

**Spring 2019**

24 hour telephone line: 0300 030 9890

[www.bookhamresidents.org.uk](http://www.bookhamresidents.org.uk)

## **PAYMENT OF 2019 SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Members will be familiar with their BRA subscriptions being collected by their Road Steward each year. This has been a long established method of paying subscriptions and Road Stewards will continue to be part of our collections and Newsletter delivery service.

However, we are finding that when your Road Steward calls, members are either not at home or these days have very little ready cash. So in addition to paying your Road Steward, you can now pay your subscription on line at the BRA web site:

[www.bookhamresidents.org.uk](http://www.bookhamresidents.org.uk)

You can also pay at the AGM and we will have drop in sessions at Kim's Café in Bookham High Street. (See page 12 for dates)

The current annual subscription is £3.00 but due to increasing running costs the annual subscription will be increasing to £5.00 in 2020. If you can pay £5.00 for the 2019 subscription year it will help us with our expenses this year.

**Why do I need to pay an annual subscription to the BRA?**

*(Continued on page 2)*

## **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

**Peter Seaward**

Winter is leaving slowly but by the time this Newsletter is delivered Spring will be with us and new challenges present themselves.

BRA Committee member Stan Miles who died recently, was not only a stalwart of the BRA but also many other community organisations too. We miss him. You can read more about Stan on page two.

The most important local issue affecting us here in Bookham and Mole Valley is the forthcoming Local Plan. The Council must ensure that nearly 7000 new dwellings will have to be built across Mole Valley over the next 15 years. Up until now the numbers needed in Mole Valley were around 180 dwellings per annum. This is increasing to 400 plus each year. This is a Government decision and should MVDC decide that they cannot or will not see that this happens then Government will take their Planning authority away and find other external bodies to see this happens.

Mole Valley plan to build some of these new dwellings within the existing settlements but over 2000 dwellings will have to go on green field sites. In our discussions with MVDC we have said that we understand the problem and realise along with all other parts of Mole Valley that we may have to take a share of the solution to this problem.

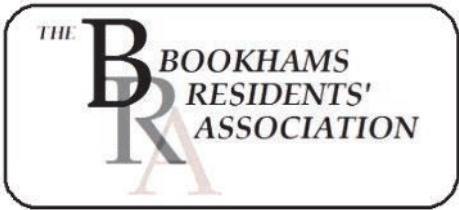
The manner in which MVDC are approaching the green field issue is to examine a selected number of sites that meet specific criteria and we are aware that at least

*(Continued on page 2)*

## **DIARY DATE: BRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**21st May 2019: Old Barn Hall, Church Road at 7.30 PM.**

**See page three for the evening's agenda. After the AGM there will be a panel discussion on the MVDC Local Plan 2018—2033. (See page 11 for the implications for Bookham)**



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](mailto: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](http://www.bookhamresidents.org.uk)

On the web site you can sign up for our occasional e-mail service and pay your annual subscription.

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 on our own page and other Bookham interest groups.

*(Chairman's Message: continued from page 1)*

three large areas in Bookham may be considered.

We have expressed strongly our concerns that the infrastructure problems associated with these new sites, should one or more be selected, are extremely serious and have sought reassurances that the infrastructure problems are addressed before any planning permissions are granted.

We plan to major on this topic at our AGM in May so please do come and join the debate. We all need to ensure that our Councillors understand our concerns and act on behalf of the whole village. The final decisions will probably be taken in the autumn and will be our Councillors responsibility.

Contents	Page
Stan Miles Obituary	2
BRA AGM	3
A Car Share Club For Bookham?	4
479 Bus Service: Now Back In Operation	5
The Grange	6
Trees, Verges and Green Spaces	6
Great British Spring Clean	7
Friends of Bookham Common	7
Resident Engagement in Bookham	8
Great & Little Bookham Postcode Petition	8
New Boundary Signs for Great & Little Bookham	8
Bookham Youth & Community Centre	9
South Bookham SPACE	9
Roads	10
Drainage	10
MVDC Local Plan (2018—2033): Implications for Bookham	11
Payment of 2019 subscriptions	12

*(Payment of 2019 Subscriptions continued from page 1)*

In 2017 Residents formally voted not to have a Parish Council for Bookham.

Residents have been providing services for the village under the umbrella of the BRA on a voluntary basis. (The BRA does not have any paid employees.)

However, as always, there are expenses to be funded by your subscriptions. For example the BRA provides:

- hanging baskets in the High Street and Church Road
- the popular Christmas lights in the High Street
- supporting the work of the voluntary Tree Wardens
- equipment for the monthly litter pick
- hosting Public Meetings affecting Bookham residents
- twice yearly newsletter
- web site and email service
- lobbying for infrastructure improvements

- operational costs including Public Liability insurance (which has increased this year at the behest of Surrey County Council).

**An awful lot for the price of a cup of coffee or two so we may all enjoy our village!**

## STAN MILES

### Peter Seaward

It was very sad to hear that Stan Miles died over the weekend of 9th of March. I was fortunate to have known Stan during my many years as BRA Chairman but Stan had been a stalwart of the BRA long before I arrived.

Stan lived many many years in Bookham raising his family and all the time giving almost unlimited time to many organisations in the village where his persistence, skills and wise words were always influential. These included the BRA, Bookham Scouts, both primary and secondary schools, as well as the Bookham Community Association. A village polymath.

I knew him best for his work on the BRA Planning Committee and over the past few years as its Chairman. A difficult job and an unsung hero's task. He did this with patience, good sense and always with an eye on the need to respect and work with the complex formal planning processes.

He provided much knowledge to the Neighbourhood Development Plan on the steering committee.

I can only record a small part of his life and service to Bookham. Most of all though I will miss him as a friend, a mentor and a calm guiding voice in troubled times. Rest in peace you wonderful and irreplaceable man.



*Stan Miles 1931 –2019*

## COMMUNITY

# BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM

**To: All Members**

**This is the formal notice of the Annual General Meeting to be held at the Old Barn Hall, Church Road, Bookham on Tuesday 21st May 2019 at 7.30pm.**

**John Howarth  
Company Secretary**

## AGENDA

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday May 17<sup>th</sup> 2018
  - 2.1 Accuracy
  - 2.1 Matters Arising
3. Chairman's Report: Report on the activities of the Association during 2018
4. Treasurer's Report: To receive the Accounts for the Financial Year ending December 2018
5. Election of Directors
  - 5.1 To note any resignations from the Board
  - 5.2 To re-elect Peter Seaward and David Smith who retire by rotation under Article 55 and who offer themselves for re-election
  - 5.3 To elect new Directors
6. Election of Officers of the Company
  - 6.1 Election of Chairman
  - 6.2 Election of Vice Chairman
  - 6.3 Election of Treasurer
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2019
8. Determination of Membership Subscription for 2020
9. Any Other Business
10. Panel Discussion: Local Plan – Why more houses in Bookham?

If you would like to nominate a Director for the Board of Directors please advise me no later than 12th May 2019 in writing to the Registered Office address or by email to: [qvldhow@tecrecres.net](mailto:qvldhow@tecrecres.net)

If you are unable to attend the meeting and you would like to appoint a proxy to vote at the meeting please advise me no later than 12th May 2019.

If you would like to present Motions for Discussion please advise Andrew Freeman (Administration Director) no later than 12th May 2019 at Hylands, Crabtree Close, Bookham, KT23 4PQ or by email to: [admin@bookhamresidents.org.uk](mailto:admin@bookhamresidents.org.uk)

Those attending who are not members may join at the door. Please note that there will be wine and soft drinks available after the Panel Discussion.

## TRANSPORT

### A CAR SHARE CLUB FOR BOOKHAM?

#### NOVEMBER 2018 SURVEY RESULTS

##### Les Huett — BRA Publicity

Late last year a survey was published as a joint initiative by the BRA and Transition Bookham to determine if a Car Share Club would be of interest to residents.

##### What are the benefits?

###### Convenient car use

The convenience of a car without the hassle of owning one - no more servicing, insurance, parking, MOT or repairs.

###### Self-service

Cars are accessible to members at all hours and typically would be used for local journeys for several hours at a time. Bookings would be made through a mobile phone app or web site with the vehicle being centrally located in Bookham. (Note: this isn't a ride sharing idea).

###### Saves you money

According to Carplus, joining a car club could save you £3,500 per year compared to owning a car (if you currently drive fewer than 6,000 miles per year).

###### Protect the Environment

Car club vehicles are energy efficient and cleaner than the average car. They also reduce the need to own a car and discourage unnecessary car travel.

###### Survey

To gauge interest a short on line survey was conducted with the following questions:

- Would you be interested in a Car Club for Bookham?
- If you did join a Car Club, how often do think you may use the service?
- Do you have any comments either for or against this idea?

Twenty eight residents responded to the survey which is fewer than we would have liked, however the results are interesting nevertheless.

#### Q1: Would you be interested in a Car Share Club for Bookham?

Answer choices	Responses	Number of responses
Very interested	25%	7
Somewhat interested	46.43%	13
Not so interested	17.86%	5
Not at all interested	10.71%	3
Total	100%	28

#### Q2: If you did join a Car Share Club, how often do think you may use the service?

Answer choices	Responses	Number of responses
Two or three times a week	14.29%	4
Once or twice a month	25%	7
Occasionally throughout the year	38.29%	11
Wouldn't use it. I prefer to use my own transport and/or public transport	21.43%	6
Total	100%	28

#### Q3: Do you have any comments either for or against this idea? (18 responses)

- Interested in saving money and hassle, but not sure a car could be available whenever I wanted it, or it would be a vehicle I would be happy to drive.
- Would be nice to use for emergencies, if your car broke down or was in a garage being fixed.
- It certainly seems superficially a good idea. How would collection/delivery of a car be arranged? In addition to hourly/daily use, would it allow keeping a car for several days to enable journeys to distant relatives or friends, and would it be cheaper than hiring a car in the normal way.
- Would there be a limit on how frequently you could use the car?
- Interested to know more - cost, number of cars available and ultimately the likelihood of being able to give up own car in favour of the scheme.
- I am not sure how it is costed - I usually use public transport and would continue to do so for many journeys as parking is so difficult and expensive around here.
- This would be a brilliant facility for Bookham. We recently went down from two cars to one in order to be greener, but would find the option of a car club a great way to manage when we both need access to a car.
- How would the car get to my house? If I need to pick it up somewhere I would be less interested. Here's an idea for promoting the scheme: target 2nd cars. Do you really need 2 cars? Replace one by the car scheme saving you lots of money,

## TRANSPORT

hassle of insurance, mot and servicing and of course no longer blocking your drive or parking space in the road

- Having to walk to central Bookham which is at least one mile for me, and one mile home afterwards, makes it less attractive, as I am sure it would be parked in the central village car park. Would there be restrictions on use and distance; for instance, would there be a maximum mileage per hire? Also, would un-made-up roads be banned?
- All depends where the car(s) are located
- I suspect the majority of drivers who only make local trips are stay at home parents (school run, shopping, meeting other parents) which would be a good idea. Or the more mature driver who is less tech savvy.
- I suppose I would use more or less depending on price and where it was... We are a family of two adults and two children under 7 and if my partner had the car and I needed one this option would be appealing but as I would need to get two car seats in I wouldn't be able to carry them too far...
- Think it's a great idea on every level - environment, personal cost etc.
- More probably daily. Also I haven't driven a manual car for over 30 years so would need an automatic, preferably electric vehicle.
- Obviously depends on costs and availability at short notice.
- Already own a car but would be useful for the occasional times when we need 2 cars (e.g. separate commitments for us/children).
- It is hard to answer this survey as there isn't any information about how it would work.
- Worth exploring

### CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

This is a small sample size but the general consensus is that a Car Club could be a useful facility to have in the village.(71%)

Most respondents would see this as a service they would use to supplement rather than as a replacement for their current transport arrangements. (64%). As would be expected at this stage of the investigation respondents would like to understand the operation of the service.

As you will have seen in the article on the MVDC Local Plan which will increase the number of residents in Bookham and the strains on our infrastructure, ideas like this can be part of a cohesive plan to optimise resources.

**Next steps: BRA Public Transport portfolio owner and Transition Bookham to liaise with Bookham Councillors and MVDC/SCC to determine if a Car Club would a service that could be provided to Bookham residents.**

**If you are interested in taking this further and would like to join the team, please contact us via the BRA website.**

### 479 BUS SERVICE: NOW BACK IN OPERATION

**Keith Francis**

Unexpectedly on the 11th March 2019 at 10:00 Buses Excetera ceased to operate leaving Surrey County Council, to find a replacement bus operator for the afternoon school runs.

Since the 16th March 2019 Arriva Kent & Surrey took on the 479 Guildford via Leatherhead to Epsom bus service. This is only a temporary arrangement until August when the permanent bus provider will be chosen. The good news is that all the service times are unchanged. But, the bad news is that fares have increased.

However, arrangements have been made for Disabled Bus Pass users travelling before 09:30. From the 1st April 2019 disabled users will pay £1 per journey on Arriva Kent & Surrey; on Safeguard £1.20 per journey; and on Stagecoach pay a half-fare.

There have been some problems with late arriving buses but by the time you read this everything should have bedded in with bus passengers appreciating the comfortable clean Arriva "Blue" buses.

Passenger numbers have increased and could all those many Bookham residents who still drive to the Merrow Park-and-Ride please try our bus service which takes you all the way into Guildford without having to stop and change vehicles.

The 479 Monday to Saturday bus service is commercially run and apart from in the interim it is unsupported by Surrey County Council.

The old adage of "Use it or Lose It" still applies and there are a number of residents not only in Bookham but also Effingham, East Horsley, West Horsley and East Clandon who do not have their own transport so they are totally reliant on the buses to get them away from the house, go shopping and to socialise.

The Sunday service operated by Stagecoach is unchanged.

## COMMUNITY



### Marion Chow

We were delighted with the sellout 80th Anniversary Christmas Concert at The Menuhin Hall at the beginning of December which was terrific and everyone had a very enjoyable evening. We were sad to say a fond farewell to our Musical Director Ian Assersohn and our pianist, his wife, Jan Assersohn, who are standing down after leading 9 concerts for The Grange. Our grateful thanks go to them both for their professionalism, patience and sense of humour!

We have kick started the New Year with a lovely surprise—we were over the moon to receive a donation of £14,000 from Reigate Hill Golf Club who had been fundraising in aid of The Grange for over a year. We were overjoyed to receive such a huge donation which will make a big difference to our work. Huge thanks to the Lady and Men's Captains, Tess and Russell for choosing us and to all the golfers for such a successful year of fundraising.

In January we were delighted to welcome the bridge columnist for The Times, Andrew Robson OBE, who hosted our annual Bridge Masterclass, which raised over £4000 and was enjoyed by almost 100 players. This is such a popular event that tables sell a year in advance!

We have some lovely events coming up including; a Fashion Show on 2nd May, The Grange has Got Talent on 7th June and we are the chosen charity for The Dorking Colour 5K on 8th June.

**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](mailto:marion.chow@grangecentre.org.uk)

[www.grangecentre.org.uk](http://www.grangecentre.org.uk)

## ENVIRONMENT

### TREES, VERGES AND GREEN SPACES

#### Frances Fancourt

With staff changes at Surrey County Council, the process we have been following for the past years has changed. The council is working through the list of tree works I prepared and where they agree, has started undertaking the work themselves. If you have any works which you feel are needed to verges or verge trees, please log the work on this website: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/report-a-highway-problem> or call the Contact Centre on 0300 200 1003. Tree planting will also take a different course, and we have therefore not planted any verge trees this year. We will continue to plant as much as we are able although higher costs will be a constraint. We did however plant 18 trees along the Church

Road section of Bookham Common, and we have over 150 growing young trees to enjoy – the fruits of our labour over the past 8 years.

The green areas around the High Street and Lower Shott will soon be refurbished following an application we made to Mole Valley District Council. We will replant and neaten areas which have become bare and untidy.

#### Bookham Youth Centre

Later this year the Bookham Youth Centre will be closing but fortunately the Tree Warden team have been able to rescue some of the shrubs and plants and relocated them to the area outside of the library which had become almost devoid of plants as people walked through.

Here's "before" and "after" photos of the work the Tree Wardens have completed.

Excellent!



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

## ENVIRONMENT

### GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

Margaret Lawson

Bookham's contribution to the Great British Spring Clean took place on Sunday 7th April.

We were delighted that 26 folk came to help, including 2 children. We collected 25 bags of rubbish, 1 bag of branches and twigs, one broken crutch and 1 bicycle tyre. We also found a dead fox in a hedge.

There were many cans and plastic bottles amongst the material collected. It is very disappointing that Mole Valey District Council is unable to accept these items for recycling if they are collected on a litter pick.



## Friends of Bookham Commons

Robert Hall

On Wednesday 27th March we held our annual Spring Buffet. This was attended by a record 175 people; the maximum we could accommodate.

Following the AGM a lovely hot buffet, provided by Home Cooking by Elizabeth, was enjoyed by all.

The evening's talks were, firstly, Stephanie Fudge, General Manager, National Trust, Surrey Hills, who gave us a fascinating insight into her history and the current operations of Surrey Hills. Then Ian Swinney covered his "40 Years as the Lone Ranger" with an enjoyable history of his tenure. A couple of presentations were made to him (a special 'Lone Ranger' Polo shirt and a cake) at the end to show our appreciation of his efforts over many years.

Without his careful management and an eye on the future our lovely Commons would not be the place it is now for us to enjoy and the wildlife to thrive.



For more information about the Friends of Bookham Commons either pick up a leaflet on National Trust notice boards at the entrances to the Commons [info@bookhamcommons.org.uk](mailto:info@bookhamcommons.org.uk) [www.bookhamcommons.org.uk](http://www.bookhamcommons.org.uk)

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



If you would like to join the BRA Litter Pick keeping Bookham clean and tidy, meet in the first Sunday of the month at Lower Shott car park at 11.00 am.

Gloves, grabs and his-tops are provided. A session usually lasts around 90 mins.

## COMMUNITY

### RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT IN BOOKHAM

#### Hannah Causebrook

I have grown up in Bookham and have always felt privileged to be part of a community so involved and invested in its village. Every year I look forward to Village Day in the summer, Remembrance Sunday and Late Night Shopping in the winter. In ten years time, will I be able to take my own children shopping on the High Street?

This question inspired my choice of an A-level geography project at the Howard of Effingham School looking at the residents' level of engagement in the village. The first piece of encouragement was the response to my survey. Within two days, I had 280 participants from the "I Live In Bookham" Facebook group, and all the shops I approached were very willing to be involved. This gave me a clue into how much the community loves Bookham, and how keen they were to contribute.

My investigation highlighted the importance of supporting our local independent shops, some of which have been passed down through generations. It has become more difficult for them, with the majority of people using online stores and supermarkets, including the local Coop, because they are more convenient and cheaper. If this move away from using village shops continues, we are at risk of losing the variety of shops that makes Bookham the attractive and vibrant village it is.

The survey also evidenced the popularity of Village Day, with 87% of my respondents having attended at least once and many going every year. I remember loving being a part of the parade in my time, which continues to be a favourite part of the day for many children and their families. The wide range of activities and attractions on the day raise awareness and funds which support other aspects of village life throughout the year.

I am excited for many more years enjoying this vibrant community.

### NEW BOUNDARY SIGNS FOR GREAT AND LITTLE BOOKHAM

A BRA initiative has been to identify the boundary between Great Bookham and Little Bookham. Instigated by Little Bookham resident Grant Woodham, Grant liaised with Surrey County Council to ensure that the new signs complied with Highways requirements and then arranged for their manufacture. Once the boundary was correctly identified a local contractor was employed for the installation. You will see the signs on the Lower Road and Little Bookham Street when crossing the boundary.

A big "Thank You" to Grant for his efforts in coordinating this project.



*Great Bookham and Little Bookham boundary on Lower Road*



*Little Bookham and Great Bookham boundary on Little Bookham Street*



### GREAT & LITTLE BOOKHAM POSTCODE PETITION

#### Grant Woodham

The petition to MVDC, asking them to allow Royal Mail to consult with residents of KT23 regarding adding "Great" or "Little" to the relevant postal addresses, was approved at a council meeting on 26th March. This means the criteria for Royal Mail to go ahead with its consultation has now been met: support from the local council, MP and Chamber

of Commerce.

Royal Mail will shortly conduct a month long consultation with residents in the villages, explaining the additions proposed, and as long as there are no more than 20% objections received, then the changes will take place. There have been approximately 700 addresses in Little Bookham, and 4400 in Great Bookham identified. It has taken three years to get to this stage, so please take the time to support the proposals when you do receive contact from Royal Mail.



## LEISURE

### BOOKHAM YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE: CLOSING 24TH JULY 2019

David Cox OBE

#### Chair of Trustees—Bookham Youth & Community Association.

After 50 years of being the centre for youth work and activities the "Youth Club" is being closed down on 24th July 2019 and then handed back to Surrey County Council (SCC).

It has served many generations and so many remember it with great fondness from the days when they were youngsters.

Although well maintained and used to capacity, SCC decided that in terms of being able to continue providing a lease, the building condition had reached the stage where a lease can no longer be provided.

Working with the Bookham Youth Project and Cllr Curran, we have emphasised the need for a Youth orientated facility to serve our increasing population. The Youth nights are packed and critical youth orientated social work is undertaken.

It will be terrible to watch an empty building decaying whilst our young people have nowhere to go with no certain replacement on the horizon. The only organisation responsible for this will be Surrey County Council.

#### A Replacement?

Being aware of the potential need in the future, the Trustees started discussion on 14th December 2010 with SCC officers which resulted in a meeting on 29th May 2012 the Leader of the Council, other councillors, including Cllr Curran, and Senior officers.

We were advised that the provision of a replacement facility would be given urgent attention. Since then matters have gone round in circles with lots of different Officers & Council Members becoming involved and then moving on. This has taken up vast amounts of volunteer time and a source of frustration.

The last meeting with SCC was on 31st October 2018, since when there have been further personnel changes. We were advised on 14th March, by the Member now responsible, as follows:

"The Bookham Youth Centre is a scheme of great importance to the new Leader Cllr Tim Oliver a previous cabinet member for property and obviously to Cllr Clare Curran, who are both involved in the discussions regarding the urgency on the delivery of this site

We have a new team and an experienced development manager plus myself now in place to take this forward with the necessary pace it deserves."

It is important that pressure is kept on SCC so the project does not either slip or be shelved.

### SOUTH BOOKHAM SPACE

#### BUILDING TO START ON "SOCIAL SPACE"

Terry Gluck

**Phase One** of the extension to SPACE starts April with foundation columns and support steels for this first floor facility.

**Phase Two** which is for the actual construction needs further funds for the balance, so everyone's support is desperately needed to raise these funds.

The new Social SPACE will take up to 25 people, with its own kitchen facilities, plus balcony overlooking Outer SPACE multi-use games area and Bookham Tennis Club courts

In place already is the Quiz night on 1st May, and later the main fund raiser - the fantastic Summer Carnival Ball on 8th June, both drawing on their success of last year.

So confident are the hard working volunteers of the SPACE committee that their enthusiastic supporters will succeed

again, that plans are that Phase Two will begin in July and be completed by September!

The vital need for this extra SPACE is critical since the announcement that Lower Road Youth and Community Centre is to close in August, so details of above events are below:

Join the fun and help raise the funds needed to expand facilities at South Bookham SPACE!

#### 18th May 2019: Quiz Night at SPACE:

For details contact Lorna Lock: [lornalock61@gmail.com](mailto:lornalock61@gmail.com)

#### 8th June 2019: Summer Ball at Bookham Old Barn Hall:

For details contact Chris Browning: [chris.browning.uk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chris.browning.uk@hotmail.co.uk)

And we have opened a Just Giving account, enabling donators to claim Gift Aid.

To donate *please* visit: [www.justgiving.com/southbookhamspaceltd](http://www.justgiving.com/southbookhamspaceltd)

For information on all that's going on at South Bookham SPACE

[www.southbookhamspace.org.uk](http://www.southbookhamspace.org.uk)



Revellers at last years SPACE Carnival Ball

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### ROADS

#### Michael Agius

Good news for Bookham is that Surrey County Council have recently reviewed their Project Horizon priorities for major road works and reinstated the reconstruction/resurfacing of Eastwick Drive in the programme. However Crabtree Lane, Little Bookham Street, Meadow Way/The Copse (Eastwick Drive to The Copse) and Willow Vale (The Copse to the end) which used to be in the programme are still not listed, although as mentioned in the last Newsletter Little Bookham Street was surface dressed last year as a stopgap measure.

Under the programme of capital Integrated Transport Schemes (ITS), kerb build outs and crossing ramps have been constructed at the entrance to the Eastwick Schools on Eastwick Drive, in order to control parking and make safer crossing points. A photo of the improvements is shown here. In addition, feasibility design work has been carried out on possible pedestrian improvements on Eastwick Park Avenue outside the entrance to the school. However remaining developer funding is insufficient to carry out these works and discussions are ongoing regarding other less costly improvements.



narrow stretch of road has a blind bend and no footway. Part of the signing improvements would be to advise of its unsuitability for HGVs.

#### Rectory Lane

As previously reported, the BRA will continue to press SCC for the need to improve 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. However 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. Funding is only likely to become available from Developer Contributions, should a major development be forthcoming in the immediate locality.

#### Lower Road / Rectory Lane Junction

Following pressure from the BRA and The Grange, a scheme was included under the ITS schemes, to assess what pedestrian improvements would be possible at the junction of Lower Road with Rectory Lane and Little Bookham Street. Work is now complete on the Feasibility Design for this scheme which consists of providing a raised table on Lower Road, on the western arm of this junction, This will have an informal crossing facility on it, similar to the existing facility on the eastern arm of this junction. Consultation on this proposal is to be carried out shortly. £30,000 has been allocated for work to be carried out in this Financial Year.

Following the erection of an "Unsuitable for HGV" sign on the A246 at the top of East Street some time ago, SCC have now budgeted funds for a similar sign to be erected on Lower Road at the bottom of East Street.

BRA has approached SCC to consider signing improvements and parking restrictions in Eastwick Road between Keswick Road and Lower Road. This

### DRAINAGE

#### Michael Agius

The BRA continues to try and resolve the villages' many historical drainage problems through the Bookham Flood Forum (BFF), along with SCC Highways (SCC), Thames Water (TW), Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) and the Bookham Flood Action Group (BFAG). The last BFF meeting was held on 4th February 2019.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, following discussions at the BFF in June and the submission of a Petition to SCC, spearheaded by the BRA, in July, SCC's Strategic Network Resilience (SNR) Team allocated funds to complete the survey of the existing drainage assets in Lower Road between East Street and The Squareabout which is subject to flooding every time it rains. The investigation was carried out in January and February this year and comprised a CCTV survey, jetting and ground penetration radar in order to allow SCC to map the assets in the area and identify any feasible options going forward. The work was carried out in partnership with TW to ensure information on the condition of their drainage assets was also captured. We are currently awaiting the results of the investigations and potential options. Any options identified are likely to require contributory funding from the Community and other agencies, which will be reported through the BFF.

Drainage improvements at the Dorking Road junction with the Polesden Lacey access road and Chapel Lane were carried out in January this year. New kerbs were placed from the Polesden Lacey access road around to Dorking Road where two large capacity gullies were installed in a set back bay. These will have far greater storage capacity than normal gullies and should considerably reduce the volume of water flowing down Dorking Road towards Bookham. In addition two new gullies have been installed on the Chapel Lane corner and two in Admirals Road, between the field entrance and Dorking Road, to reduce flows from these directions. The Admirals Road bellmouth has been surfaced to reduce the amount of mud and stone being washed from the track and fields onto Dorking Road.

**If you have any highways problems near you, the best way to report it is to go to [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk) and "Report It", or phone 0300 200 1003.**

**Please also email Michael Agius on [meagius@gmail.com](mailto:meagius@gmail.com) so that he can keep a record of the problems.**

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### Foul Water Drain Blockage in Water Lane

Over recent months problems have reoccurred with the foul drain in Water Lane blocking. This has been worsened by the Gracewell Care Home having been connected upstream into this particular line. Both BRA and Thames Water have made representations to the management to try and avoid wet wipes and other matter being put into the system.

With regard to the critical state of the foul and surface water drains in Water Lane, BRA have recently made representations to Thames Water with regard to the future routing of drainage from the new Howard of Effingham School and 150 plus houses proposed for the Effingham Lodge Farm site. Presently drainage from the existing school drains westwards to Effingham Common Road. At a recent presentation developer Berkeley Homes stated that outfalls are now proposed to be eastwards towards Water Lane and eventually to Little Bookham Street. This could be catastrophic for Little Bookham.

There are many other areas where the BRA continue to press SCC and TW for action, including:

- Little Bookham Street where TW have been reminded that blocked and collapsed lengths of drain have yet to be jetted or replaced between Bennetts Farm Place and Lower Road.
- a ditch outfall at Fox Lane where flows from Preston Farm result in flooding.
- 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.

**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: [meaqius@gmail.com](mailto:meaqius@gmail.com)**

## MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL'S LOCAL PLAN (2018 -2033): IMPLICATIONS FOR BOOKHAM

Peter Seaward—BRA Chairman

Mole Valley District Council are reaching the end of their work on the next Local Plan. Called "Future Mole Valley" a policy (once completed) sets out plans for development across Mole Valley for the period 2018-2033, includes targets for delivering new homes, identify locations for development and sets out areas which will continue to be protected. This will become available for us all to comment on in late June 2019.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan for Bookham (NDP) which was the subject of a village referendum in May of 2017 will form part of this plan although which of its policies will be continued or cease to exist will be decided on by our Councillors and MVDC. Although subject to five years of hard work by many here in Bookham it is disappointing that policies expected to be taken into account by MVDC Planners have on occasions been "trumped" by other planning policies.

The Council are charged by Government to build nearly 7,000 new dwellings throughout Mole Valley over the next fifteen years. This is an annual rate of over 400 dwellings compared with the present rate of around 180. If MVDC fail to convince the Government appointed Inspector that the new Local Plan is capable of achieving the required numbers then the Government can pass the responsibility to Inspectors or other bodies.

In the BRA we have been keeping as up to date as best we can on what is being considered and although we know broad details most of the important information about where these new dwellings might go is not available to us. Our Councillors and Council Officers are not allowed to provide such information until the public consultation begins.

Following a "Brownfield First" approach, we do know that some 4,100 dwellings of this requirement will be built within the existing built up areas of Mole Valley leaving nearly 3,000 units to go on "Greenfield/Green Belt" sites. At present MVDC are following an approach which would, enlarge the existing villages in the south (maybe at most 400 units), substantially enlarging one of the bigger

villages again in the south with the rest of the developments going on selected greenbelt and green field sites elsewhere in the district. This could be around 1,500 to 2,000 units or more. We have asked often where these sites might be but MVDC will not release information until they have fully checked all the many sites for suitability and viability. We are obliged to await the public consultation.

However, in Bookham we know because of the work done previously on the Neighbourhood Development Plan most of the sites that MVDC are likely to be considering. Of these the larger ones would be Preston Farm (the area between Little Bookham Street and Water Lane). Bookham Fields (south of the Lower Road Recreation Ground to the A246 and between The Lorne and Rectory Lane), and Rolls Farm (between Rectory and Manor House Lanes). There are other sites too but these we believe are the largest in area.

If we consider the population of Bookham and the number of current dwellings and from these figures we extrapolated a proportionate share of dwellings we would expect to be built here, this could amount to around 800 new buildings (not all on green belt land). Population increase of probably circa 1,800 would also occur (an average of 2.25 people per dwelling based on the last census). Such an increase would have impact on many aspects of our infrastructure and in the BRA we have put some suggestions and facts to our Councillors and MVDC of what these might be. These would include schooling; primary care provision; drainage; power; roads and transport links. We accept that this is a major issue for Mole Valley and we along with everyone else in the District may have to accept a proportion of new dwellings which many would not like.

We have pressed MVDC and our Councillors to resist any new developments until assurances and practical plans are seen that address the infrastructure deficit that this potential volume of new building would cause. We should state that the potential building

*(Continued on page 12)*

*(Mole Valley District Council's Local Plan (2018 -2033): Implications For Bookham. Continued from page 11)*

numbers and green belt sites we have surmised might be both an over or under estimate of what might occur, but these are the best we can arrive at without more concrete facts.

There will be a public consultation of six weeks after the Draft Local Plan is available and MVDC will be hosting road shows in Bookham and elsewhere. Our role in the BRA is to be a conduit for as much information as possible that we can gather and feedback especially to our Councillors what reaction there is within Bookham, about this Plan. Final decisions about what will eventually be forthcoming will rest with Mole Valley Councillors. Your views and interaction with our Councillors are important over the coming months before this plan is finalised so that they fully represent all

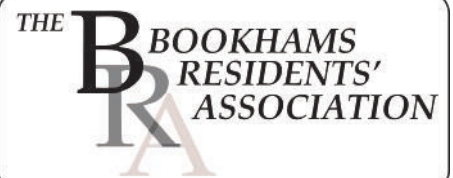
our views on this significant process and plan.

Prior to the publication and commencement of the MVDC Local Plan consultation you may submit comments to the BRA. We will aggregate these and share with Councillors. You may do this on the BRA website:

[www.bookhamresidents.org.uk](http://www.bookhamresidents.org.uk) or call the message line: 0300 030 9890

Finally, we must reiterate that all the information facts presented here are those we in the BRA have deduced and may well be wrong but, in our opinion, we need to alert residents to the possibilities and make some estimates about and what the consequences for us all these might bring.

**Further information on the Local Plan can be found on the MVDC website: [www.molevalley.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=33905](http://www.molevalley.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=33905)**



## 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, 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](http://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.*

## PAYMENT OF 2019 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members will be familiar with their BRA subscriptions being collected by their Road Steward each year. This has been a long established method of paying subscriptions and Road Stewards will continue to be part of our collections and Newsletter delivery service.

However, we are finding that when your Road Steward calls, members are either not at home or these days have very little ready cash. So in addition to paying your Road Steward, you can now pay your subscription on line at the BRA web site:

[www.bookhamresidents.org.uk](http://www.bookhamresidents.org.uk)

If you prefer to pay cash or by "tap and pay" then the Membership Team will be at the following village locations where you can pay your subscriptions by either method:

<b>21st May:</b>	<b>AGM — Old Barn Hall</b>
<b>8th June:</b>	<b>Kim's Café — High Street</b>
<b>15th June:</b>	<b>Village Day — BRA Bookstall Stand</b>
<b>12th October:</b>	<b>Kim's Café — High Street</b>
<b>19th October:</b>	<b>Kim's Café — High Street</b>