



NEWSLETTER – No.113 – AUTUMN 2007

THE CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTARY

We are aware of the pressures under which Local Authorities are struggling to meet Government targets to increase the number of homes available particularly in the South East. West Country and indeed some local flooding has made us all more aware of problems on flood plains.

The Committee have spent many man hours during the last few weeks examining the suggested changes in the Planning White Paper and Alan Baker has coordinated our thoughts with a reply to The Planning Report Team. We understand that the White Paper, taken together with associated proposals, will make a significant change to the way the current planning system works and we will need to be prepared to take these changes on board. We have held consultations with the agent for Lord Halifax who owns the stables and surrounding land at The Durdans and we understand that a Planning Application will soon be made. We are anxious to maintain the equestrian role which is still there and will examine new proposals very carefully. Access problems will feature strongly in any application.

We have looked at new proposals for Linton's Lane School. These proposals appear to make a lot of sense but traffic access problems and the effect on the local residents must again feature in the consultations.

We understand that the Borough Enforcement Officer may soon be in a position to take action on some of the problems which have been giving us cause for concern and we are watching this space with interest.

We were disappointed for Joy that, after her hard work on the visit to Henley and Mapledurham, the trip was cancelled because of the floods. We hope the visit can go ahead in 2008. We hope you will support the other events including the talk on November 15th. As I said in my last commentary I am on a steep learning curve and looking forward to celebrations for our 50th anniversary in 2009.

HARRY CORBEN

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Updating my previous notes:

8-12 Dorking Road & 6 Elm Grove: An appeal has been made against the refusal of

the revised scheme for sheltered apartments and will be heard at a Public Inquiry on 25 September, when we expect to be making a statement before the Inspector.

Heron Court, 53 Alexandra Road: The appeal against the refusal of the revised scheme in this case was presented at an informal hearing on 22 August and the result is awaited.

Centrale, Station Approach: We wrote to the Planning Department about the external appearance of this building and sent a copy of a detailed letter from one of our members. In reply the Design and Conservation Officer says that the building is not in the Town Centre Conservation Area and will not have a direct bearing on historic buildings. It is designed to be entirely contemporary in appearance and this is reflected in the materials used. He explains the discussions which take place with developers about external materials and adds that in this particular case some of the details on the elevation have not been constructed in accordance with the approved drawings; these omissions are considered detrimental to the overall appearance of the development and this matter is currently being discussed with agents for the developer. It seems to us unlikely that major alterations could be made at this stage. We do agree that this substantial contribution to sustainable housing gave a welcome boost to this long neglected site.

Some new cases:

Drummond Gardens, Christchurch Mount: This is an interesting place I had not seen before. It is a 1930s development of 35 flats in a balconied Mediterranean style set in somewhat wild grounds. Although in fairly poor condition it is worth seriously considering for local listing as a unique example in Epsom of an unusual but attractive architectural style. The proposal is to build two blocks of flats and a pair of semi-detached houses - a total of 12 additional units - in the land surrounding the present buildings. It would be possible to argue for a small development on part of the land but the amount proposed is excessive in our view and would destroy the character of the site. There would also be a problem of extra traffic on the narrow access road. We have therefore objected to the proposal in its present form.

Linton's Lane Centre: It is suggested that the former school be extended by a new second storey and used for student accommodation. The Youth Centre would remain on the ground floor. We thought that the proposed use was not unreasonable in principle but drew attention to the possible disturbance to neighbouring houses by reason of extra traffic and noise. We recommended that attention be paid to the siting of the car parking and to the supervision of the site in order to minimise potential disturbance.

Hospital Cluster local shopping centre: An application has been submitted for the proposed retail centre in Pelman Way, near the Horton Chapel. The total scheme would have 52 flats, 18 houses and a retail public square. There are frequent criticisms about the lack of shopping, which of course has not been viable until there is a sufficient population to support it. We are looking at the detail to see whether comments are called for.

And an important general item:

Government White Paper - Planning for a Sustainable Future: This is a 221 page document accompanied by four other substantial supporting documents. A few of us on the committee have studied it as best we could and have submitted a six page response on some of the points of most concern to us. The documents deal with two broad subjects - first speeding up decisions about major infrastructure projects such as new airport runways and secondly reducing delay in more local planning matters. Our consideration was greatly helped by an analysis in a report to the Planning Committee by Mark Berry the Borough's Head of Planning, although our conclusions were not necessarily the same as his. We now wait to see what changes in the law the Government may propose.

ALAN BAKER

MEMBERSHIP

We have a healthy membership of over 1570 and 59 people involved in Newsletter distribution. We are very grateful to them all. However, at the moment there is one area not covered. It is at the top of Burgh Heath Road / Mospay Crescent / Beech Road / Beech Way with 17 members. I have managed to contact most of the members in this area and they all have good reasons for not being able to do this. Therefore I am looking for offers from someone, perhaps living nearby, who would be prepared to take on this task for the Society of delivering four *Newsletters* a year and collecting subscriptions. If you think that you might be able to help in this way please give me a ring on 01372 728570 for more information.

I hope that you remembered our Display in the Ashley Centre on 8th September - details were in the last *Newsletter*.

Mrs. ISHBEL KENWARD - Membership Secretary

EVENTS AND OUTINGS

ANNUAL BUFFET SUPPER PARTY, FRIDAY 19th OCTOBER 2007 7.45pm in ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL, EPSOM

Full details were given in the last *Newsletter*. Tickets are still available and there is no restriction on numbers so you can bring friends if you wish.

Tickets are £16 each and another application form is included in case you have mislaid the previous one.

TALKS

THURSDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2007 at 8pm in MYERS STUDIO, EPSOM PLAYHOUSE

The talk will be given by Hugh Edgar, an architect, previously with W S Atkins. He was a member of the team who gave the talk on Nonsuch Palace and a demonstration of Virtual Reality to EPS last year. He has offered an illustrated talk on Classical Architecture

which he gave on the QE2. He entitles his talk 'Neo Classicism - an Enduring Style' - a journey tracing the development of this style to the present day.

Tickets are £3 each. Please apply on the application form enclosed and return it together with your cheque made payable to Epsom Protection Society and a stamped addressed envelope to Joy Furness.

It is hoped to arrange another one or two talks in the New Year.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: AGM Thursday 24th April 2008.

OUTINGS

OUTING TO MAPLEDURHAM AND HENLEY on 26th JUNE 2007

It was with great regret that this outing had to be cancelled because of the weather and the flooding.

Another outing which will be exactly the same has been arranged for Thursday 24th JULY 2008 and an application form will be available in the next *Newsletter*. Those people who had a place on the first trip will have priority.

NEW YEAR OUTING: VISIT TO THE MILL AT SONNING ON SATURDAY 12th JANUARY 2008 for LUNCH followed by a MATINEE PERFORMANCE of RAY COONEY'S PLAY 'RUN FOR YOUR WIFE' which is an hilarious farce.

On arrival at the Mill there will be time for a look round and to buy a drink at the bar before lunch if desired. Wine is not included in the price but can be purchased individually.

The coach will pick-up outside the Methodist Church in Ashley Road at 10.30am and from the free car park (next to the tea hut) at Tattenham Corner at 10.45am. The coach will leave Sonning after the play finishes and we should arrive back in Epsom by 6.30pm (or earlier).

The cost of the outing will be £45.00 each; this includes lunch, the play, coach and tips.

Please apply on the application form included and return to Joy Furness together with a cheque made payable to Epsom Protection Society and a stamped addressed envelope.

Early application is advised as this outing will be popular.

SECOND VISIT to THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND LUNCH MONDAY 3rd MARCH 2008

The proposed visit on 18th September 2007 is so popular that there were 100 applications for 52 places. Fortunately our MP Chris Grayling has very kindly agreed to host another lunch and the date is MONDAY 3rd MARCH 2008.

The visit starts with a tour of both Houses of Parliament and Westminster Hall. For the visit we are divided into three groups which go in at four minute intervals. There are toilet facilities half way through the tour. The tour will be followed by lunch, which is a set three course meal with a glass of wine included followed by coffee and petit fours. There is a pay-bar for anyone who wishes to have a drink beforehand or any extra wine. We are making a stop at the Tate Gallery on the way. The time available at the Tate will depend on the traffic but with luck it should be about one hour which will enable people to choose between visiting the shop, the cafe for a drink or some of the paintings (and the toilets – there are no facilities on arrival at the Houses of Parliament).

There is a strict airport type security check to get into the Palace of Westminster (to give it the correct name) and everyone needs an invitation which will be given out on the coach. Please do not bring knives or similar objects as they may be confiscated. No eating or drinking is permitted (except as above!). Photography is not permitted and all mobile phones should be switched off.

There will be some free time after the lunch for people to go for a stroll outside or revisit Westminster Hall. Another option is to visit The Jewel Tower which is directly opposite the Sovereign's Entrance. It was built around 1365 by Edward III to house his personal treasure and wardrobe. After 1621 it was used to store the records of the House of Lords which ensured that they survived the great fire of 1834 which consumed the rest of the Palace with the exception of Westminster Hall. It is now administered by English Heritage and houses an exhibition 'Parliament: Past and Present'. The tower is small and cannot accommodate many people so if anyone would like to visit, please contact me beforehand and I will try to book in advance, as it is not open to the general public.

The coach will pick up outside the Methodist Church in Ashley Road at 8.30am and at the car park by the tea hut at Tattenham Corner at 8.45am. The coach will depart for Epsom about 4pm.

The cost will be £46.00 per person which includes tour, lunch, coach and tips.

Early application is recommended and priority will be given to those who applied for the first visit but were unsuccessful.

Please apply on the application form in this *Newsletter* and return to Joy Furness together with a cheque made payable to Epsom Protection Society and a stamped addressed envelope.

NOTE Please remember that only members can apply for visits/outings because of their popularity and the limited number of seats on the coach. This rule does not apply to the Buffet Supper and the Talks where visitors are welcome.

JOY FURNESS

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APPLICATION FORM FOR SECOND VISIT TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
FOLLOWED BY LUNCH, Monday 3rd March 2008

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

PHONE NUMBER.....

Please tick below as appropriate:-

I will join the coach outside the Methodist Church at 8.30 am sharp

I will join the coach at Tattenham Corner car park at 8.45 am sharp

Cost per person £46.00 (inclusive of tour, lunch, coach and tips).

I would like tickets and I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Epsom Protection Society and a stamped addressed envelope. Please return the form to Joy Furness, 37 Woodcote Hurst Epsom KT18 7DS (Tel 01372 722186)

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APPLICATION FORM FOR BUFFET SUPPER PARTY,
FRIDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2007 at 7.45 pm in ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL EPSOM

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

PHONE NUMBER.....

I would like tickets for this event (£16 each) and enclose a cheque made payable to Epsom Protection Society for £..... and a stamped addressed envelope. Please return to Joy Furness 37 Woodcote Hurst Epsom KT18 7DS (Tel 01372 722186)