

Mottingham Residents Association Newsletter and Notice of General Meeting



– Spring 2022 –

NOTICE: There will be a General Meeting of the
MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION on
**Thursday 28th April 2022 At 7:00 pm in St. Andrew's
Church Hall, 233 Court Rd, London SE9 4TQ.**

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Mottingham Village Concert Band – Easter Concert

The annual Easter Concert will be held on Wednesday 6th April at 7:45pm in Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Leysdown Road conducted by Leslie Lake. The concert will consist of a programme of seasonal musical gems, from the 17th to the 20th century, in keeping with the coming Easter week celebrations.

Jubilee Celebration Picnic – SAVE THE DATE – Friday 3rd June !



As part of its Jubilee celebration programme the MRA is organising a fun afternoon/evening on Friday 3rd June on the King George V field at the south end of Elmhurst Road with access from Beaconsfield, Elmhurst and Court Farm Roads. Plans are in their early stages but it is intended to start with a bring-your-own picnic at around 3.30pm largely aimed at the younger generation

followed by some evening entertainment from 6.30 closing with a short firework display around 9.30.

The event is open to all residents of Mottingham.

Further details will be announced as they are firmed up, but please keep an eye on the YourMRA.org website for the latest situation.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MRA 21ST OCTOBER 2021

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Laurie Bell reviewed the impact of Covid-19 on the MRA activities including cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 AGMs and replacement with the Special Meeting held in October. Membership fees for 20/21 were waived by the committee mainly to maintain social distancing for road representatives. Your MRA committee continued to monitor and react to local activities while meeting regularly over Zoom. The Dorset Road school saga continues. Now that the school has officially been merged with Castlecombe (now called Elmstead Woods) School, we await the disposal and future development of the site, which currently belongs to Bromley Council with benefits of sale dedicated to education. The MRA is watching with interest. Laurie Bell has stepped down as Chairman as has Secretary Bob Blanks. Lesley Robins was appointed Secretary, while Gail Hodges has subsequently accepted the post of Interim Chairman to be ratified at the AGM in April.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Accounts for 2019/20 (£733 surplus) and 20/21 (£819 deficit due to waived subscriptions) were accepted and approved. The marked decline in use of cash has prompted us to assess alternative methods of collection of subscriptions suitable for multiple collectors. £500 were again allocated to the Festive Lights committee. An increase of the MRA annual subscription from £2.50 to £3.00 was approved by the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

817 of our 1,765 residences were paid up members in 2019/20. Distributions and Membership fee collections are carried out by our valued Road Representatives, whose job involves 3 or 4 distributions to a patch of our community, and annual collection of subs. We try to share the responsibility to about 50 homes and we would welcome another 10 volunteers to limit the burden on our faithful team. If you would be prepared to undertake one of these areas, please e-mail membsec@yourmra.org

PLANNING ISSUES

Planning applications continued through the pandemic reflecting the increase in home embellishments prompted by commuter savings and the need to work from home. LiDL's plans for the **Porcupine** site were again refused by Bromley Council on traffic and pedestrian safety grounds. LiDL have appealed to the National Planning Inspectorate in Bristol.

The MRA have expressed concern over the perceived abuse of Permitted Development planning rules which result in over-development of small properties and conversion to Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) which tend to underperform in neighbourhood terms. Bromley Council are scheduled to close the current planning loophole in

September. Greenwich Council's Article 4 restrictions currently only apply to certain conservation area properties, and there are no plans on their website for any extension of these areas to Mottingham.

OTHER PLANNING OF GENERAL INTEREST

PORCUPINE CLOSE 5G MAST – Planning Refused

GROVE PARK ROAD 5G TELECOMS 'UPGRADE' Plans for telegraph poles and overhead wires withdrawn after objections.

FLOWER BOUTIQUE, Court Road. Plans for yet another take-away – MRA objected – decision pending.

CAPEL MANOR COLLEGE, Mottingham Lane.

Plans for redevelopment of the site, including increased community aspects, have been submitted following an initial consultation period. The redevelopments are contained almost entirely within the existing building footprints, although the changes are significant, and greatly improve the use of green space. Because most students will access via public transport, cycle or as pedestrians we do not envisage any significant increase to Mottingham Lane traffic. The MRA Committee are keenly supportive of the plans which promise continuing and enhanced community contribution. Plans 21/05812/FULL1 may be viewed on the Bromley Council website via www.yourmra.org (QR code below). The College has also expressed interest in contributing expertise and plants to the planned village planters and Marvels Wood regeneration.



LOCAL EVENTS

MOTTINGHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW – August Bank Holiday

The 60th Mottingham Horticultural Society show was very successful and even busier than pre-Covid. With almost 60 entrants and approximately 300 entries, there was lots for visitors to see. We were thrilled to have lots of first-time visitors and even better some new entrants. It was a lovely day and many commented on the super



atmosphere. Exhibits were of a high standard and judges were impressed with the quality and quantity. Not only were fruit, vegetables and flowers on display but the domestic and children's classes were also well supported. The Floral Society's exhibits attracted a lot of attention. Mottingham Concert Band kept everyone entertained, while visitors enjoyed tea and cake in the courtyard.

Eltham College has again kindly offered the society the use of the hall on the bank holiday weekend, 27th August 2022, for which we are very grateful. We hope we will see many of you there. The society will also be holding talks, outings and plant sales so please look out for information about these events.

WAR MEMORIAL

Our grade 2 listed structure was once again the focus of a Remembrance service. It was a welcome return to a semblance of normality, following the restrictions last year. The event was attended by some 200 local residents and representatives led by Rev. Catherine Shelley, the vicar of St. Edwards, and the Mottingham Concert Band. The dedication was given by Greenwich Cllr John Hills. As usual, the memorial and surrounding lampposts were decorated with large poppies.



FESTIVE LIGHTS

Our display did not disappoint this year, and £2700 donations were received from individuals and businesses this year. Along with the £500 from the MRA funds, this still falls short of the annual expenditure, but sufficient funds were available for the display. The Festival Lights Committee is also leading the Jubilee Picnic programme (see page 1).



CHRISTMAS TREES



Trees were again in evidence. The MRA tree was hosted and powered by the Methodist Church, while this year a second tree, kindly donated by Eltham College, was situated outside Warr's at the Memorial roundabout.



CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS PAINTING COMPETITION

There were more than 50 entries from children belonging to schools and other groups. We congratulate all the children who entered and thank the library and shops who displayed the artwork in their windows. The paintings were judged by Cllrs Will Rowlands and Roger Tester with 12 year old Ellen's penguin picture chosen as the overall winner.

Thanks to Sally Bettesworth and Carol Borhani for organising the event, and we hope that next year, local traders will fund prizes for the different age groups. Paintings may be viewed at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjzCWHQ>.



VILLAGE SIGNS

Following collapse of one of the Mottingham Village signs, we undertook to remove, refurbish and reinstate the signs. We are grateful to Laurie Bell for arranging the process and transport to and from the foundry in the midlands.

NEWS UPDATES

Mottingham on the Map. At the request of our Greenwich Ward Councillors, the Boundary Commission has added 'Mottingham' to the Coldharbour & New Eltham title. The ward also now includes The Tarn, Tarnwood Park, Woodmere and the lower stretch of Middle Park Avenue. Residents are being surveyed by their new Ward Councillors and invited to express any interest in being represented by the MRA.

Planters

Residents may have noticed the planters at the Court Road crossroads and outside the library. These temporary enhancements to our environment are soon to be replaced by permanent versions. The planters have been placed as part of a local capital initiative by Bromley Council in negotiation with the MRA. Greenwich Council are offering similar installations on the pavement at the end of Court Road. The MRA has undertaken to oversee the maintenance of the contents of the planters, hopefully assisted by the Horticultural Society.



Parking



Bromley Council is looking at installing a revised parking scheme outside the shops in Mottingham Road. Research is ongoing to investigate whether the ground is able to support trees which might be included amongst revised pavement parking similar to that in Eltham High Street.

Traffic Issues

The Committee has raised issues relating to excessive and inappropriate traffic movements in several areas. **Mottingham Lane** has long been a contentious road particularly at end of school time when many forms of bad parking, driving and temper may be observed. Eltham College, prompted by the MRA and Bromley Council, have repeatedly addressed the issues with parents. Installation of pavement bollards and yellow lines have helped, but many drivers seem to neglect the safety of pedestrians knowing that the school has little or no means of sanction on a public road.

West Park and **West Hallows** were given a 20mph speed limit and tarmacushions by Greenwich council which, as our Committee and Ward Councillors predicted, have given little or no respite to residents in return for substantial Council investment. The situation is compounded by many SatNav devices choosing West Hallows as a shortest route to the A20. Following the trial period, our Greenwich Councillors have carried out a traffic impact



survey of all residents on roads adjoining the A20, including **Chapel Farm, Leysdown, Luxfield** and **Court** Roads. RBG Councillors John Hills, Matt Hartley and Roger Tester received 450 responses from residents across their side of Mottingham. Different roads' response rates ranged from 25% to 43%.

Some of the results :

West Park Area 20mph zone : 96% of residents thought the zone's introduction had had either a "negative" or "no" impact on their road. 81% thought the problem of traffic cutting through West Hallowes had got worse over the last 2 years.

Court Road : 94% of residents were concerned about queuing traffic, citing noise, air pollution and access difficulty.

Leysdown & Chapel Farm Roads : More than 3 in 4 residents were concerned about speeding, rat-running and volume of traffic, though others wanted no action to be taken.

All 'Greenwich Roads' : 58% think speeding is getting worse, 65% think congestion is getting worse and 66% think the same for rat-running.

Residents' recommended investigations for RBG and TfL were varied and sometimes conflicting. The Councillors final Evidence Report will shortly be submitted formally to Royal Borough of Greenwich and Transport for London for consideration.

Defibrillator

We are very pleased to announce that plans are going ahead for a community defibrillator to be located in Mottingham Village. The defibrillator will be sited in a cabinet on the outside wall of the library, adjacent to the library entrance.

Eltham College sixth formers are kindly organising some charity fundraising, and we are anticipating a contribution from Greenwich Council. We might be able to support a second device, so if anyone would like to donate, or fundraise, this would be much appreciated. Ongoing funding is required for maintenance to ensure constant availability. We anticipate training will be provided for interested local residents.

Currently, there is a defibrillator at Mottingham Station, for use only at the station, in ticket office opening times. Mottingham Hall Nursery in Mottingham Lane also has one on their premises and are happy for this to be used by the local community, within their opening hours. We very much hope that the defibrillator will be bought and in place by this summer. Please contact the MRA for details and how to contribute.



Mottingham Woods & Foxes Field Bridge

Did you know that 10 years ago, **Friends of Mottingham Woods** won a London in Bloom award for their Marvels Wood Project ? The organisers, Friends of Mottingham Woods, chaired by Brian Gaskell would like to hear from you at e-mail friendsofmottinghamwoods@gmail.com. They are leading a very ambitious plan called "Juniper Falls" to regenerate and develop the woodland between Foxes Field and Dunkery Road, beyond the new bridge replaced by Bromley Council, but currently going nowhere. They also have a YouTube channel and deserve our support.

BEWARE THE SCAMMERS

Bromley Council website has useful information on Scammers and Rogue Traders and allows you to register for trading standard alerts. <https://www.bromley.gov.uk/scams> Advice is also offered on reporting.

REPORTING LOCAL ISSUES

EMERGENCY POLICE/FIRE/AMBULANCE dial 999
Police Non-Emergency – report on 101 or contact via MRA website

Gas leaks should be reported urgently on 0800-111-999

Water leaks should be reported to **Thames Water** via their website <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/>

Potholes, fly-tipping and pavement issues are best reported on **FixMyStreet** websites. Links to these may be found on the Councils page on the MRA website. (see QR code below)

MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
CURRENT OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

All may be contacted via website

INTERIM CHAIRMAN	<i>Gail Hodges</i>		
TREASURER	<i>Laurie Bell</i>		
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN	<i>Richard Mainwaring-Burton</i>		
SECRETARY	<i>Lesley Robins</i>		
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	<i>Richard Mainwaring-Burton</i>		
AUDITOR	<i>Bernie Hawes</i>		
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS :			
<i>Sally Bettesworth</i>	<i>Bob Blanks</i>	<i>Carol Borhani</i>	<i>Astrid Chklar</i>
<i>Jane Cornish</i>	<i>Bob Lawrie</i>	<i>James Martin</i>	<i>Graham Soars</i>

