

The Molesey News



Voice of the Molesey Conservative Residents

June/July 2012

LOCAL BUSINESSES

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Molesey all set for Olympics!

(..even the Jolly Boatman eyesore is getting a makeover)

MOLESEY will be looking its best for the Olympic cycling races in a month - with even the Jolly Boatman getting a makeover.

Conservative-led Elmbridge Council and MP Dominic Raab have been among those putting pressure on Gladedale Ltd, the developer which owns the derelict Boatman site next to Hampton Court Station, to get it cleared up.

And *The Molesey News* is pleased to report that Historic Royal Palaces is to landscape the site on behalf of Gladedale and in time for the Olympics when thousands of spectators will come to Molesey.

Already litter and debris have been cleared, a fence has been put up around the site, and turf laid (see picture, right) - with the work due for completion in time for Hampton Court Flower Show on July 3.

Eyes of the world

On July 28th, 29th, and August 1st the eyes of the world will be on Molesey when the Olympic cycle races come to town, with competitors sweeping across Hampton Court Bridge and along the length of Hurst Road - passing through Walton and on to Box Hill before coming back to our area via Hampton Court Way. The time trials cycling event on August 1st will see racers using Walton Road.

Conservative councillor Jan Fuller, the Elmbridge cabinet member overseeing the borough's Olympic preparations, said: "Areas along the route will be well decorated using money from Surrey County Council and Locog (Olympic organising committee). We have got 16 old



bikes that will be decorated with silk flowers to go on roundabouts - as this is a very inexpensive way of making things look nicer."

She said the crowning piece will be a commissioned wrought iron sculpture mounted on a rainbow shape which will be installed at the Sadler's Ride roundabout in July.

In addition the 'Welcome to the Elmbridge' signs are being replaced with new ones celebrating our Olympic host borough status.

Legacy projects

Following the games the Olympic portion of the signs will be unclipped and replaced with names of the town visitors are entering.

Elmbridge has £178,000 of Government money to spend on Jubilee and Olympic legacy projects, and some £40,000 of this is being awarded to local sports clubs to encourage young people to become more active.



CLlr Fuller said: "We set-up a cross-party task group to spend this money and one of the things we are going to do for young people is to put table tennis facilities into five parks. There will be two outdoor tables going in by the Hurst Pool in Molesey in the next two weeks.

"This is something the borough hasn't got already and we're going to give out free bats and balls for anyone who takes up the free coaching we will provide. We are

talking to local shops to try to persuade them to stock bats and balls in future."

South West Trains has given Hampton Court Station a lick of paint in anticipation of droves of Olympic spectators descending in July, and the Environment Agency has removed the undergrowth alongside the Thames at Hampton Court Bridge for spectators to stand and watch the races.

Action needed on commuters

RAILWAY commuters are continuing to park in residential streets to avoid paying station car park charges.

This has led to years of blocked driveways and danger to residents exiting drives blind-sighted, not forgetting the dirty gutters that council vehicles are unable to sweep.

Wolesey and Palace roads are two of worst affected and Steve Bax campaigned at the election for one hour of restricted parking in those streets on weekdays.

This would deter the all-day commuters and create spaces for shoppers to come and go.

Molesey Residents Association opposes this remedy in case it might drive the parking elsewhere. It is happy to see residents continue to struggle.

Conservatives take the view that commuters will not be prepared to add significantly to their journey time by parking far away from the station.

Once the station car park closes for development this year, an already bad situation could worsen. We will work with residents to lobby Surrey County Council to take action.

Radnor House faces closure

THE Molesey News has learned that Elmbridge Housing Trust (EHT) is thinking of closing the retirement home Radnor House.

Elderly residents of the sheltered home, which is in Hansler Grove, were warned on Monday June 18th that the building's future is under review. If it closes residents will be moved to suitable alternative accommodation in Elmbridge.

A spokeswoman for EHT's parent company Paragon, said: "We appreciate this is a difficult time for residents and we are working closely with both them and their families to ensure that residents can move to suitable homes which meet their needs as soon as possible.

"Paragon plan to retain the site for the future redevelopment of affordable housing which is more suitable to the needs of the borough."

Radnor House was built in the 1960s and has 29 'units' which are predominantly besits with limited parking. It said to compare less favourably to modern alternatives.

Steve Bax of the Molesey Conservatives said: "This will be a worrying time for residents and I would



urge the Trust to look at all the options before making a decision.

"If residents are to be relocated it should be to better facilities in or as near to Molesey as possible."

Elmbridge cabinet member for housing, CLlr James Browne said: "Paragon and its subsidiary Elmbridge Housing Trust have an excellent record in looking after their tenants, and they also strive to build

new properties or renovate their existing properties to the highest standard possible.

"Elmbridge will work with Paragon/EHT to ensure that this programme is carried out in a manner which minimises disruption to the lives of the current residents."

We will keep you posted on what happens. Please email your concerns to MoleseySteve@gmail.com.

MAY ELECTIONS: SINCERE THANKS



Hello and welcome to another edition of the Molesey News, compiled and delivered by your local Conservatives.

I am Steve Bax the editor and you may recognise me from the recent Elmbridge Borough Council elections where I was once again the Conservative candidate for the Molesey East ward.

I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who made the effort to vote on May 3rd (despite the bad weather), it is very much appreciated by all the candidates. In particular my thanks to the 807 Molesey voters who cast their ballots for me.

Sadly it wasn't quite enough to win and I finished 107 votes short of the incumbent councillor, Nigel Cooper of the Molesey Residents Association (who polled 914). I congratulate him on a well fought campaign and wish him success.

Regardless of the outcome it is always an honour and privilege to stand for election in Molesey, and I am hopeful of better luck in the future.

I believe the Conservatives can take some comfort from the results. We managed to reduce the MRA majority by 877 votes in only a year, and increase our share of the vote by 17% which wasn't bad considering how poorly the party fared in elections up and down the country.

Molesey Conservatives have been setting the local agenda and raising important issues, from parking and congestion to the impact on Molesey from the impending development at the Jolly Boatman site.

We will keep working hard on your behalf to improve our community and try to be worthy of your support.

The recent Jubilee celebrations and the Molesey Carnival showed our community spirit at its best and was a chance for friends and neighbours to come together in celebration.

Hopefully the Olympic cycle races will be just as memorable as they sweep through our town and showcase Molesey to a massive global TV audience.

There is a lot to look forward to, and not least our long overdue summer sunshine! My best wishes to you.

Residents are no fans of MJFC parking



“Currently on any match day between 250 and 300 cars try to access the ground, and extending the car park to 115 spaces will not solve the parking issues, congestion or improve the safety for visitors to the matches or the other users of the river walk, Neilsons field or the infant children’s playground adjacent to the public car park.”

MJFC provides football at the field for around 300 young people for up to 10 hours a week at weekends. Objectors stress that they do support the club’s work in providing sport for the young, but want the parking problems addressed.

These include parents and supporters leaving often large vehicles in the passing spaces of the narrow road bridge which leads to Neilsons Field, creating ‘congestion and danger’ from vehicles reversing back over the bridge.

“Extending the car park to 115 spaces will not solve the parking issues” - Residents

Residents told *The Molesey News* they would like MJFC to marshal cars in the direction of the under-utilised public car park off Walton Road in the town centre. One said: “It cannot be beyond the wit of all concerned - especially when the safety issues are taken into account - of finding ways to get the parents to use this car park. The walk is short enough - and surely a relief at not having to do battle to get onto the field every week.”

County Councillor Ernest Mallett, who submitted the parking space application as chairman of the Molesey Juniors Trust, assured that

there is no truth to rumours that the club needs the extra spaces to expand its activities or to create a clubhouse with a late drinks licence.

Molesey Conservatives are pleased to report that residents have since had positive talks with MJFC and are hopeful of working together to resolve the parking issues. We’ll keep you posted.

PLANNING application which threatened to pit Molesey Juniors Football Club against residents has been declared invalid by Elmbridge Council.

MJFC had applied to the council for permission to extend its car park at Neilsons Field off Molesey Park Road to 115 spaces, which would have meant laying hardstanding for 47 additional spaces on the green belt.

The matter had been due to go before councillors in June but the application was suddenly rejected by the council on grounds that more information was needed on ‘transport implications and tree protection’.

Residents of The Wilderness, Molesey Park Road and other streets had written letters of objection arguing that the area was being deluged with cars on match days but that extending the car park would not solve this.

In an eight-page objection The Water Garden Residents Company - a body which represents households in The Wilderness - argued that: “The car parking facilities have rarely been able to accommodate the traffic generated by the club resulting in illegal parking on pavements in residential roads and causing a risk hazard to pedestrians.



COMMUNITY NEWS

MOLESEY Local History Society would like to hear from anyone with old photographs of landmarks and places of interest in Molesey.

Two local photographers have been commissioned to photograph the locations of historic photos. The intention is to display the old and new side-by-side to show how Molesey has changed over the years. In due course, the aim is to produce a book and to put on a public exhibition, and to create a photographic record of Molesey as it is now for future generations.

A spokeswoman said: “We have managed to get many photos and postcards of Walton Road and Bridge Road but need more of other places of interest, for example The Court Cinema, Police Station, and prefabs in West Molesey.

Any photos that are lent will be scanned and returned to their owners. Email chair@moleseyhistory.org if you can help.

THE Friends of Molesey Library are off to a flying start after raising £900 from a quiz night.

The group hired Molesey Boat Club for its sell-out event on April 28th in which quiz lovers were challenged on the general and local knowledge and enjoyed a supper supplied by Molesey Fish Bar.

Money raised by the event will pay for improved signage outside Molesey Library and on the Walton Road to remind everyone of where the library is and that it is there to be used.

The Friends want to increase the number of regular borrowers and improve the facilities so that Molesey is protected from any closure threats in future.

To find out more visit www.moleseylibrary.org.uk

IF you can bear to watch the Go Compare TV adverts this summer you might spot some familiar surroundings.

The price comparison website was in Molesey on May 21st to record its latest commercial ‘starring’ opera singer Gio Compario (played by real life tenor Wynne Evans).

Filming took place on the forecourt of the Seat dealership in Bridge Road and is due to be broadcast in July.

MOLESEY Art Society will be holding an open air art exhibition over the bank holiday weekend of August 26th/27th.

It will be on the towpath alongside the Thames at Hampton Court from Molesey 9am to 5pm. Please go and support the work of these local artists.

CHILDREN aged four to 10 can enjoy yoga and art and craft making on Saturdays at the 3rd Molesey Scout Hut in St Peter’s Road, West Molesey.

Local teaching assistant, Pam Steer, is running the classes and says they develop children’s flexibility, strength, concentration and imagination.

Call 0207 979 1132 to find out more, or email pamcraftyyoga@hotmail.co.uk

St Paul’s needs your help!



EAST Molesey’s iconic St Paul’s Church could become derelict unless parishioners urgently raise £100,000 to repair the roof and organ.

As an Anglican church, St Pauls in Church Road receives no funding from the Church of England or the Government.

Yet it is well used, with some 26 weddings, baptisms and funerals taking place there last year, and the parish room being used by parent and toddler groups, the elderly and pilates and martial arts classes.

Mike Stephens of the Friends of St Paul’s, said: “The church functions for the whole community but, in the absence of any other source of funds, the entire cost falls on the shoulders of an active but relatively small number of parishioners.

“It is inevitable that in the

absence of the necessary funds the church will fall into disrepair. I hope that the community will not wait for this to happen before realising that contributions are indeed both vital and urgent.”

A landmark in Molesey since 1856, the church structure was reviewed four years ago and a three phase plan was drawn up for repairs, but due to lack of funds only the first phase has been completed.

The Friends have a number of fundraisers in the pipeline, the first being Earthly Voices - a concert by the choir on Saturday July 21st, 7.30pm. For tickets email Julia Cripps at juliacripps31@yahoo.co.uk.

Or to donate call Mike on 020 89410303 or email mkstephens@btinternet.com.

Elmbridge can save cash by having less councillors

THERE could be fewer politicians at Esher Civic Centre in future following a review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).

Conservative councillors voted in April to ask the independent boundary commission to review all 22 wards in Elmbridge as consider the appropriate number of councillors for each (Molesey wards have three each but some others have two).

The borough currently has 60 council seats - 32 are held by Conservatives, 22 by residents associations, six are Liberal Democrats, but the Conservative group would like to see this reduced to 48 in order to cut the cost of local government.

Councillors receive £4,245 as a basic allowance and every year this costs taxpayers £254,700 (plus additional monies councillors receive for cabinet posts and heading committees). A smaller, 48-person council, would save around £47,000

each year, assuming the boundary commission feels a reduction is warranted.

The review and consultations with voters is expected to take over a year and after that further time will be needed to receive the approval of Parliament. So

changes are unlikely to take effect until elections in May 2015.

Leader of the Council, Cllr John O’Reilly (pictured) told the *Molesey News* that the council staff had reduced in recent years, as had the borough’s areas of responsibility, and councillors should

not be exempt from the change and reductions.

Elmbridge Conservatives have led the way in reducing the cost of local government in the last six years, by saving £5million through cutting waste, renegotiating contracts and improving efficiency - all of which means the the council can continue to afford quality frontline services.



Apps Court wins appeal

APPS Court Farm has won its appeal against Elmbridge Council’s refusal to allow it to open a park and ride for the Olympics.

Councillors had accused the owners of the farm in Hurst Road of being greedy in seeking to operate a scheme at its green belt site for 14 weeks.

But a planning inspector overruled the council in June, authorising the change of use of a build-

ing to provide visitor and security facilities and for the park and ride to operate for eight weeks.

Steve Bax of the Molesey Conservatives said: “This is a good result for Molesey. If the park and ride was not going ahead we would have had thousands of Olympic tourists coming here with nowhere to leave their cars.

“Our streets and grass verges would have suffered.”