

Autumn 2017

THE **B** BOOKHAMS
RA RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

24 hour telephone line: 0300 030 9890

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Peter Seaward

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter and no doubt along with our Editor, The Friends of Bookham Common will have added some local autumn colour to this edition.

The past six months have been important. The two public votes were especially so. On the Neighbourhood Development Plan, a large majority of Bookham's electorate voted in favour of this Plan. This means that the NDP policies will be incorporated into MVDC Planning policies. It is up to us and our Councillors to make sure they are observed. The Village by a significant majority decided against a Parish Council after a lively exchange of views over the past two years. Our Councillors especially recognised actions they need to be aware of following this campaign.

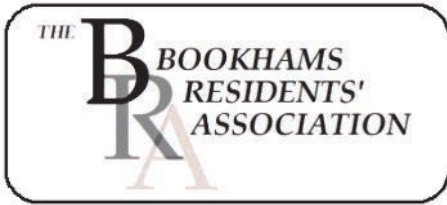
Two future District wide activities need our attention. One is the new Mole Valley Local Plan and I would try to persuade everyone to keep a close watch on this as it develops. The number of houses Mole Valley will have to ensure are built the next fifteen years is almost certainly to be more than in the past period. Where and how this will affect us all especially our infrastructure suggests we all need to be involved. The other is the plans for the development of the hospitals at Epsom and St Helier. There have been several meetings about the possible changes as well as some good informative videos. If you are not aware of what is going on lookout for public meetings and information on this topic. See page 2 for more details

The planning hearing and Inspectors Review for the Howard is now at an end and the next step is with the Secretary of State. We are told that an announcement should be made by the end of the year. As nearly 700 Bookham children attend this excellent school we are watching this with considerable interest.

On Thursday 30th November at 7.30 pm we are holding a public "Bookham Question Time" in the Barn Hall where these subjects will be discussed further and questions asked of Councillors and those with the relevant knowledge.

Also in this edition you will see other matters we continue to be involved in and I would ask anyone who would like to be a part of our vibrant village's civic life to please get in touch. There is always much to do and help however large or small is welcome.

DIARY DATE: BOOKHAMS QUESTION TIME - OLD BARN HALL - THURSDAY 30TH NOVEMBER AT 7.30 PM.



The Bookhams Residents' Association Newsletter is published twice a year in the Spring and Autumn and is distributed by a team of volunteers to all BRA membership households.

If you have any comments on the Newsletter or any additional reports you would like to see, please e-mail:

publicity@bookhamresidents.org.uk

Or call: 0300 030 9890

Calls are charged at a standard land line rate from either a land line or mobile.

Or visit our web site:

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

We also have social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor.

Search for "Bookham" for our pages where we post updates on a regular basis. Please "like" and "re-tweet"

If you are not a social network user then you can sign up for our occasional e-mail service instead.



TRANSPORT

BUSES & TRAINS

Keith Francis

"Something old, something changed and something new".

Old: due to lack of use Buses Excetera withdrew the 416 Leatherhead to Epsom service on the 2nd September 2017.

Changed: Although the buses other than the early morning buses still leave Epsom and Guildford at the same times as before Buses Excetera have tweaked times along the route to help them operate a more efficient service reflecting increased traffic particularly on the A246. The first weekday bus from Leatherhead to Guildford is joined by another bus half-an-hour later and the late afternoon / early evening services are changed with the 16:45 from Epsom now running through to Guildford, plus, the addition of a later 19:10 service to the Howard of Effingham School returning at 20:04 to Leatherhead. Also, we now have a 15:40 service from Epsom to Bookham, Railway Station returning at 16:42 to Epsom. These changes / additions are in response to passenger comments.

We are fortunate to have so many bus services serving Great Bookham, Little Bookham and Effingham so please use them more.

New: from Saturday, 23 September 2017, Buses Excetera introduced the limited stop 489 which runs Monday to Saturday from Leatherhead to Merstham via Dorking, Reigate and Redhill service mainly hourly.

These bus timetables are available from the links on the BRA website and the Surrey County Council's website.

A Trip to Ranmore Common?

Have any Bookham residents thought about going to Ranmore by bus? You can as on Tuesday mornings having travelled to Dorking via the 479 to Leatherhead and the 465 or the new 489 to Dorking, Carlone Buses run the 533 service which leaves Dorking White Horse at 10:11 via the Dorking Station London Road stop (the same side of the road as the Ashcombe School) at 10:15 arriving at the far end of Ranmore Dog Kennel Lane at 10:24. This bus returns to Dorking at 10:25 but there is later service from Dorking White Horse at 12:15 returning at 12:32. So it is possible to spend 2 hours on Ranmore enjoying it's lovely views or you can simply walk direct to Bookham past the Youth Hostel and Polesden Lacey or,

walk down to Dorking for buses home. There are intermediate stops on this Ranmore service and the full bus timetable is on the Traveline website.

TRAINS

South Western Railway has replaced South West Trains and except for new logos new trains are awaited. Over the summer Waterloo station has not been without issues following the re-opening of the former International station and our services should now improve.

Despite the Southern staffing problems being unresolved their service continues unchanged.

Did you know that Bookham railway station, the (station) house, footbridge and tunnel were built in 1885 and are all Listed Grade II "buildings?" Have train users noticed the distressed state of the footbridge? The BRA have been in contact with Network Rail asking if repairs and repainting will take place. National Rail have surveyed the bridge and say it is "structurally sound" but they don't have any money for re-painting.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY 2018 CONSULTATION

The SWR Consultation document was published on Friday, 29th September 2017, and any comments on it will be accepted up to Friday, 22nd December 2017.

However, there is no actual consultation on our train services as they will be improved with most weekday morning peak additional services between Epsom and Waterloo will start slightly earlier at 04:55 at Guildford instead of the current 04:58 providing additional journey opportunities from Bookham, Leatherhead and Ashted. In the evening peak, as now, most of the extra trains terminate at Epsom. From Waterloo the first train will leave at 05:41 instead of 06:39 and there will be little change in the times of the last trains.

Also on Saturdays the weekday off-peak frequency applies with the same start and finish times as Monday to Friday. Train formations will reflect the growth in travel on Saturdays with fewer four coach suburban trains and many services growing to ten car trains as new rolling stock is introduced.

On Sundays the service level in the morning will be hourly and from 13:00 the service level may be enhanced.

COMMUNITY

Come and hear about the latest developments concerning

EPSOM & ST. HELIER HOSPITALS

Thursday, 2nd November
Bookham Baptist Church.
Starting at 2pm until 4pm

Representatives from the Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals Trust will be present to explain their plans to the local community. They are keen to hear the views of Bookham's residents concerning how the future of our local hospitals will be shaped.

YOUR VOICE COUNTS



We appreciate that you may not be able to get to this meeting or you receive the Newsletter after the event. You can find out more on the Epsom & St. Helier web site: <https://www.epsom-sthelier.nhs.uk/epsom-and-st-helier-2020-2030>

BRA MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: CAN YOU HELP?

After eighteen years John Allen has decided to stand down as the BRA Membership Secretary. Throughout this time John has played a significant role in keeping our membership numbers up and recruiting over 130 Road Stewards. John would like to personally thank the Road Stewards for their help and commitment over all this time.

We are therefore urgently seeking a replacement for John. This is an important role within the Executive Committee and the ideal person will be organised, methodical, conscientious and up to date with modern technology.

The role involves keeping accurate records of all the members of the association, such as their address, phone and e-mail details; at present, these are divided into pre-arranged areas throughout the village, to enable easy distribution of the BRA Newsletters, issued twice annually.

The collection of subscriptions is under review at present and the successful applicant would have an important input into any future system.

This role provides a wonderful opportunity to get to know many more people in the village while at the same time, adding benefits to community life throughout Bookham.

If you would like to apply or receive more information, please contact the BRA Secretary, Andrew Freeman via e-mail: secretary@bookhamresidents.org.uk or telephone 07886 459908.

NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE DAY SATURDAY 11TH NOVEMBER.

Squareabout Road Closure

Pat Morrish

This is to advise residents that the Squareabout and the four roads leading to it for about twenty metres will be closed to all traffic from 10.45 a.m. until 11.15 a.m. on Saturday 11th November.

This is to ensure that the annual Remembrance service at the War Memorial in St Nicolas Churchyard can take place. The necessary Traffic Controls orders have been agreed with MVDC and other services who will be affected have been informed.

Remembrance Sunday

After the Remembrance Sunday service in St Nicolas Church on Sunday 12th November at approximately 11.30 am the Third Bookham Scouts will walk to the Canadian Friendship Tree in Eastwick Park Avenue (about 50m from the Lower Road junction). The Friendship Tree was planted after the 1939-45 war in memory of those Canadians who were based on Great Bookham, many of whom landed, and died, on the D-Day landings on 6th June 1944.

Wreaths will be laid by the tree and prayers will be said. Anybody who would like to attend would be most welcome.



COMMUNITY



Marion Chow

It was another busy summer packed full of sporting activities at The Grange and in July we launched our inaugural "Summer Fun" scheme. The scheme was a great success and we were delighted to welcome sixteen new people who attended over four weeks.

They had individual timetables drawn up for a carousel of different activities ranging from simple cooking to Bushcraft! We will be rolling this out as a permanent feature at The Grange. If you know anyone who may be interested in attending please contact Vikki Schadenberg on 01372 455229.

At the beginning of September we said a fond "Farewell" to our CEO who has been in post for the past four years, Sally Lines OBE, who leaves behind a wealth of achievements including: the major refurbishment of the Main House which is now completely accessible for everyone and has freed up valuable space for our skills training; introducing the Values and Mission Statement and most recently purchased four brand new flats in Leatherhead. We are delighted that Phil Edmunds has now stepped in as Acting CEO. Phil was previously Skills & Activities Manager at The Grange.

Four of our tenants have had a smooth transition moving into the new flats in Bookham. Nicky, who uses a wheelchair and Laura, both of whom have learning disabilities, have lived at The Grange in Rectory Lane since they were 17 years old. The other two tenants, Alison and Jane, both lived in Bookham village before. All are making the move to their own brand new single flats in Leatherhead, a block of four one-bedroomed flats built for The Grange.

"It's overwhelming, I'm here at last," said Alison, who has been accessing services at The Grange for over 30 years. "I couldn't wait to move in. It's near my two places of work and I can easily get to the shops, buses and swimming pool."

The accommodation has been built to a very high standard and Nicky's flat has specially adapted kitchen and bedroom fittings. "I was very nervous the first night when I moved in," she said, "but I'm getting the hang of it now."

Thanks to those moving into the new flats, we now have vacancies onsite at Rectory Lane and in Bookham Village for new people on our waiting list to join our Supported Living service, so it is an exciting time for everybody.

We are now turning our attention to our annual Christmas Concert which is a really popular event and is taking place on 3rd December at The Menuhin Hall, Stoke D'Abernon. Tickets are £15 each available from the box office 08700 842 202 it is always a really great evening and really kick-starts Christmas, hopefully we will see you there!

For more information about The Grange and our work, please look at our website or call:

Marion Chow: 01372 455231
marion.chow@grangecentre.org.uk
Grangecentre.org

PETITION FOR GREAT & LITTLE BOOKHAM POSTCODE

Grant Woodham

Hopefully you will have seen signs on the BRA notice boards, received a flyer, or seen details on social media about the petition to get "Great" and "Little" re-added to our addresses. You may not realise, but when postcodes were created back in the 1970's, when they created KT23 for the Bookhams, they removed the pre fixes of "Great" and "Little" and they have gradually been getting more and more forgotten and disused ever since. This means that when your address is created using the postcode, our village name is just Bookham.

I contacted Royal Mail about the issue, and they are happy to add Great and Little back onto Bookham addresses, and will conduct a written consultation to all affected addresses. In order for this consultation to start, Royal Mail need the approval of MVDC and our MP Paul Beresford.

MVDC have asked me to create this petition, in order to see what level of support there is in the Bookhams for Great and Little to be re-instated, before giving permission for Royal Mail to conduct their own consultation to residents.

You may wonder why this is important, but if we do not seize this opportunity to correct our village names now, it is unlikely that Royal Mail will consider

taking the time to do this again in the future. Great and Little Bookham have partially merged over the years due to house building, but there is still a lot of the border between the two villages that is still open countryside. The only part that has merged with housing is along part of the east side of Little Bookham Street. To the north of Sole Farm Road there is Little Bookham Commons, and to the south we have the fields in Rectory Lane, and the farm land of Polesden Lacey dividing Great and Little Bookham.

It would be a great shame for our two villages to lose their historic identities. They both still have their own churches, village halls, commons, and schools. Our villages are no less deserving than East and West Horsley, Stoke D'Abernon or the Clandons, which are all small villages recognised correctly by Royal Mail, so please support our campaign to keep our correct village names, before they are lost forever. Future generations will wonder why we ever allowed them to be lost.



The online petition can be signed at the following address on MVDC's website, and shortly paper petitions will be available in some of the village shops, including Wishing Well and Cascade, for anyone without internet access.

<http://petitions.molevalley.gov.uk/bookhampostcode/>

COMMUNITY



BOOKHAM YOUTH PROJECT

Oli Bell

BYP started in the Bookham community September 2016 with Oli Bell as lead youth worker. The first term was spent meeting community partners, organisations, local businesses, setting up a programme for projects and building a team of volunteers and staff.

We started projects in January 2017 with a variety of programs for young people in the community, at the Bookham youth centre and in the schools and churches. Over the year, we regularly worked with over 100 young people from Bookham on relational projects, offering a mixture of support, activities and engagement, with young people starting to take more ownership of projects.

In order to know how to best support this initiative local young people went out and talked to other local young people. "Your Community Your Voice" is the result of this exercise. We gathered data from 450 young people from Bookham asking them a series of questions about their community and their needs. This data was analyzed and collated in a document and can be found on our website www.leatherheadyouthproject.com or available in print on request.

The main findings of the report were really interesting, showing us that young people want to be active and healthy. They want places to spend time in positive activities and be part of their community. They told us that generally they feel safe in Bookham and 75% of young people have someone to go to when they have problems. However, this still leaves 1 in 4 young people who feel they don't have someone to talk to when they need support. As Bookham Youth Project we want to step in that place and offer young people the support, guidance and activities they need and deserve.

The results from this have been helping to frame our work with young people. This is a valuable tool for anyone in Bookham looking to support young people, or want to hear what they think.



For more information about the Bookham Youth Project or the results please contact Oli Bell at LYP. oli@leatherheadyouthproject.com.



ENVIRONMENT

Bookham Monthly Litter Pick

Join us on the first Sunday of the month and keep Bookham Tidy!

If you would like to join us in keeping Bookham clean, meet on the first Sunday of the month at the Lower Shott car park at 11.00 a.m.

Gloves, grabbers and high vis tops will be provided and a session usually lasts around 90 minutes.



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LITTER PICK

Margaret Lawson

The regular litter picks continue. The amount we find has decreased a little, but sadly the team still manages to fill many bags each time.

If you would like to give up an hour or so each month to help keep our village looking good, we would love to see you, (11.00 am Lower Shott Car Park, first Sunday of the month). After the pick many of us meet up for coffee/hot chocolate and a chat.

We are delighted that other groups have joined us in our attempts to make Bookham litter free. These include some mums of Dawnay School children, 4th Bookham Guides, 1st Bookham Cubs (Oak pack), and 1st Bookham Beavers.

If you would like to set up your own group and would like to borrow equipment, contact Margaret on 01372 454101.

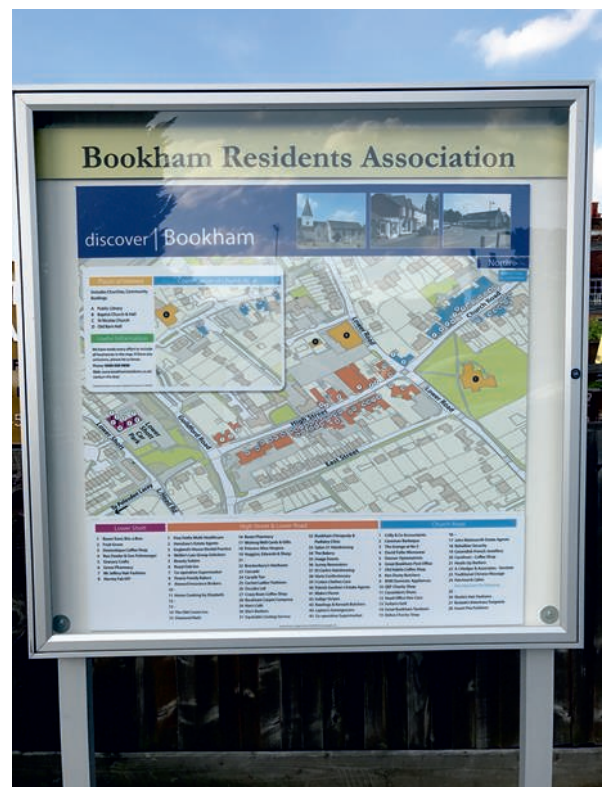
BOOKHAM ON THE MAP!

Ray Pritchard

If the question was 'How many shops are there in Bookham?', it is possible that not many people would get the answer right. That is one of the reasons why the Bookhams Residents' Association (project managed by Nick Forrer) have produced a new reference map, featuring all the retail outlets in Bookham. It is fully cross referenced to guide people through the village and it is on display in the newly erected notice board in the car park at the back of the Co-Op and The Royal Oak, next to the pay machine.

The map is also designed to encourage shoppers to visit shops in Lower Shott and Church Road.

Needless to say, it highlights the fact that we have such a vibrant, thriving village and emphasises the importance of supporting all our local retailers.



ENVIRONMENT

FRIENDS OF BOOKHAM COMMONS

Paul Gallard

An Eventful Year So Far

Much has been happening this year. The Life on the Edge Project is now in its second year and when you read this article the second stage of the path edge clearing will have been completed.

There has been no evidence in 2017 of nightingales returning but it is early days and we will be on the lookout next season. We have now reached our target of £12,000 in funding and this is now in the bank for the 2017 and 2018 expenses. A very big thank you to all of you who have helped to fund this. From next year we can start to fund more projects.

Our Facebook page has been live now for several months and is drawing in many viewers and posters. There have been some wonderful pictures posted and some good discussions held. From fungi and cobwebs to waste dumping and "Sluicigate"!

Do visit our page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/757413014439501/> to view the postings and join the group.

You do not have to be a member of "Friends" to join in. However we hope that viewing the articles will encourage you to come on board.

Please make a note of the date of our Spring Buffet for 2018. We have managed to persuade Matthew Oates, butterfly expert, to talk to us at our annual event.

In view of his retirement plans we have had to move the date from May to the end of March - Wednesday 28th March at the Old Barn Hall to be precise.

So it will still be in Spring and definitely worth the effort. Please make a note in your diary and we will provide all the usual details nearer the time.

Our membership continues to grow and we are extremely grateful for the loyalty of our existing members and to the new ones who join. You all make so much difference to what we can achieve on the Commons.



A Ruddy Darter—Photo by Colin Kemp

For more information about the Friends of Bookham Commons either pick up a leaflet to be found in a pocket under the National Trust notice boards at the entrances to the Commons
info@bookhamcommons.org.uk
www.bookhamcommons.org.uk

Those who are interested on joining the Friends should call Robert Hall (453183) or Paul Gallard (459972).

BOOKHAM'S GREEN SPACES

Frances Fancourt

The July issue of the RHS magazine "The Garden" discusses the importance of plants and climate change. Every green leaf, big and small, takes carbon out of the atmosphere. This becomes locked underground, aiding the fight against climate change. Particularly good are hedges containing multiple plant varieties. They provide dense leaf cover, wildlife habitats, can provide year-round flowers and berries, and require minimal pruning. Instead of a bland wooden fence or a monoculture of conifer or laurel which require regular maintenance, consider a mix of shrub types around your property boundaries and make a positive contribution to the environment.

We are currently looking at improving the central shopping areas which involves both weed and branch clearance and some planting in conjunction with Mole Valley District Council. We also have a maintenance

work list for trees around Bookham's verges, cutting back growth along the Dorking Road footpath, dead tree removal in Park Way and The Lorne, and improving sight lines on the Lower Road approach to Howard of Effingham School. Dead or over-long branches will be pruned at various locations, and scruffy growth removed. There is never enough money to do everything, but we believe that we have made a difference over the past few years, operating with funds from Councillor Clare Curran's Surrey County Council budget, and a small amount from the BRA when necessary. This also covers replanting.

We plan to plant trees in The Garstons, Pine Dean, Sole Farm Road, Crabtree Lane, Howard Road and Richmond Way this winter.

In July this year our founder Tree Warden, Lawrence Hole, died after a short illness. His legacy is the 100+ trees visible around our verges. If you would like to help us continue planting and caring for trees around Bookham, please call us to discuss what is involved. You could become a full Tree Warden or just help us with occasional tree planting and care.

You can see a list of all of the 100+ trees that have been planted around Bookham with varieties and locations on the BRA web site.

From the home page click on: Infrastructure, Environment & Transport > Trees

**Tree Wardens are:
Jenny Wilson: 01372 453573
Frances Fancourt: 01372 454000**

LEISURE



BOOKHAM YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

David Cox OBE—Bookham Youth & Community Association

Youth at the Centre

The Bookhams Youth Project (BYP) is now under way and the facilities are being utilised on a Monday afternoon and evening and Friday afternoon. Attendance by young people has been high. BYP has undertaken local research amongst young people and this interesting information is produced in the newsletter which supports the real need for centre based youth activities.

The Anchor Pub "Local Causes" fund has provided new equipment and chairs for the centre and we are most grateful for this.

Other Youth organisations continue to use the large amount of space that is available together with the much improved supplementary facilities. This allows the groups using the facility a large degree of flexibility in activities in a spacious environment.

It is used by other youth and young adult groups such as Disability Challengers, Barnardos and St Nicolas Church. All these run Clubs in the evenings and Disability Challengers use the Centre during the holidays. Other groups use the facilities on an ad hoc basis.

At the end of the year we lose the Disability Challengers Short Breaks Service as this has been taken over by the YMCA who will be running it elsewhere but we are pleased that Challengers will be continuing to provide other services from the centre.

Pre school

During Term time Smarty Pants pre-school use the Centre and can be contacted by calling the Centre during term time hours or via www.smartypantspreschool.co.uk.

Action Arts Theatre

Run by Elizabeth Crawford (elizabeth.crawford@me.com) provides performing arts activities after school on a Wednesday from 4.15pm. This new group has been a great success since starting out earlier this year.

Future of the Centre

Discussions involving Bookhams Residents' Association representative & BYCA Trustees continue to be held with SCC & MVDC to replace the centre, which does have a limited life span, with a new community facility. The aim of this is to have a new building without the need to raise funds from the community.

This will take beyond the current lease with SCC which expires in 2019 and an application has been made to SCC for a further seven year extension to 2026. This has been supported by our County Councillor, Clare Curran.

Contact our volunteer Booking Manager (Ellen Thomas): 01372458019 or email:

Ellen-Thomas@hotmail.co.uk & cc bookhamyouth@o2.co.uk

If you feel that you would like to give a bit of time to help us continue this asset for our community, contact David on: 07825 354763

SPACE

Su Brailey

Since South Bookham SPACE first opened its doors, over five years ago, it has gone from strength to strength, becoming a flourishing community centre offering an extensive range of indoor and outdoor activities for all ages from the local area.

With a wide range of activity groups and sports clubs using both the inside SPACE and Outer SPACE the venue attracts

over 400 local people to the facilities each week. And this is not including all the children's parties that take place there at the weekend! It has truly become a valued part of the community.

Due to the success, there is a genuine need to expand and South Bookham SPACE have now developed plans to construct a first floor extension in order to provide a new social meeting SPACE large enough to accommodate meetings, classes, parties and other events with adjoining kitchen facilities and a balcony overlooking the centre's Outer SPACE multi use games area. There will also be a covered area for parents watching their children using Outer SPACE. The existing committee room will then be converted into additional storage space for the centre's own equipment and regular users' equipment as existing storage facilities are not currently adequate.

The expansion will enable SPACE to cater for even more people, and we hope to gain some new regular users as a result.

We are delighted that the project has received wide scale support from both regular users and the local community, including MVDC councillors and Bookhams Residents' Association.

Bookham Tennis Club currently use the Outside SPACE at the centre and have agreed to partner South Bookham SPACE in this project, intending to invest in this shared facility instead of developing plans for a separate clubhouse.

A friendly local tennis club run by volunteers, they offer sociable and competitive tennis facilities including coaching with what are thought to be the lowest membership fees in the district. The courts can also be booked by the general public. They will also be taking the lead in organising local fundraising events to help meet the project cost. Watch this SPACE!

To find details on how to book SPACE for a party and all the regular activities taking place please visit:

www.southbookhamSPACE.org.uk

or email:

info@southbookhamSPACE.org.uk

INFRASTRUCTURE

THINK OF A NUMBER!

John Howarth

BRA Company Secretary

The number in question is the number of homes to be built in Mole Valley over the next fifteen or so years and which was the subject of a consultation recently undertaken by Mole Valley District Council and to which you may have responded. The number was 5,900. At the time of writing the results of this consultation have yet to be published. The number of homes in Mole Valley at the moment is around 37,500 and the population is about 86,000.

However – and it is a big “however” – central government have come up with a formula to calculate such a number. The following link provides details: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-right-homes-in-the-right-places-consultation-proposals>.

In this link numbers are given for all local authorities in England and the calculated number for Mole Valley is higher than the one mentioned in the above consultation. The debate – with more public consultations no doubt – will continue.

The BRA responded in very broad general terms to the Mole Valley Consultation.

In respect of “brownfield” development comments were:

“Focus should be on the two main centres of Dorking and Leatherhead, but even here efforts must be made to ensure adequate infrastructure is in place – e.g. utilities, roads, public transport, parking, schools, health-care facilities.

Although some expansion could be made in rural villages, with the same considerations given to infrastructure issues, they should not be over expanded to the extent that their individual village characteristics are lost.”

In respect of “greenfield”:

“A New Settlement in the south of Mole Valley would allow the provision of state-of-the-art infrastructure and transport links, with improvements to both the east-west Gatwick - Guildford rail link and the north-south Dorking – Horsham rail link: i.e. longer, faster trains and more frequent services.

In addition to this improvements to the A24 and A25 roads would allow new residents to work in the Guildford, Crawley and Gatwick areas.

These improvements would suggest a development in the Gatwick area.

However, as far as possible, Green Belt must be retained.”

We had serious concerns about infrastructure and added the following comment:

“The biggest concern, mentioned in both responses above, is the funding for – and provision of – adequate infrastructure. An increase in population of the numbers suggested in this plan will require better roads, additional parking, improved public transport services, more education provision (including further education), and additional & improved healthcare.

It is essential that these issues are not overlooked and that the organisations responsible for providing infrastructure services are fully involved in the development and implementation of the plan.”

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

NICK GRAY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF MVDC

John Howarth

BRA Company Secretary

At the Annual General Meeting last May the guest speaker – Nick Gray, Deputy Chief Executive of the District Council, gave a presentation on the different responsibilities of the two Local Authorities – Mole Valley District Council and Surrey County Council – and then went on to describe how the changes in funding for Local Government had changed in the past ten years.

He clarified that the District Council is responsible for Housing, Local Planning and Development Management, Building Control, Environmental

Health, Parks, Tax Collection and Welfare Benefits, Leisure, and Waste Facilities.

The County Council on the other hand covers Social Care, Education, Youth Services, Highways & Transport, Fire & Rescue, Libraries, Trading Standards, and Waste Disposal.

The really significant changes had been (a) the reduction in Government funding from £4m to £2.7m and (b) reduction in interest earned because of the very low interest rates over the ten year period.

A decade ago Government Funding and interest earned accounted for about 30% of the Council’s income, in this year it would be about 12.5% and in two years’ time he anticipated that it would further reduce to about 5%. Any increases in interest rates might mitigate things a little.

These reductions have been addressed by increases in Council Tax (about 2% per annum) and by increasing commercially generated income – this latter item being up by £3.3m (up by 34% from £9.7m to £13.0m over the ten years.) He judged that commercial income would increase by about £1m over the next two years.

Finally Mr Gray commented on revenue generated by Business rates. Businesses in Mole Valley pay about £45m in this way, but Mole Valley only receives about 20% of this, i.e. £8.9m. Of this £7.5m goes to Surrey County Council and only £1.4m to Mole Valley District Council itself. Figures provided by government suggest that this latter figure will reduce to £0.6m in two to three years’ time.

Finally he presented the following table to illustrate the numbers:

	Before austerity: 2008/9	Now: 2017/18	Two Years’ Ahead: 2019/20
Gross Spending	£22.4m	£22.4m	£22.1m
Funding:			
Council Tax	£5.9m	£6.6m	£7.1m
Government Grants/Rates	£4.0m	£2.7m	£0.9m
Interest earned	£2.8m	£0.1m	£0.1m
Commercial/Service income	£9.7m	£13.0m	£14.0m
	£22.4m	£22.4m	£22.1m

INFRASTRUCTURE

DRAINAGE

Michael Agius

Despite the fact that it has been a generally dry year and drainage around the village has not been too much of a problem, BRA continues to try and resolve the villages' many historical drainage problems through the Bookham Flood Forum, along with SCC Highways (SCC), Thames Water (TW) and the Bookham Flood Action Group.

In Little Bookham Street TW completed relaying the blocked 150mm surface water drain between Childs Hall Road and Bennett Farm Place which had been started earlier in the year. As the road narrows considerably at that point, this necessitated closing a short section of the road for just over a week and operating traffic diversions. The collapsed and blocked lengths of drain previously identified by TW south of this section up to Lower Road have still not been carried out and pressure will be put on TW through the Flood Forum to urgently programme the remaining work. As mentioned in the Roads Report, all these drainage problems need to be resolved before re-surfacing of LBS can take place under Project Horizon.

At the Lower Road between East Street and the Squareabout, SCC Highways have carried out jetting of the newly found drain alongside the church wall but have still not completed further investigations and unblocking/relaying of the gully connections under the road which have been discussed in great detail in recent issues of the Newsletter. The fact that problems in the area have yet to be finally resolved is disappointing and BRA will continue to put pressure on SCC to complete the work through the Flood Forum.

Proposals for drainage improvements at the Dorking Road junction with the Polesden Lacey access road have been finalised and as long as funds are not used elsewhere in an emergency, work has been programmed for early 2018 at the request of the National Trust when the access road is not so busy.



Drainage works in progress in Sole Farm Avenue

One area where progress has been made during the summer is on the line of the ditch between the Lower Road Recreational Ground and Little Bookham Common, where it ran into an under capacity culvert at three houses in Sole Farm Avenue, the cause of frequent flooding. Here one of the house owners arranged and paid for the under capacity

300mm culvert to be replaced by a 450mm pipe, with the financial help of two residents in Little Bookham Street who were constantly affected by flooding. The enlarged pipe more than doubled the capacity of the culvert.

Other areas still under consideration but affected by lack of funding are:

- the central area of Bookham from the High Street/East Street to The Park/ Mill Close, where a study is proposed,

These are just a few of the many areas under investigation. If anyone knows of areas that are subject to flooding as a result of drainage blockages, please email Michael Agius: meagius@gmail.com

INFRASTRUCTURE

subject to finding funding.

- the footpath from Greenacres to The Park where the outfall is blocked and has no adequate outfall.
- Kennel Lane/The Glade where there are root blockages in the main outfall to Fetcham.

ROADS

Michael Agius

As previously reported, Surrey County Council (SCC) has developed a programme of major road repairs called Project Horizon. Unfortunately, as a result of funding cuts, this programme is slipping and the resurfacing of Eastwick Drive is not now included in the 2017/2018 programme.

The resurfacing of other roads in the programme i.e. Crabtree Lane, Little Bookham Street, Meadow Way/The Copse (Eastwick Drive to The Copse), Willow Vale (The Copse to the end) will also be delayed. It should be noted that Little Bookham Street will require considerable investigation and resolution of drainage problems over most of its length, before resurfacing can be carried out. Details are given in the drainage report.

Under ITS funding design will be carried out this year of schemes to provide kerb build outs and crossing ramps at the entrances to the Eastwick Schools on Eastwick Drive and Eastwick Park Avenue, in order to control parking and make safer crossing points.

The BRA continue to be in discussions with SCC for the need for improvements to Rectory Lane, to provide a footway on the east side of the road from The Grange south to the A246 and widening of the carriageway to a consistent width but implementation is dependent on land being acquired from the fields east of the road as well as a fairly large amount of funding becoming available for construction. In the meantime Gracewell, who own the new care home on the old Preston Cross Hotel site, have constructed a new west side footway north from The Grange to Lower Road at BRA's suggestion, as shown in the photo.

As a general safety measure SCC Highways have repainted the road markings at The Squareabout at BRA's request. These had become somewhat faded. This resulted in certain drivers not realising that all approaches to the junction are subject to Give Way

restrictions.

As reported in the last Newsletter, after many years of lobbying by BRA, in conjunction with Effingham Parish Council (EPC), SCC had at long last imposed parking restrictions, with the requisite double yellow lines, on Lower Road at the bends between The Vineries and The Howard of Effingham School.

Whilst this improved visibility around the bends, it was still somewhat impaired by tall vegetation in the verge on the inside of the bends. Following further lobbying by BRA, EPC eventually received SCC approval to remove the vegetation. The dramatically improved visibility around the bend is shown on the photo.

If you have any highways problems near you, the best way to report it is to go to www.surreycc.gov.uk and "Report It", or phone 0300 200 1003.

Please also email Michael Agius on meagius@gmail.com so that he can keep a record of the problems.



Vegetation has now been removed on Lower Road improving sight lines.



New footway on Rectory Lane at the Gracewell Care Home

BOOKHAMS QUESTION TIME!

THURSDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2017

OLD BARN HALL, CHURCH ROAD

7.30 PM

**Come along and meet your Bookham
councillors and ask them questions
on local issues.**

Cllr Lucy Botting

- ◆ BOOKHAM NORTH

Cllr Clare Curran

- ◆ SURREY CC BOOKHAM & FETCHAM WEST

Cllr John Chandler

- ◆ BOOKHAM SOUTH

Cllr Simon Edge

- ◆ BOOKHAM SOUTH

Cllr Metin Huseyin

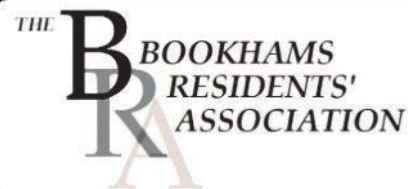
- ◆ BOOKHAM NORTH

Cllr Paul Newman

- ◆ BOOKHAM NORTH

Cllr Jatin Patel

- ◆ BOOKHAM SOUTH



ABOUT THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Bookhams Residents' Association (BRA) was established in 1926 and aims to represent the views of all who live in Great and Little Bookham on important local issues to the local authorities and other public bodies and is independent of all political parties.

The BRA has a membership of 3,000 households which represents 7,000 residents i.e. approximately 60% of Bookham's population. By having a strong membership embracing the whole of Bookham the BRA can ensure that members views will be respected, noted and acted upon by the local authorities and others.

BRA Membership is £3.00 per annum per household

The BRA Newsletter is published twice a year in the Spring and Autumn. In addition to the print edition the BRA website is updated regularly as and when new stories affecting the Bookhams become available and we also have a social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor.

On the web site you can also register to receive occasional emails on BRA activities and village stories throughout the year.

There are also number of regularly updated Notice Boards around the village.

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

If you prefer to speak to the BRA team please call 0300 030 9890 and leave a message and a team member will get back to you.