



# Cobham and Downside Residents' Association Newsletter, Autumn 2019

## Residents' Meeting - non-members welcome

Thursday 17th October, doors open 7.15pm for 7.45pm start  
Cobham Village Hall, Lushington Drive

with talks:

**The Local Plan by Councillor James Browne**

**The Diggers by Local Historian David Taylor**

Drinks from 7.15pm, with table displays from local groups

## From the Chairman

As the new Chair of the CDRA, I welcome you to our Autumn newsletter. Firstly, I need to thank Sue and Sandy for their immense contributions over the past decade as Chair and Secretary of the CDRA. I'm proud of the impact of our new planning subcommittee; we endeavour to represent those people who most impacted by inappropriate developments.

This newsletter coincides with the end of the consultation phase of the Elmbridge local plan which asks residents to choose between five draft options to meet the Government's housing targets. Some of these are highly damaging to the Greenbelt and it's vital that Cobham and Downside show a united response to protect the green spaces inside and surrounding our villages. The CDRA is represented on the Green Belt Group which is coordinating response from the local community.

Please plan to attend our open meeting, on October 17th in Cobham village hall with talks from our village historian, David Taylor, and Councillor James Browne. **Ian Clifford, Chairman CDRA**

### COBHAM HEALTH CENTRE

With the expected increase in patient numbers the Practice is keen to improve how new patients are 'taken on-board'. The Patient Participation Group (PPG) successfully applied for a grant from Elmbridge Borough Council for a project to make these improvements. The PPG worked with the Practice's Business Manager, Claire Yarborough, to recruit a Project Co-ordinator and following interviews Kirsty Butler joined the practice in March to work part-time for the duration of the project.

The first part of the project to redesign the process of taking on new patients is complete and the new process is being followed.

A pro-active approach has been introduced hence, for example, new patients' notes are checked and bookings are made for immunisations and medical checks as required.

Now underway with the help of PPG members is the creation of a comprehensive up-to-date Patient Information Pack to be issued to new patients. It will also be distributed to all households in Cobham, Downside and Stoke D'Abernon as a catch-up for existing patients and will be made available as an online document. (If you're not a Cobham Health Centre patient it will still have useful health information for you). Please look out for your copy and read it when it drops through your letter box.

The PPG is considering a follow-on project to adapt the information in the Pack and present it in a more accessible form online. **Sandy Brook**

## CDRA Planning Sub-Committee

The planning committee meets monthly to review new planning applications and requests for assistance from CDRA members and the wider public. Since the last newsletter we have reviewed around 40 applications with a current case list of some twenty which are the subject of detailed objections or observations, or await planning decisions by the Council. Assistance can involve speaking on behalf, or in support of residents at Council Planning Committees.

These cases vary widely in content and impact from commercial signage to home extensions and listed buildings. Dealing with this variety involves the committee in the full panoply of local and national planning policy, and detailed local research and knowledge.

There are a number of strategic themes which underpin the detailed planning work. In 2016 the Council undertook public consultation on draft Local Plan development options to deliver national governments' housing targets and its impact on Green Belt. Revised draft options have now been approved by the Council. As you probably know, formal consultation began in August and for those who receive our emails we hope you found the information we provided on how to take part in the consultation helpful. The CDRA is represented on the Green Belt Group which is coordinating response from Cobham, Oxshott, Downside and Stoke D'Abernon.

The planning committee continues to follow CDRA's long term strategy of resisting release of green belt to meet housing targets. The Green Belt Group currently endorse this approach based on a preview of the new five options in the new draft Local Plan. Two options have zero release of green belt. However, there are none which exclude higher density, and Cobham is already affected by interim policy changes. The committee will continue to assess each densification application on its planning policy merits and have recently objected to 2 Stoke Road in the Tilt Conservation Area, 1 Green Lane and 37 Leigh Hill Road, which was withdrawn. 10 flats at 36 Stoke Road were refused following our successful speech to Planning Committee on behalf of objectors. Each of these proposals replaces single family homes with flats and associated parking and access issues.

We also helped resist expansion of Downside Motorway Services in green belt, Shell Fairmile Petrol Station, and have objected to Esso Stoke Road retail expansion.

## Your Cobham Community Garden

*Cobham Community Garden has had a productive growing year and as I write we are in harvesting mode right now. Potatoes, squashes and carrots, as well as the first pickings from our fledgling orchard are seeing us into the autumn. Soon we will be making our 2020 plans and what to plant and grow next year.*

*With regular summer rain, the crops have really benefited from the additional water. Our courgettes and marrows have had a fantastic time, the brilliant yellow courgettes have been a big hit and lettuce, herbs, beans, cabbage, potatoes and flowers have all*



*A barrow of produce at the Community Garden and produce for sale at the monthly Farmers Market.*

*flourished. We definitely have the lowest food miles in the monthly Farmers' Market. The produce comes straight from the garden to our stall on the Saturday morning – you really can't get fresher! Come and see us and say hello – we love to meet local people.*

*Talking of local people, we welcome any volunteers, young or more mature, whether you have previous growing experience or just fancy a bit of fresh air and a chat. For any teenagers needing to find a volunteering opportunity for your Duke of Edinburgh's Award have you thought of us? We could be just the local project for you!*

*We're located on the Leg O'Mutton field, behind the allotments and are open on Thursday and Saturday mornings, 10am - 12 noon for drop in volunteering, part or all of a session. There are always things to be done and someone on hand to point you in the right direction. Our produce is on sale together with our homemade chutneys and preserves at our stall on Heritage Day (14th September) and at the Farmers Markets on Saturday 22nd September and 27th October.*

*You can find out more by dropping by the garden or stall or on our website: [www.cobhamcommunitygarden.org.uk](http://www.cobhamcommunitygarden.org.uk). Email: [hello@cobhamcommunitygarden.org.uk](mailto:hello@cobhamcommunitygarden.org.uk)*

## Cobham Cedar Centre & Library

Cobham Cedar Centre and Library, in Cedar Road, has been open to the public for the best part of four years. In these days of drastic cuts to many local services, I think we should consider ourselves lucky to have such a facility provided by Surrey County Council.

The library is on the first floor of the building and can be reached either by stairs or a lift. It is a bright and cheery space. Quite apart from lending books, there is access to computer facilities, bus passes are issued and there are activities for children. There are four parking spaces and one disabled parking space for the sole use of those visiting the Centre or Library.

We lease the ground floor, part of which is sub-let to the Oasis Children's Charity. Until recently, one of the County's Children's Centres used another part. We believe there will be services provided for babies and young children (up to 11 years of age) in the Centre in the near future.

We have a Welcome Desk on the ground floor, run by volunteers, who greet visitors, give out useful information about local organisations and activities and look after the hot drinks machine. The price of a drink is very moderate – hot chocolate appears to be an absolute favourite! We have a small community room which we hire out, free of charge, to non-profit-making organisations. There are toilets, including a disabled toilet and baby changing facilities, on the ground floor.

We are a friendly team and are always looking for more volunteers with an hour or two to spend – weekly or less. If you are interested please get in touch with Vivienne Varley, [vivienne.varley@btinternet.com](mailto:vivienne.varley@btinternet.com), she will be very pleased to hear from you! **Sue Kilpatrick, Director**

### Walton Firs Fund-Raising Concert

We have been asked to publicise a fund-raising concert being held by Walton Firs, the activity centre in Convent Lane which is used by schools, Scouts, Guides and religious groups. It is at 7.30pm on September 28th in The Montaigne Theatre at Cobham Village Hall and will feature The Salts who will be performing songs from the sea including shanties, old and new.

For tickets visit Walton Firs, Convent Lane, Cobham or call 01932 863243. [www.waltonfirs.co.uk](http://www.waltonfirs.co.uk).

## Chatterbus - a service for Cobham and Downside Residents

**Do you wish you didn't have to drive to Cobham station and pay for parking?**

**Do you like shopping in M&S, Tesco or Lidl but can't drive?**

**Would you like to be able to travel to the Jobcentre in Weybridge free of charge?**

**Do you enjoy meeting people as you travel around the Cobham area?**

**Would you like your children to travel to school independently?**

If you answered 'Yes' to any or all of these, or to a host of other questions, the Cobham's Chatterbus could be just what you've been looking for.

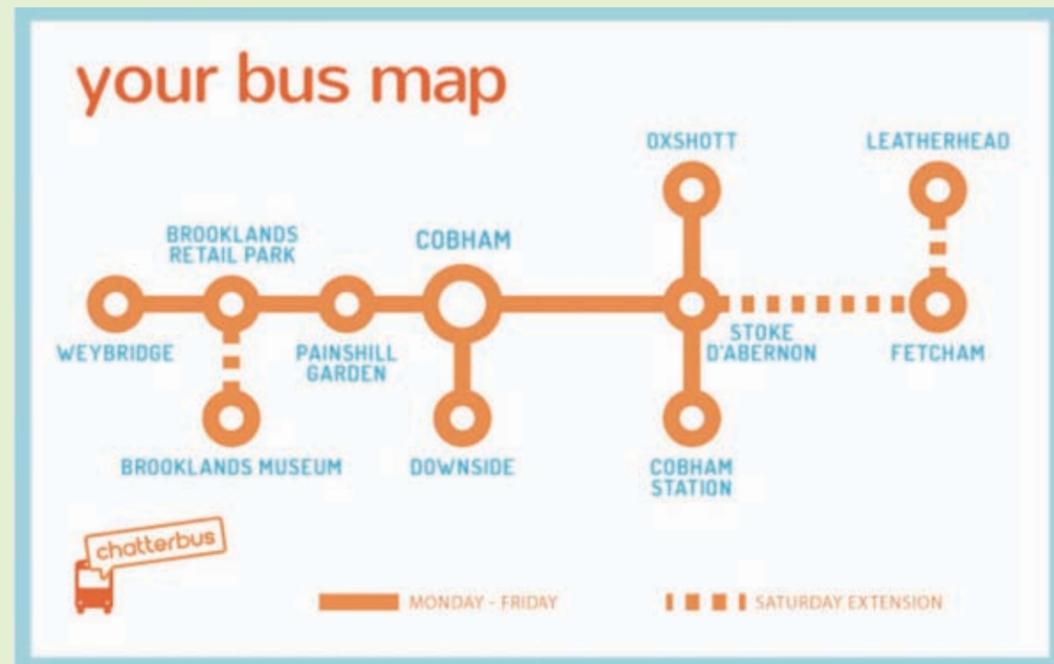
Chatterbus is unique. It's a charity managed solely by local people for the local community, using an experienced professional bus company to run the bus service itself.

The timetable has been developed using research

and personal knowledge of what local people really need, especially when travelling East to West around the local area. The emphasis is on providing a reliable, friendly service that's there when you need it. Free travel is offered on Chatterbus for National Concession Cardholders and free passes are also available for those who need them at Cobham Foodbank.

The Chatterbus' route is shown on this map and you can find up to date information about its timetable on the website [www.chatterbus.org.uk](http://www.chatterbus.org.uk)

Chatterbus is sponsored by Elmbridge Borough Council, Surrey County Council and Chelsea Foundation but we are always looking for new sponsors to keep the service running. If you have a business and would like to have its name on the bus, or know someone who would, please get in touch. [Info@chatterbus.org.uk](mailto:Info@chatterbus.org.uk)



## Join the CDRA!

If you are not already a member we hope you will decide to support Cobham and Downside by joining the Association. Send your name, address and a cheque, made out to CDRA, for the £5 annual subscription, to CDRA Membership, CDRA, 24 Piper's Close, Cobham, KT11 3AU. Or pay by online

or telephone banking, our details are; account number 12422371, sort code 60 06 03; account name: CDRA. Please use your name and street name as reference so we know who you are. If you join in this way you will also need to email us your name and address. In both cases, let us know if you would like to be sent a receipt. Alert us if you don't want your details held on our computer files.