

# The Leatherhead Area Partnership Limited

c/o Help Shop, 25-29 High Street, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8AB



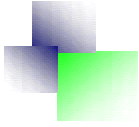
April 2009

## Half Year Members' Newsletter

It has been a relatively quiet period in Partnership activity since the AGM and newsletter in November 2008.

### Members

In February 2009 Leatherhead *AHEAD* relinquished its membership of the Partnership when it was decided to wind up the organisation. Their aims are now pursued through the Leatherhead Residents' Association, with its much increased membership. Paula Sabine, the former Chairman of Leatherhead *AHEAD*, is a committee member of the LRA and remains a Director of the Partnership.



We have welcomed two new Members, the Queen Elizabeth Foundation for the Disabled and the Leatherhead & District Local History Society, bringing our membership total to 15 local organisations.



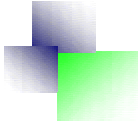
## Progress Report

Of our three priority projects, the Riverside project was virtually complete at the time of the AGM. We are still frustrated by lack of funds and staff resources at Surrey CC Highways in the projects to make improvements in the High Street and Church Street. Discussions continue with the two Councils, particularly for the re-allocation of Section 106 developer funds, with hoped for resolution shortly. Some preliminary work has been done by a MVDC and Surrey CC working group to explore practical design solutions for barriers around outdoor tables and chairs that the restaurants wish to provide. A sample barrier was shown at the Leatherhead-Ashted Area Forum on 22 April. We have proposed the working group should include representatives from resident and business organisations to co-ordinate consultation. There are many associated aspects relating to High Street usage that need to be considered at the same time.

The SEEDA match funded project to upgrade the facilities and services on the 479 bus route continues to make progress. Cabling for real time information at four bus stops has been installed, the buses are equipped for real-time information and the system should go live in June. The final stage will be the distribution of new timetables, route map and fares information to households along the route during the summer.

In our November newsletter we reported the removal of the brick staircase in Station Approach and the lengthening of the slip lane into Randalls Road should have been completed by now. It is expected to be implemented during the summer months.

Our 2006 Healthcheck report recommended further consultation over constructing a skateboard park in Ashted and Bookham. Skateboard park facilities are now installed in Ashted, Following earlier installation in Bookham, and are much appreciated by the young users.



A business plan is nearing completion and pledges of interest sought for the proposed Credit Union. Both are needed for presentation to the Financial Services Authority in order to obtain the necessary licence to operate. Heather Ward and Hilary Porter are deeply involved with this project.

John Howarth has joined the Management Committee of the Citizens' Advice Bureau. He is investigating capital funding sources on their behalf in view of the uncertainty of the future level of financial support that will be available from MVDC.

Support has been given to Bookham Vision, the project to develop a Village Plan. A number of project ideas are emerging similar to those undertaken by the Partnership. A Bookham Business Association has been set up and there are various transport projects identified.

Di Stirling is involved in a survey in Ashted to assess the demand and viability for a shuttle bus service, particularly to and from the station and where it could supplement the current bus services.

Meetings have been held with the LRA Committee to explore support we can give and with Surrey CC Highways as one of our main delivery partners. As requested in our November newsletter, we are seeking invitations to Member organisations' meetings when issues and projects are being discussed that could benefit from our involvement as a partner, particularly with regard to fund raising.

We responded to the consultation documents of the MVDC Local Development Framework Core Strategy - Proposed Submission. We were able to support many of the proposals. We had two main concerns. We criticised the amount of Green Belt and greenfield land identified as potential for housing development and its allocation in the first two five year periods of the 20 year plan. The land should only be considered as a last resort and under very special circumstances. Hence it should be allocated in the final period, at which time unexpected brownfield sites may have become available which would negate the use of protected land. We also stressed the need to make up the current inadequacies in infrastructure facilities and services whilst bringing in new infrastructure to keep pace with new housing and other developments.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The date for this year's AGM is set for Wednesday 11 November at Park House.

We wish our Members well in these difficult times.

Colin Langley  
Chairman