

Laleham Residents Association
Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 4TH June 2024 at the Lucan Pavilion

Present

Committee – Michelle Purnell, Steve Bartlett, John Thesiger, Mike Garrett, Rod Stamford, Ken Saunders.

Guests - Cllrs Maureen Attewell, Karen Howkins, Darren Clarke. Lincoln Jobb MC,

Apologies – Martin Jones (retiring Trustee); Roger Lynch; Donnica Colman (retiring Trustee); Daniel Mouawat – CEO Spelthorne Borough Council; Dan Burton – Shepperton Studios; Keith & Alison Vigurs; Alexandra Jones.

Membership attendees – approx. 40

1. Welcome and Introduction.

Michelle welcomed members and guests and introduced herself (as Chair) and then the Committee: John Thesiger – Membership Secretary; Steve Bartlett–Treasurer; Rod Stamford–Secretary; Mike Garrett–IT Manager; Ken Saunders. Michelle reminded us of David Furst’s passing and offered a toast in his memory. She also made mention of David receiving a posthumous Civic Award for his services to Laleham and the LRA.

2. Annual review.

2a. LRA Objectives and important Committee Events- Michelle.

Michelle read out the Objectives as stated on the Agenda – which are as in our current and proposed Constitution. She then highlighted Committee events over the last year:

- the loss of David Furst
- retirement of Donnica Colman who had worked tirelessly as Membership Secretary & general Co-ordinator & E-mailer of news. She was given a Civic Award which is only awarded for 12 years plus voluntary service.
- the appointment of Martin Jones as a Trustee. However, he is resigning at this Meeting due to his impending move from Laleham
- Ken Saunders and Steve Bartlett joined the Committee

2b. Local Plan, report on current projects and potential other developments - Ken

Ken stated that the new Local Plan, which was under evaluation by the Government Inspector, has been put on hold due to the demands of the many new Councillors elected last year, so they can examine/modify the Plan. The decision to put the local plan on hold means our Borough is at the mercy of private developers who can push for Government approval for schemes which had been rejected - as we are now forced to work to the 2009 Local Plan.

Laleham Park Hub - Ken stated this was a scheme to bring a community hub and café into Laleham Park on the site of the old Sports Pavilion. Ken was asked about the scope of the scheme and where the LRA stood on it. The answer was that the LRA was aware of the scheme from around a year ago and has asked for detail including business plan but nothing has yet appeared except a large, glossy, artistic website based on schemes elsewhere.

Ken stated that The Council have changed their Community Lettings Policy which replaced the words ‘New Development on recreation grounds and other green open spaces will not be considered’ with ‘New Community development on recreation grounds and other green open spaces will only be considered where it is appropriate to do so and there is no net adverse impact to biodiversity of the location’ This may remove a hurdle for the scheme.

River Thames Scheme- This is to reduce flooding on both banks of the River from Staines through Chertsey, Laleham and Shepperton. There are some 11,000 homes and 1,600 businesses which regularly flood in the winter. The scheme will start at Staines and run to Teddington. Recently the Environment Agency asked for comments and the 2,500+ replies are being evaluated. This includes over 48,000 objections received as a result of a NATIONWIDE petition by the open water swimmers community. Construction is due to start in 2026 if given the go-ahead.

Manor Farm Gravel Conveyor – under the Ashford Road. This is dragging on due to flooding problems – see para 9

2c. Events - Review by Rod on behalf of Roger

2023 –

- Quiz Night. This was held in May 2023 and masterminded by Laurence Curtis. Thanks to him.
- In September we held a highly successful open-air Film Night at the Recreation Ground. This was provided by Shepperton Studios with the film – The Greatest Showman. It was attended by around 700 people.
- Race Night. Another was held in November

- 100th Anniversary of the bequeathing of land for the Village Hall and Pavilion by the Lucan family.
- The current Lord Lucan unveiled a Plaque on the Pavilion wall.
- Light – up Laleham in December
- The annual pantomime was held in March 2024 and was another great success thanks to Jo Bartlett (Writer and Director), Gerry Morris (Costume Designer & Seamstress) and a very talented team of actors.
- There was no Village Fair in 2023 but it was David Furst's wish that we have one in 2024.
- Some Committee Members visited the River Thames Flood Scheme presentations held in February 2024.

2024

- The Village Fair will be held on 6th July. Please try to attend
- Race Night will be held on 14th September
- Quiz Night will be held on 23rd November
- Light – up Laleham will be held in December

2d River Thames Scheme and the LRA IT system developments - Review by Mike.

The River Thames Scheme is to reduce flooding on both banks of the River from Staines through Chertsey and Laleham. Recently the Environment Agency issued a Statutory Consultation on their proposals and 2,500 plus replies were received which are being evaluated. The Thames Flood Scheme review will be put to the Secretary of State for a decision - for which there is a fixed timescale. Construction is due to start in 2026 if given the go-ahead. The best benefits will be for properties on the Chertsey bank from Staines to Chertsey Bridge, closely followed by properties on the Laleham bank from Staines to Laleham Village. The Scheme will not only protect these 11,000 properties but should enable them to obtain Property Insurance which is currently not always possible. A number of Shepperton residents have objections to some elements of the Scheme due to the possible loss of swimming lakes but their Residents Association fully supports the Scheme as proposed by the EA. The River Thames Scheme have issued material to counter the Shepperton Resident's concerns.

IT development –Mike is responsible for the LRA website, IT security and Data Protection.

A new Membership software is being developed to ease the burden on the Membership Secretary.

An event Booking Form and Payment system has been developed by Mike so that online booking and payment is now possible for Membership application/renewals and attendance at any LRA event plus contributing to Hanging Baskets and general donating.

Your use of this payment system or Direct Debit will reduce workload for the Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

3. Treasurer's report and Accounts to 31 March 2024. Review by Steve

Steve presented his Report and Accounts by email. A summary follows: -

The Charity ended the financial year with net assets of £13,001.57 – making a net surplus of £1,154.83. This compares with a net deficit of £1,314.58 last year. Our revenue was £6,369.81

- Memberships: £1,735 up 9% from last year.
- Events: £2,658.00
- Hanging Baskets donations: £1,702.00
- Other income: £274.81

Expenditure was £5,214.98 which included the following contributions to the Village

- £2,992 on hanging baskets
- £200 contribution to costs of running the Heritage Centre – electricity etc.
- £192.50 for Light-up Laleham
- £312.92 on plants & flowers in the Village
- £23.98 in small donations

Costs to host 3 events were £664.04 (net margin of 75%)

LRA costs (bank & insurance) were £691.56 – broadly the same as last year

Storage Container- £100

The Treasurer and the Chair believe that more of the reserves should be allocated to projects within the Village

The Accounts are now managed via a professional accounting software for greater efficiency

Steve gave thanks to Roger Lynch for his efficient handover of the Treasurer role.

4 Subscriptions and Membership - Review by John

There were 195 paid up households which includes 6 new and a loss of 3 who have moved away. It will reduce work for the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer if payment is made online using the system or by setting up a Direct Debit.

The current membership and renewals procedures are complicated and time consuming. Our new IT system designed by Mike will be much easier and quicker and it will also send you a notice when your renewal is due.

The minimum subscription is £5 but more is welcome. The Treasurer's report shows that we collected more than the basic subscription last year.

We have printed leaflets to encourage people to join and these have been distributed at various events.

5. Amendments to our Constitution

Our current Constitution does not make reference to **Trustees** but the Charities Act documents do so.

Thus, our new Constitution offered to this Meeting covers our latest understanding of the Charity Commission rules and so introduces clauses stating the responsibilities of Trustees, the number of them, their appointment, their service period, their meetings etc.

From the floor, Dominic O'Malley commented that Paragraph 7 of the proposed Constitution appeared to be adding another Committee (of Trustees). He does not consider this to be necessary. He also commented that between 3 to 5 Trustees could control LRA activities – rather than the 7 to 9 strong Committee. He further believed that the Committee should not report to the Trustees for day to day running. The Trustees should just ensure the Committee meet all the Charity Commission's rules. Dominic asked that clause 7 should be withdrawn.

Michelle stated that the Trustees ARE in control. From the floor, two members agreed with this.

A vote was taken and the new Constitution was accepted with 29 in favour, 1 against – thus approx. 10 abstained.

John Thesiger asked for a clause to be added stating that the LRA is non- political. This was agreed unanimously.

6. Committee Election. Michelle asked if any Member at the Meeting wishes to join the Committee – No offers. Michelle asked if a global resolution was acceptable to the Meeting and it was agreed. This was followed by the Meeting seconding re-appointment of the current Committee (except for Martin Jones who is retiring) and a unanimous vote for their election

7. Election of Officers. – proposed:

- Steve Bartlett (Chair) – nominated by Michelle and seconded by Rod
- Michelle Purnell (Vice Chair) – nominated by John and seconded by Steve
- John Thesiger (Membership Secretary) – nominated by Michelle and seconded by Mike
- Steve Bartlett (Treasurer)- nominated by Michelle and seconded by Rod
- Rod Stamford (Secretary) – nominated by Mike and seconded by Michelle

Michelle asked if a global resolution was acceptable to the Meeting and it was agreed. This was followed by seconding of the Officers by the Meeting and a unanimous vote (35).

As Steve holds two positions (until another Treasurer is found), a question from the floor related to the number of votes Steve could apply to any matter. It was agreed that he would only have one vote.

Michelle asked for volunteers to take on the Treasurer Role – there were no offers

8. Election of Trustees

Trustees are nominated/proposed by the LRA Committee and are elected/appointed by the Association's Annual General Meeting. Trustees are responsible in law for ensuring that the Association operates in accordance with The Charities Act and the LRA Constitution. Our Constitution spells out the Associations Objectives, Powers, Membership and other Rules.

Our existing Trustees are Michelle Purnell, Donnica Colman and Martin Jones but both Donnica and Martin have resigned to pursue new lives - having given many of their years to the LRA.

Our Proposed Trustees are Michelle Purnell, Mike Garrett and Steve Bartlett.

Two seconders from the floor were then requested for each person. These were as follows:

- Michelle Purnell – L Whitehams & Eric Sloan
- Mike Garrett -Dominic O'Malley & Jo Bartlett
- Steve Bartlett – Eric Sloan & Helen Hughes

The Members then elected Michelle, Mike & Steve unanimously

The Constitution requires that Trustees are appointed annually by the AGM. Repeat appointments as a Trustee are permitted up to a maximum of four years after which a minimum break of one years is required. It was pointed out from the floor that this could result in all Trustees having to resign at the same time. It was agreed that the terminations be staggered. Mike commented that this was not necessary as each Trustee's period of office **expires** after one year and is not a resigning issue.

9 Any other business

Julie Jaeger and Cllr Attewell gave an update on the current and proposed works along the Ashford Road

Manor Farm Conveyor belt – the traffic disruption continues due to flooding problems which require the regular running of a pump. This sometimes runs at night and then Bretts have to be contacted to visit to shut it off. Julie stated that Bretts seem to be doing their best to resolve the problems. This project was due to take 6 months but is currently over a year.

Cllr Attewell stated that Bretts construction permit was due to finish at the end of July 2024 but has been extended to end Sept 2024.

From the floor Dominic asked if the flood water was ground or rain. The answer was it is rain.

Esso Pipeline – this is now complete but for the repair of fencing along the woodland side of the Ashford Road which was damaged/ removed during the construction.

From the floor it was asked who is responsible. The answer is Bretts. A site meeting is due on 5th June at which Cllr Turner- Stewart is due to be present. Cllr Clarke offered to attend meetings with Bretts.

UK Power Scheme. Cllr Attewell stated there will be another major construction project requiring further excavation of Ashford Road. This is a demand by UK Power to lay a cable in the Ashford Road from a substation near the Kingston Road, down its entire length into Laleham and then into Ferry Road & Thames Side to Chertsey. It will then continue to Woodham.

From the floor Laurence Curtis asked what is the power supply for. Cllr Attewell replied that the requirement is to supply Woodham with additional power.

Cllr Attewell stated that Cllr Turner- Stewart is asking UK Power to consider alternative sub stations as the source to relieve the Ashford Road of more upheaval.

Cllr Attewell stated that UK Power has a statutory right to do this and that Surrey Council have no say in the matter.

20 mph traffic calming scheme. From the floor, Dominic O'Malley asked when the scheme will be started.

Cllr Attewell advised that it will be delayed until the UK Power project is complete.

Other items

Hanging baskets. From the floor, Nick Wood-Dow asked if we planned to buy this year. Michelle put it to the meeting that we have insufficient donations so we would have to support the purchase from our reserves. The Meeting agreed that we should buy about the same number of baskets as last year resulting in an expenditure of circa £3,000. This expenditure was approved by about 30 Members with none against.

Proposed housing construction behind the Playing Fields - Eric Sloan asked Cllr Attewell if there was any movement on building plans for the area behind the playing fields .She replied that there was nothing yet.

Thanks to Michelle. Mike expressed thanks to Michelle for taking the Chair when David became ill - with all her other personal responsibilities. She was given a round of applause.

Michelle closed the Meeting with thanks to all for attending.