

Spring 2021



THE **B** BOOKHAMS
RA RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk
Tel: 0300 030 9890

Blue Hearts - Church Road. Photo: Les Huett

Moving forward..

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Peter Seaward

chair@bookhamresidents.org.uk

At last we are slowly moving towards some normality in our daily lives. It has certainly been a long haul for everyone. As we reported, back in the Autumn, the BRA have continued, in spite of the lockdowns, to focus our efforts on moving key issues forward for the village.

The great positive has been the approval by Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) for outline planning permission of a new Youth and Community Centre for the village.

Supported by a £2.5 million investment from Surrey County Council this will provide a tremendous facility for the village in the future. There is still much more to do but this latest approval ensures this journey continues and you can read more inside the Newsletter.

We still continue to focus on the Future Mole Valley Draft Local Plan. Well over a year has passed since we were all asked for our views but as yet we have no formal feedback or response from MVDC. This is extremely frustrating. We do not give up! More details are provided on this and our other activities in the Newsletter.

As ever I must thank the tremendous team of volunteers who work tirelessly with the BRA to support our village and also, you the Residents who through your annual subscription ensure we can continue in our endeavours.

Finally, we are extremely hopeful that we will be able to hold our AGM on Thursday, 15th July in the Barn Hall at 7.30pm. I do hope that as many members as are able can join us.

Peter Seaward
BRA Chairman



*QR Code to the BRA
Membership and
subscription page*

**Diary Date: BRA AGM 15th July 2021.
Old Barn Hall, Church Road 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

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:

[@bookhamsresidentsassociation](https://www.facebook.com/bookhamsresidentsassociation)

We post updates on a regular basis on our own page and other Bookham interest groups.

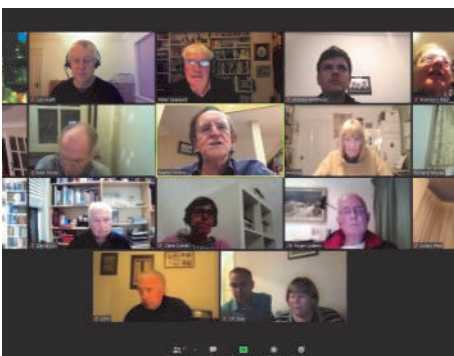
BRA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Our monthly committee meetings are held on line at present using Zoom. These are open meetings which members may attend.

If you would like to attend, please email: admin@bookhamresidents.org.uk

or call **0300 030 9890** and our secretary will send you an invite.

If you do not have internet access, you may join the meeting via phone. Please mention this when you leave your message and our secretary will call you with the dial in number.



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 Thursday 15th July 2021 at 7.30pm.

John Howarth
Company Secretary

AGENDA

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 17th September 2020 by ZOOM.
 - 2.1 Accuracy
 - 2.1 Matters Arising
3. **Chairman's Report:** Report on the activities of the Association during 2020
4. **Treasurer's Report:** To receive the Accounts for the Financial Year ending December 2020
5. **Election of Directors**
 - 5.1 To note any resignations from the Board
 - 5.2 To re-elect Peter Seaward and Chris Pullan 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 2021
8. Determination of Membership Subscription for 2022
9. Any Other Business

If you would like to nominate a Director for the Board of Directors please advise me no later than 24th June 2021 in writing to the Registered Office address or by email to: qvdhov@tecres.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 24th June 2021.

If you would like to present Motions for Discussion please advise Andrew Freeman (Administration Director) no later than 1st July at Hylands, Crabtree Close, Bookham, KT23 4PQ or by email to: admin@bookhamresidents.org.uk

Those attending who are not members may join at the door.

COMMUNITY



Computer generated image provided by Surrey CC. This is for indicative purposes only and not the final design.

BOOKHAM YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

The outline planning application for a new Youth & Community Centre at the Lower Road Recreational Ground was approved by Mole Valley District Council Development Management Committee (DMC) on the 28th April subject to various conditions of use. These conditions mainly relate to protecting those living near the proposed building.

This is a big step forward and this would not have happened but for the £2.5m funds allocated by SCC and the release of the land by MVDC albeit their Planning Department recommended the DMC refuse the application. It was thanks to District Councillors and others across Mole Valley who voted to approve the application by 13 v 2 (2 abstained).

We understand SCC will be re-developing the old site in Lower Road, but at moment the plans have not been published and we will advise residents, once known.

David Cox, Chair of Trustees of the Bookham Youth & Community Association (BYCA) who is also the BRA lead for Education & Young people comments:

“The BYCA is very grateful to all the Councillors, not only from Bookham, but from across Mole Valley who voted for the replacement centre. Also for the support of BRA Communications and Publicity who made sure that this application was in the public domain to enable residents to comment for or against and led to over 190 people watching the meeting online which is the highest attended DMC online meeting for three years.

We see this interest as a powerful message of belief in the value of our young people. We understand the concerns of those living near the proposed site and will do all we can to

work with them in the future to reduce their concerns. A tremendous number of hours have been invested over very many years by a number of individuals including our County Councillor, Clare Curran, & Peter Seward of BRA but the journey is not complete.

We see this is a milestone achieved on a road that has many unknown pitfalls to overcome. However, the focus will remain on delivery for our young people. We understand that the next phase will be the detailed planning application which will show the building design rather than the indicative computer generated model. SCC have assured us that there will be community engagement in the next process.

Thank you to all the many supporters of all ages within our community for seeing the value in providing a facility that will serve future generations of the Bookhams. Hopefully it will survive as long as the old one did i.e. over 50 years!

TRANSPORT

BOOKHAM STATION ACCESSIBILITY

Andrew Matthews

Following our last report on plans to improve disabled access to Bookham Station, the team have been working hard to progress the accessible footpath from the National Trust Tunnel Car park to Bookham Station Platform One. We have approached a local contractor for advice, and obtained our first quotation for a simple scope of works.

We have sent our presentation (available on the Bookhams Residents' Associations website) to the National Trust who have responded, and we are planning to meet with them to walk the route, and discuss options with the hope we can encourage them to proceed with the project.

In addition, Peter Seaward and I met with South Western Railway's Accessibility Managers via "Zoom", and discussed the possibility of a new accessible bridge with lifts at Bookham Station for the future.

The initial idea would be to retain and preserve the existing listed footbridge, and have a new bridge positioned to the west of the station buildings.

We are working towards compiling an application for Network Rail's "Access for All" funding scheme, which would provide 90% of the finances required for a new accessible bridge. The remaining 10% would have to be financed locally from Council grants, community/corporate donations, and charitable organisations like the National Lottery Fund.

It is estimated that a £500,000 local contribution would be required to be successful in an application.

The Bookhams Residents' Association are setting up a fund raising initiative, and exploring further sponsorship that might be made available to the project.

In the meantime we are focussing on progressing with the Accessible Path.

For more information please take a look on the website:

[www.bookhamresidents.org.uk/
bookham-station-accessibility](http://www.bookhamresidents.org.uk/bookham-station-accessibility)



Photos : Andrew Matthews

BOOKHAM STATION REFURBISHMENT

Keith Francis

The footbridge at Bookham Station, a listed building, has been re-painted in the colours of the former London and South

Western Railway (LSWR) . Our railway station was first called "Bookham & Effingham" but assumed its present name when a station was built at Effingham Junction three years after the line opened in July 1888 two miles north of the village. The 91-yard tunnel was insisted upon to avoid spoiling the common.



Work in progress on the footbridge. Photo: Nick Forrer

TRANSPORT

In the 1860's there was local rivalry with other lines proposed to Cobham and even Ripley. The main scheme was promoted by farmer William Worsfold and Charles Combe of Cobham Park his intention being to get coal to his house and properties.

Queen Victoria objected as the railway would interfere with the privacy of her house at Claremont. Cobham did not get its direct railway having to wait until 1885 when the "New Route" was built through Claygate, Oxshott, Cobham and Stoke d'Abernon, Horsley, Clandon to Guildford. At the same time as building the line to Guildford the LSWR built a connecting spur from Leatherhead to a junction north of Effingham through the new station of Bookham.

There was an intention for the new line to be nearer Bookham village centre, even crossing the High Street halfway along its length!

The three major lines, LBSCR, SECR and LSWR, were grouped in 1923 to form the Southern Railway with electrification of the suburban networks of each company.

Source: Railways around Leatherhead & Dorking by Peter Tarplee published by the Leatherhead & District Local History Society in 2011.

479 Bus Route

With the planned SGN gas main replacement on the Lower Road due to start on Friday, 4th June 2021 until Friday, 6th August 2021 will mean that there will be a rerouting of the 479 service.

The buses will be further disrupted from Monday, 6th September 2021 when the SCC Squareabout drainage works start and continue to Tuesday, 30th November 2021. Both of these infrastructure improvements have been announced before and then cancelled, and we hope this time the works are completed.

ENVIRONMENT



BLOOMING BLUE HEART BOOKHAM!

Steve & Diane Poole

The Bookham Blue Hearts project is all about encouraging wildflowers to flourish on road verges that have previously been regularly mown.

A year on and things are going really well! Our main interest is the verges along the A246 which have now have a huge profusion of beautiful flowers full of nectar to help bees, butterflies and other pollinators and the animals that depend on them.

These flowers have never been allowed to flourish previously and it is a revelation to see what has appeared, including Orchids. You don't have to be a botanist to appreciate these, and at a time when the UK has lost 97% of its ancient wildflower meadows our project, and others led by the Plantlife charity, are reversing the trend.

We have also seeded several areas of the Grange verges which are looking really promising. We like to think we are "building the green belt" rather than "building on it"! The long-term aim is to create nectar-rich highways that interconnect to form a national "bloomband" network.



Photos: Steve Poole

Special thanks go to Cllr. Clare Curran for liaising with Surrey County Council and for her enthusiastic support! She has recently managed to get some more verges added to the scheme, and many residents are now maintaining their own verges for nature.

Our resident Blue Heartist, Nick Haynes, has been inundated with requests for his unique hearts. Thanks to the BRA for funding the highway ones. For those who prefer a 'neat and tidy' look – don't worry, that will be the case between October (when the verges will be mown) and April and many areas will continue to be mown as usual. Why not have a gentle amble alongside the flowers, look closely and see what you can spot, then tell us via our Facebook page:

[@bookhambluehearts](https://www.facebook.com/bookhambluehearts)

The Bookham Blue Hearts have a Facebook page

@bookhambluehearts or

bookhambluehearts@gmail.com

You can also leave a message on the BRA Message Line: 0300 030 9890.

OAK PROCESSIONARY MOTH TIME!

OPM are known to be in Bookham Common so take care when visiting. More information can be found on the BRA website.



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE.

Diane Poole

Recycling helps to save some of the materials that are thrown away. However, manufacturing products and transporting them to where they are sold uses a significant amount of energy, as does collecting them from residents and recycling them into new products. If we reduce the amount of waste we produce to start with, we can make a significant positive environmental impact.

Let's adopt a reduce, reuse, recycle order of thinking!

REDUCE

This is about reducing the amount of stuff you create in the first place by questioning whether you need it in the first place, avoiding single use items, choosing products with less or no packaging and refilling your own container.

REUSE

As well as taking along your own bags, bottles, containers and cups when going out, this includes buying secondhand or 'pre-loved' items and donating or selling perfectly good, or slightly jaded, items you no longer need to somewhere where they will be appreciated. If it's broken, you may be able to get it repaired.

RECYCLE

The BRA and Plastic Free Bookham are delighted to launch their new Reduce, Reuse and Recycle mobile-friendly page on the BRA website. You'll find a handy search tool there (developed by Les Huett) to find out where you can recycle lots of items - via MVDC wheelie bin and household collections, at the Lower Shott recycling area and other so-called "bring sites", and at the Community Recycling Centre in Randalls Road, Leatherhead.

Alternatively a company called Terracycle recycle the "non-recyclable" (mainly plastics which don't go in the green bin) and the search tool allows you to find what can be collected in Bookham and nearby areas.

To use the BRA Recycling Tool, go to the BRA website www.bookhamresidents.org.uk. Enter the item you wish to recycle and the tool will give you the options

Show Entries Search for item to recycle:

Type of Product	What is accepted (plastic unless otherwise specified) - click on the link icon for more details	Click on the code for drop off details
Aerosols	##Not Accepted##: Aerosols	Black wheelie bin
Air freshener products	##Not Accepted##: Air freshener fragrance candles & reeds, glass cartridges	Black wheelie bin
Air freshener products	##Not Accepted##: Plug in air fresheners	MVDC Small Electricals doorstep recycling
Air freshener products	All brands: Air freshener fragrance twin pack plastic sleeves	A, C, D, DWA, F, LT, LWA
Air freshener products	All brands: Air freshener plastic containers and cartridge caps and plastic car air fresheners	C, D, LT
Baby food and kids yoghurt	All brands: Pouches and caps for baby food and kids yoghurt (not juice and jelly pouches)	BE (A, D, DWA, F, LS, LWA)
Baby snacks Ella	Ella only: Snack packets	BE (A, D, DWA, F, LS, LWA)

COMMUNITY



LITTER PICK

Margaret Lawson

At the time of writing, the Bookham litter pickers are planning to re-start their regular first Sunday in the month litter pick around the village starting on 6th June.

The team are following Government guidelines on social distancing etc.

The team have also joined the Great British Spring Clean Million Mile Mission where pledges of minutes spent litter picking are converted in to miles.

If you have received this newsletter after the 6th June and want join in next time, the next litter pick will be on the 4th July.

We meet at Lower Shot car park starting at 11.00 am and usually the session lasts around 90 mins. Safety gear, bags and equipment supplied.

Any litter pick queries you can contact Margaret:

litterpick@bookhamresidents.org.uk or 0300 030 9890

INFRASTRUCTURE & LOCAL AUTHORITIES

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) and Thames Water (TW).

Work to improve the existing drainage assets in Lower Road between East Street and The Squareabout and north down Church Road were delayed from February and are now scheduled for later this year.

With regard to the critical state of the foul and surface water drains in Water Lane and Little Bookham Street, BRA have continued to make representations to TW and Berkeley Homes (BH) concerning the future routing of drainage from the new Howard of Effingham School and 150 plus houses proposed for the Effingham Lodge Farm site, to try and ensure that the foul outfall does not flow towards Water Lane. TW and BH are still in detailed discussions.

Looking to the future, BRA will keep an eye on plans for the redevelopment of the existing Howard school site, when these become available.

HIGHWAYS

Michael Agius

The BRA 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 funding becoming available for construction. In the meantime crossing of Rectory Lane immediately north of The Grange entrance has been improved by constructing a 'build out' to narrow the road crossing.

If you have any drainage or 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.



Recently completed Build out in Rectory Lane to provide a safe crossing point for pedestrians.



LOCAL PLAN

Geoff Tranter

The BRA are currently awaiting the response to the Future Mole Valley Local Plan which is due to be published by Mole Valley District Council over the summer period.

This will be some 18 months after residents submitted their comments on the Draft Local Plan to MVDC.

In the meantime we are currently investigating the increase in the density of housing over the past 20 years in both Bookham North and South wards and how any further increase in housing will impact our community. Particular attention is being made to the local infrastructure of roads, health, education, and other services.

It is hard to predict what changes MVDC will make in response to the comments submitted by residents, and so far there has been a complete lack of any response to not only BRA but also all the other Residents Associations we work with.



PLANNING APPLICATIONS IN BOOKHAM

Each week MVDC publish planning applications that have been submitted across the district. On the BRA website we post an extract of the applications made in Bookham.

You may comment on planning applications on the Mole Valley District Council web site using the reference number to search.

The BRA seeks to preserve the character of the Bookhams by reviewing all planning applications in the village and submitting letters of representation as appropriate. Where relevant, the BRA will object to or support commercial applications.

You may also view the BRA sub-committee meeting agenda and minutes for the last two years and Letters of Representation submitted by the BRA to MVDC.



Please help the BRA to continue its work for our village

Throughout this Newsletter you will have read about many examples of how the BRA continues to champion many initiatives in the village.

The Bookhams Residents' Association (BRA) is a voluntary membership organisation that is open to all residents and is independent of all political parties.

WAYS TO PAY

Members of the BRA will be familiar with our Road Stewards who call once a year to collect the annual subscription along with delivering the Newsletters.

We hope that this year they will be able to call again and your Road Steward will have ticked one of the boxes in the panel to let you know whether they are still able to collect from you.

Even if they are able to collect you can still pay by another method and reduce the need for them to call. They will be advised if you do so, you won't be asked to pay again!

The annual subscription is £5.00 per household and you can:

USE THE QR CODE:

Scan the QR code below with your smart phone and you will be taken to the BRA website payment page.



PAY ONLINE:

visit the BRA website at www.bookhamresidents.org.uk to make your payment. You can use a credit or debit card to pay through our secure payment system.

PAY BY TELEPHONE USING A CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD:

Please call the BRA helpline on **0300 030 9890** and leave your Name, Telephone Number and a "code word" of your choosing (something simple like a pet's name is ideal).

HOW SUBSCRIPTIONS WILL BE COLLECTED IN YOUR ROAD

Your Road Steward will call to collect your subscription if you haven't already paid.	
Your Road Steward is unable to collect from you, but see attached slip with arrangements for your road or choose one of the payment options detailed opposite	
Your road does not have a Road Steward so please use one of the payment options opposite.	



HAVE YOU A FEW HOURS TO SPARE?

We need volunteers to help us collect the BRA subscriptions once a year from residents and deliver our Newsletters twice a year.

Either in your own road or close by you will look after no more than 20 houses in the village. It's not too onerous and just takes a bit of time in the late Spring and Autumn.

It can be a great way to meet some new people and really helps the BRA to both communicate with our residents and support our activities in the village.

If you can help either email: membership@bookhamresidents.org.uk or call: 0300 030 9890. We'd love to hear from you!

Thank you for your support, and thank you to those Residents who have already paid their subscription this year.