



# LEE-ON-THE-SOLENT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

[www.LoSRA.org.uk](http://www.LoSRA.org.uk)



## NEWSLETTER-MAY 2008

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I would like to thank all the members of last year's committee, a number of whom retired at the recent AGM, after much valuable service.

It was encouraging to receive nominations for a number of new members and we now have a very strong and energetic committee who are working on ways to make the Association even more valuable to members.

I mentioned in the last Newsletter that we had initiated a joint meeting with Lee Business Association, Vision4Lee and our Councillors to look at long term developments. This group has now been formalised with the title Local Advisory and Coordination Group and with the upcoming development of the Daedalus site it is proving very productive. You will find more details in the report on Daedalus.

Finally I would like to reiterate that we are here to represent you, the members. If you have anything you wish us to focus on or address please contact me or one of the committee - details of the areas each of us focuses on and contact details are shown on the middle page of this Newsletter.

Richard Mackay  
92 550285

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Thank you to all who came along to our Annual General Meeting on 21 March 2007. Helen Wilson stepped down as Secretary and I have taken over from her, I have quickly discovered that she is a very hard act to follow!

Fortunately she has agreed to stay in the wings for a while to give me advice and support, for which I am very grateful. Helen gave a very full and comprehensive report at the AGM. Any member who was not present and who would like a copy please contact me.

The Waterfront Brasserie is very popular and is very successful. LSRA Committee members and their partners enjoyed an 'end of term' lunch there (at their own expense!) on the 10 February 2007 and I think we all agreed that the venue and menu were superb and a great asset to Lee.

The plans for the future of Daedalus will start to come together this year and the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) is keen to ensure local people are consulted. SEEDA have also agreed to hold a Lee-Daedalus Summer Festival on the site over August Bank Holiday 2008. In the early stages of planning, LSRA and Lee Business Association (LBA) are leading this event with Peter Patterson of LBA chairing the group. We will be looking for volunteer helpers as the plans come together. Anyone interested in becoming involved please let Peter know on 92 553335

We will have a variety of Open Meetings during the coming year; details are given in the centre pages of this Newsletter. If you have not been to any of our meetings yet, please do try and come - everyone is welcome and we would appreciate suggestions and ideas for future meetings. As last year's social event in November was so successful we plan to host another one this year, but in the Bulson Hall. It will give us more room and the opportunity to offer you the chance of a glass of wine.

One final point: please encourage your friends & family to join LSRA - the more members we have, the louder our voice will be!

Christine Beavis  
92 793063

### **DAEDALUS**

There has been much speculation in the press recently about plans for the development of Daedalus but no decisions have been made. It's very early days in terms of the project. SEEDA have stated that the site offers an exciting opportunity for new marine & aviation related employment and businesses. But it also will consider possible options in the longer term for a number of key-workers and affordable homes.

They are keen that local residents are given every opportunity to comment & be involved with the consultation process. To find out whether local residents support this vision SEEDA will issue a press release soon announcing that a questionnaire will be sent to residents within a 1.5 mile radius of the site around mid-May. A master plan, considering the responses from the public,

Among the SEEDA team are planner Terence O'Rourke, planning consultants Drivers Jonas, transportation experts MVA Consultancy, and local community consultants Groundwork Solent. LSRA is represented on a group called the Local Advisory and Co-ordination Group (LACG) that is chaired by Councillor Brian Taylor and aims to ensure all interested parties are given the opportunity to be involved in the consultation process. The group meets regularly; the next meeting is with SEEDA

Development Manager, Clare Chester, and representative from their consultants. Richard Mackay & John Beavis are representing LSRA at this meeting.

SEEDA is acutely aware of the congestion problem and places traffic management high on the agenda for the master plan. Any development does need planning permission. HCC, FBC and GBC have also made it very clear the infrastructure must be able to support any plans to develop the site and GBC Councillors have said they will not approve any housing without road improvements being in place.

The SEEDA website is up and running and can be visited at [www.daedalus-seeda.co.uk](http://www.daedalus-seeda.co.uk)

**Remember your view counts so please complete and return the questionnaire if you receive one.**

### **THE SOUTH EAST PLAN**

The South East region covers the county areas of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey and West Sussex. The South East Plan is a document that sets out changes needed to improve the quality of life in the South East England region over the next 20 years including building 28,900 new homes per year to accommodate the growing number of households in the region.

Key topics covered in the Plan are housing, transport, employment and the environment. The Plan sets out strategies for improving life in the region by:

- Highlighting investment priorities for improving transport
- Reviewing the number of new houses needed in the region each year
- Setting new targets for recycling waste to reduce the need for landfill
- Recommending ways to improve health and the environment.

### **How does this affect our area of South Hampshire?**

The union of HCC and our local authorities is represented by the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), which has recently completed initial feasibility studies of the Strategic Development Areas (SDAs). They concluded that, in terms of landscape sensitivity, land immediately north of Fareham is the best place in South East Hampshire for the proposed 10,000 new homes, jobs and associated facilities. There are no insurmountable obstacles to a sustainable development, although further work is needed on the best way to provide water supply, drainage, highway and public transport access. PUSH has appointed a Project Director - Richard Longman - who took up his post on 15 January 2007. He will coordinate the Partnership's growing range of activities; secure further Government funding, and help implement the strategy to achieve higher economic growth.

On a more local level the annual rate of housing development planned for the Gosport peninsula is less than the rate currently taking place. Our local councillors have said they will not approve any significant housing development without road and infrastructure improvements being committed at the same time.

John Beavis

### **SEAFRONT**

Work is still in progress on the promenade. Earth is being removed from the headland and the wall lowered, grass seed that is slow growing, hard wearing and resistant to sea spray is being sown and hopefully this will stop mud sliding on to the promenade. To enable the grass to get established a temporary fence has been erected to discourage dogs and children going on to the newly grassed areas. When the work is completed the beach where the shingle has been compacted will be aerated and any repairs needed on the promenade will be carried out.

## **TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE**

Government funding for the entire South East has been set at £140M a year for the next five years, a total of £700M. The very welcome Hindhead By-Pass has consumed half of this, leaving £350M. There is a limit of £5M on any single project.

The South East England Development Authority (SEEDA) is aware of the congestion in this area and has us as a priority. The schemes that are being pushed are those which change local roads and try to improve use of public transport.

There are several measures classed as high priority in the Local Transport Plan which may be implemented in the years 2006 – 2011 and £4 million has recently been allocated to start these off:

Making Salterns Lane/Gosport Road junction a No Right Turn and removing the traffic lights.

Quay Street roundabout. Remove this and have a 'complex signal controlled junction' and open up two more of the arches.

Collingwood and Longfield Avenue roundabouts. Review layouts and possible traffic lights.

Newgate Lane widening and straightening.

Peel Common roundabout may be signalised and an independent left turn lane constructed from Broom Way towards Stubbington. This work requires Newgate Lane to be improved as above.

The Stubbington Bypass is the only major improvement which could significantly change traffic flow but there is no funding for this at the present time. The development of Daedalus may allow some pressure to be applied by the Association. This is the project which appears to have most promise in reducing local congestion.

Many of the above schemes will be looking for adjacent development to contribute towards the cost, e.g. Tesco at Quay Street. HCC is looking at alternatives to the Light Rail Transit after government funding was withdrawn 4 days after the Olympic Bid was won.

Neill Ward

## **PIER HOUSE**

This important building is owned by Hampshire County Council (HCC) and has been standing empty for over a year. Despite this, no efforts have yet been made to market the building. We understand that HCC wish to talk to Gosport Borough Council planners to ascertain their views on potential uses for the building prior to developing a marketing plan. In the meantime people wishing to consider developing the site (we are told this has included someone considering converting it to a hotel) have been advised to wait until the building is on the market. It seems incredible that such an asset can be allowed to deteriorate and not be turned into cash for investment by HCC more rapidly.

## **HEALTH**

*ROYAL HOSPITAL, HASLAR* - The leader of the Haslar Task Force, Councillor Peter Edgar, continues trying to convince various authorities of the desirability (and ultimate necessity) of continuing to use some part of the site post 2009 for health purposes (e.g. elective surgery, rehabilitation, elderly care, outpatients' clinics etc.) If you see a talk by Peter Edgar advertised it is well worth attending. He does give 'a glimmer of hope'.

*REDEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, GOSPORT WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL* - Construction is now programmed to start in June. A further Traffic Impact Assessment is to be carried out by consultants (this seems hardly necessary). Various services will be transferred to Haslar for the next two years. Patients who are affected will be informed by letter.

*LOCAL MATERNITY SERVICES* There will be a further consultation organised by Hampshire Primary Care Trust which it is hoped will 'meet the needs of the local population in terms of demographic trends'.

*BLOOD TESTING SERVICE AT LEE SURGERY.* There is still no approval for this although our local doctors are energetically pushing to start the service. Hampshire Primary Care Trust has still not made a final decision on the detailed budget. The good news is that without any advertising a number of potential staff have enquired about the role so hopefully once a decision is made it can be implemented quickly. It is frustrating how long a relatively simple change takes to get approved in the NHS.

*PORTSMOUTH HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST.* The creation of this Trust has been approved and ballot papers for the election of Governors to serve on the Council will be sent to members of the Trust on 23 May. We would urge you to join and vote as the more members there are from the local area the more influence we will have – not that we can expect any magical instant changes!

If you have not already joined we would urge you to do so. We hope to be able to deliver application forms with this Newsletter.

In order to make our local voice heard LSRA Chairman, Richard Mackay, will be standing for election as a Governor.

Jean and Alan Robertson

### **CHERQUE FARM LINK ROAD**

Again we have to report that work on linking this to the existing Lee to Gosport road has not commenced. Last time we told you that a new plan had been developed that did not encroach on MOD land and therefore work should start shortly. We are now told that this plan has been dropped and an alternative plan along the lines of the very original proposals is to be implemented. It is hard to understand how completion of this road, which was a condition of planning approval, has been allowed to be delayed so long beyond the contracted date.

### **PLANNING**

#### *6, 7, 8, MARINE PARADE WEST*

We have objected to this application for a four storey development on the site of these three bungalows for the following reasons:

- It does not conform with the Borough's Local Plan Review or with the draft (October, 2006) "Marine Parade Area of Special Character, Supplementary Planning Document" (SPD).
- The flat roof is boringly repetitive of the adjacent Bembridge Lodge and blocks of flats further to the west.
- The 4 storeys are inconsistent with the character of this area (Eastern Section) which is dominated by buildings of up to 2 storeys.

We are also concerned with the undesirable impact on adjacent buildings along the seafront in terms of the loss of natural light and the closeness of the vents serving the underground car park. For instance, as we read the plans, these vents come within 2 metres of windows in the side walls of Bembridge Lodge.

#### **MOBILE PHONE MAST IN BROOM WAY**

An application has been submitted by T Mobile to erect a mobile phone mast in Broom Way. This application can be viewed in Gosport's planning department on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor in the Town Hall or on Gosport's Web site.

*FLOWERS BUILDING, MARINE PARADE EAST (near to Lee Press).*

The planning application for a Single Story Extension & alterations to the existing building to form a Café facility can be viewed in Gosport's planning department on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor in the Town Hall or on Gosport's Web site.

### RIGHT TO LIGHT

If you wish to find out more about your rights and have a computer with internet access type into Google "Right to Light" – the sites listed give very good sound advice and details the issues and what actions can be taken.

If you do not have access to computer I will be happy to assist.

Alison Roast 92 796601

### ALVER VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

Residents will be interested to know that the land which is still owned by Persimmon should be in public hands by August.

Progress on the park should then be extended and further work on paths, roads etc. started.

The area south of the site towards Browndown is now open to the public, whereas anywhere else is, strictly speaking, not.

We can now look forward to the sports facilities and fishponds to the north of the site and more especially the visitor centre proposed near the 'Balancing Pond'. LSRA will be consulted about the proposals for the visitor centre in due course.

All this will cost approximately £1.25 million. Raising the money from various sources will no doubt affect progress after August.

Groundwork Solent are working with GBC on all these matters; anyone requiring further details can contact Groundwork's executive director, Tim Houghton by email ([timhoug@gwk.org.uk](mailto:timhoug@gwk.org.uk)) or on 92 617020 or his colleague Ben Pritt on the same number.

Roy Pankhurst

### WANTED – LADYBIRD BOOKS

Do you have any Ladybird books in good condition that your children or grandchildren have finished with? If so kindergarten in Kathmandu, Nepal would very much appreciate them.

Since receiving a case of these books, the children's reading skills have improved enormously and they virtually devour any new books in their enthusiasm and excitement.

A friend is taking another case out soon and if you can help to fill it, you will bring a lot of happiness. I can collect

you can spare if you ring me.

Thank you.

Libby Mackay  
92 550285

### **COMMUNITY EVENT ORGANISED BY LEE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

This year's community event will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> August, (August Bank Holiday Saturday) in the High Street. All Lee Groups & Organisations are invited to take part.

The LSRA will be there. It was very successful last year and was an opportunity to meet members, and recruit new ones.

If an organisation you belong to you would like to be involved please contact Peter Patterson on 92 553335.

### **SOME OTHER LOCAL EVENTS**

*WALKING TO HEALTH* is organised by Gosport Borough Council. There are many walks from a 30 minute stroll to a one hour walk around the historic former munitions site, to mention but two. All walks have a Walk Leader who can expand on and talk about the history of the sites whilst walking.

Phone for details 92 545488 or 92 545507.

*RIDE AROUND THE HARBOURS*, the British Heart Foundation's fun and exciting fund-raising event will take place on Sunday, 10 June. Suitable for the whole family, riders can start and finish at Fareham, Gosport, Havant or Southsea.

The whole course is 32 miles which includes two ferry trips and, with breaks, will take around 4 to 5 hours. The ride begins at 9am and aims to finish by 5pm.

For further information call 0808 100 2109 or e-mail [sthamesevents@bhf.org.uk](mailto:sthamesevents@bhf.org.uk). You can register online at [www.bhf.org.uk/roundtheharbours](http://www.bhf.org.uk/roundtheharbours)

### **FREecycle**

The Freecycle Network was started in May 2003 to promote waste reduction. The Network provides individuals and non-profit organisations with an electronic forum to recycle unwanted items. One person's rubbish can truly be another's treasure!

It comprises many individual groups across the globe. It's a grassroots and entirely non-profit movement of people who are giving (& getting) stuff for free in their own towns. Each local group is moderated by a local volunteer. Membership is free. To sign up to the Gosport group go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/freecyclegosport>

How does it work?

When you want to find a new home for something - whether it's a chair, a fax machine, piano, or an old door - you simply send an e-mail offering it to members of the local Freecycle group.

Or, maybe you're looking to acquire something yourself. Simply respond to a member's offer, and you just might get it. After that, it's up to the giver to decide who receives the gift and to set up a pick-up time for passing on the treasure.

One main rule: Everything posted must be free, legal, and appropriate for all ages.

Non-profit organisations also benefit from The Freecycle Network. Post the item or items you want to

give away and specify that you wish the gift to go to a non-profit cause. It's entirely your choice!

### **GOSPORT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

Gosport CAB is a local charity limited by guarantee, which provides free help and advice to people who have legal, money, and other everyday problems.

The Gosport bureau has recently moved into new premises and is planning to increase the service it offers. It is looking for committed volunteers with business or community backgrounds to act as trustees. The role of trustees is to apply their collective knowledge, skills, and experience to achieve the efficient development and running of the bureau, and to support the management and volunteer staff.

Trustees can expect to help the bureau deal with a wide range of challenging operational and management issues, and should ideally have an interest in the provision of community care.

If you feel you would like to contribute to the work of the bureau by becoming a trustee, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please call our manager, Sara Pennells, on 92 604601 for an informal discussion about what might be involved. If you prefer you can find more information on our web site at [www.gosportcab.org.uk](http://www.gosportcab.org.uk) in which you will find a link to contact us by email.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Thank you to everyone who has renewed or joined for 2007. You should now have your pink 2007 membership cards. Reminders are enclosed with this Newsletter where we can not trace having received your subscription. Please can anyone who has not paid do so as soon as possible using the application form on the back page.

If you receive a reminder and think you have paid or have any other questions please contact our Membership Secretary, Jim Bell on 92 552862