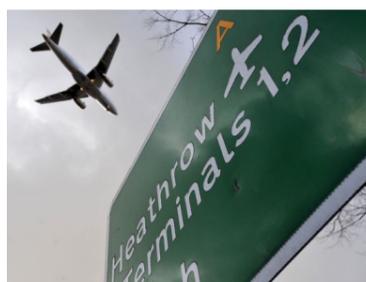
**ELMBRIDGE councillors are to debate on 6 December whether the Borough should support or oppose a third Heathrow runway.**

In October the government said it was minded to approve a new runway to the north west of the current Heathrow and would make a final decision late next year.

Elmbridge, which has no declared position on Heathrow, established a Task and Finish Group in early 2016, under the chairmanship of Steve Bax (who was an East Molesey councillor at the time) to consider the local impact of Heathrow Airport expansion. The group has gathered evidence from Heathrow and Gatwick representatives as well as the Local Authorities Aircraft Noise Council (LAANC) and anti-noise and expansion campaigners.

Steve persuaded Heathrow to pay for an independent telephone survey by the polling company, Populous, of 1,000 Elmbridge residents, with a representative sample of all adults across the borough. This found 46% support for expansion with 34% against and 20% neutral or unsure.

In Molesey, where aircraft noise is



an ongoing problem there was 45% support, 35% opposed and 20% neutral or don't know.

Elmbridge Council carried out a poll on its website in September. Of the 836 respondents, 57% opposed expansion versus 43% support.

Steve said: "There is no doubt that East Molesey is enduring more than its fair share of aircraft noise. Regardless of expansion, we need a reduction in the CURRENT aircraft noise; a commitment to cut or end night flights; respite periods of no overflying of Molesey and a commitment to dispersal of noise rather than concentration."

The meeting on Wednesday 6 December starts at 7.45pm and will be open to the public.

**Read MP Dominic Raab's new column about Brexit and Heathrow at [www.moleseyconservatives.com](http://www.moleseyconservatives.com)**



## COMMUNITY NEWS

■ **SELFISH** fly-tippers dumped white goods, a mattress, drawers and black bags in Church Road on 12 October, leaving taxpayers to pick up the bill for cleaning up.

Elmbridge Council investigated the waste for clues as to the culprit and before making arrangements for a contractor to clear it.

■ **WINCHILSEA** Crescent in Hurst Park is being used as a location for a new Channel 4 drama series called 'Loaded', about four twenty somethings who sell their gaming company for a fortune.

A film crew made use of number 32 from 7-10 November and is making a donation to the Friends of Hurst Park as a gesture of goodwill for using the area.

■ **AN EAST** Molesey author will give a talk about his childhood in Nazi-occupied Greece.

Van Louizos, who wrote *My Father had this Luger...* A true story of Hitler's Greece, will be speaking at Molesey Library on Tuesday 22 November, 7.30pm.

Tickets are £5 available from the Library or on the door.

■ **THE 3rd** Molesey Scout Group's hut in St Peter's Way is transforming into Santa's Grotto and Magical Wonderland on the weekend of 10-11 December, 10am-4pm. Entry is £5 per child and free for adults. Contact Elaine on 07880 221753 or [elaine122@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elaine122@hotmail.co.uk) to book.

■ **MAGICAL** Molesey takes place on 7 December in Walton Road. The tree will be lit at 5pm and there will be carols, stalls and entertainments with shops open late.

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## KWW: local service you can trust

**K**WW Solicitors is now the only law firm serving East and West Molesey following the recent departure of Robertson and Rivers.

There is no doubt these are challenging times for high street law firms. But at KWW Solicitors, now in our 63rd year, we are looking to the future with confidence.

In the last three years, we have: acquired Bosworths Solicitors; recruited a number of talented young lawyers; forged new relationships with local organisations; invested in technology that allows us to deliver higher levels of service.

David Anstee, a partner at KWW. "There's a reason we have prospered since those early days of Harold Lake in Palace Road back in the 1950s: We have always adapted to give our clients the service they need."

Salv Sole, partner specialising in property, acknowledges the internet is perhaps KWW's biggest competitor. "Our clients are better informed than ever these days and some are tempted to go down a DIY route. However, in our experience, matters are rarely



straightforward and they require an expert guiding hand to ensure the right outcome.

"Our clients have always valued personal contact with us and being able to talk directly to someone they can trust."

KWW Solicitors is pleased to commit its future to Molesey and looks forward to welcoming existing and new clients alike to its offices at 70-72 Walton Road.

Feel free to pop in for a chat any time, just give us a quick call in advance on 0208 979 1131. KWW can help you with:

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