



Transport Panel: Report to the AGM

AT THE Weybridge Society AGM on Monday 19th April 2010 the Transport Panel presented an overview of 4 key strategies that it feels are essential to deliver an adequate transport infrastructure to support the current population and permit growth. The presentation generated a community debate. Considerable support was expressed and the panel were encouraged to pursue the proposed approach.

The panel suggested that Weybridge, having been shaped by the railway, on which still so many residents and visitors rely, still has pre-1830's, pre-motor car roads. Transport Infrastructure has not kept pace with the motor car or the town's population growth. The town now suffers from excessive road traffic, including large volumes of private and heavy HGV through traffic, and high traffic speeds!

To maintain and improve our town Weybridge deserves a sensible vision and strategy – a clear and robust statement of how we want our town to look and feel in 20 years. Lack of vision will lead us on an uncertain path.

The Transport Panel proposes that Elmbridge, Surrey and partners should create, support and deliver transport strategies and policies that provide an excellent transport infrastructure, addressing important issues such as:

- Road safety - especially by reducing speeds, providing safe routes to schools / colleges and removing HGVs from our local roads
- Reduce emissions – thereby making cycling, walking and public transport more attractive
- Improve parking - by implementing a

town-wide parking strategy

- Improve transport mode integration for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users – especially at Weybridge Station.

Some of the key strategies needed to meet these objectives address Residential Area Speed Controls, Cycling, Station Improvements and Parking Policy.

SPEEDING: To reduce accidents, and encourage more walking and cycling, we need to reduce speeds in our residential streets with the introduction of 20mph restrictions and ensure drivers adhere to the limits.

The evidence for lower speed limits in residential streets is compelling – in a collision between cars and pedestrians at 30 mph, 20% of pedestrians hit by a car will die – that's almost 10 times the rate at 20mph. In a study of 400 20mph areas in London it was found that there was 50% less 'Killed and Serious Injuries' and £20m saved in 'social costs' inc hospitals, with implementation costs much lower than the savings. Evidence shows that properly designed 20mph limits and zones are 'self enforcing' i.e. require no additional police enforcement resource.

Residents don't feel safe walking or cycling – mainly due to high traffic speeds. We support the Surrey County Council (SCC) Police 'Drive Smart' initiative to tackle anti-social driving and the Community Speed Watch scheme.

The latest SCC policy statement on 20mph limits suggests a 'do nothing' approach. **WE INTEND TO CHALLENGE THIS ROBUSTLY.**

We also need to ensure vehicle speeds on all other roads are within current speed limits.

CYCLING: Is the main 'sustainable' trans-

Would you like to join To Join The Weybridge Society?

By joining us you will be able to add your voice and weight to our campaigns. The Society has been going for over 50 years and during that time has gained the respect of borough and county councillor. We support new initiatives guard against inappropriate development. We also work closely with Neighbourhood Watch and the police ensuring a safe and secure environment for all who live and work in Weybridge. Please contact any member listed on Page 2 for details

port mode. We need to make cycling safer, more convenient and enjoyable by the provision of better routes, facilities and safe zones for cyclists. Weybridge has almost no cycling provision.

We propose to link Weybridge with neighbouring towns, public transport (including the station), social, community and leisure amenities and make highways safer for cyclists, especially on school routes.

Motorists, Cyclists and Pedestrians need to be educated to share the limited highway space safely!

Simple messages, signs and road marking changes are inexpensive and have a huge effect on safety, convenience and the simple pleasure of cycling, by providing a practical and cost effective way to deliver significant changes in support of sustainability, health and climate objectives.

STATION IMPROVEMENTS: Many residents work outside the town and many visit the town (students, tourists and employees). Weybridge Station is our 'strategic transport hub.' It is essential that we improve the station, improve road safety in the station area and better integrate rail/bus and other transport modes.

We have a station because of the vision of our town council in the early 1830's. However, it is remote from the Weybridge town and Brooklands' businesses. The roads around the Station, designed for horse and cart traffic, have changed little in almost 175 years.

To meet the demands of this century, the station needs to be improved and better integrated with public transport and other transport modes. Key changes need to include:

- Modernise - Expand station capacity, provide better cycle storage and provide escalators to platform.
 - Improve highways near the Station. - Re-locate the roundabout, improve St George's Avenue junction, make footpaths safe (especially to schools), and provide safe routes for cyclists.
 - Integrate Public Transport - Re-locate bus stands adjacent to station, improve bus services to/from the station, improve taxi rank and link Weybridge to Heathrow by including Weybridge Station in the proposed Air Track link
- The panel has developed an indicative scheme that meets all these objectives.

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Speedwatch needs volunteers

You may have noticed a small group of residents in yellow high visibility jackets standing by the side of the road with a speed gun. They are speedwatch volunteers, who are monitoring traffic speed and encouraging drivers to keep to the speed limit. They are giving a message out to drivers, that message is **KEEP TO THE SPEED LIMIT.**

If you would like to join the Weybridge Speedwatch team please contact transport@weybridge.society.org.uk



Joe Hall and Julie Taylor, armed with her speed gun, keep a watchful eye on potential Weybridge speeders

Inside your New look Newsletter

We visit an English country Garden nestled in the heart of Weybridge:
See pages 2-3

A special gift! From Zimbabwe to Weybridge, our contribution to the people of Elmbridge:
See page 6



This year's Summer party will be held at **Splash, Wey Meadows, Weybridge on SUNDAY, 27th JUNE** 1.00pm to 4.00pm

Order your tickets now, see full details on page 7



Thank You Carolyn!

Carolyn Pennycook is stepping down from one of her many roles within the Weybridge Society and we want to thank her for all the work she has done. Nine-years ago Carolyn started our newsletter, with the first issue in the summer of 2001 and has completed 34 issues in total.

Carolyn continues her enthusiastic work for our town through the Weybridge Society, organising town walks, introducing our patron Michael Aspel to the society, recruiting new committee members, developing leaflets and a programme of meetings throughout the year.

There have been stalls in the cold at Christmas and in the heat or rain in the summer at Otlands Village Fair

Carolyn has always been there. Our membership has flourished; Carolyn is a well-known figure who naturally networks with countless other organisations in and around our town. So, for all these things and more. THANK YOU CAROLYN!



Carolyn Pennycook, who has produced 34 issues of the Weybridge Society Newsletter

Committee list

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We visit an open garden in Weybridge with a secret

Residents of Weybridge open their gardens once a year. All the money raised goes to support of our local Sam Beare Hospice.

CHRISTINE MANN kindly offered

her 'plantswomans' garden for this charity event, working her socks off at a tricky time of the year to present a colourful neat garden that is full of variety and interest.

SO Much needs to be done in preparation. Starting with a big spring clearing-up following the ravages of winter, Christine then trims all the unwanted growth, feeding the ground, and giving the spring-flowering plants a good talking to in order to ensure a great display

This year we had some early warm sunshine followed by recent rain and wind, making the gardens fresh and full of a bright variety of greens.

The grass had renewed its growth, so the vital lawnmower – in the shape of Brian, Christine's husband – was called into action between showers.

Christine's front garden has, nestling amongst a myriad of shrubs, an ornamental fountain flowing over a mound of stones. It is cleverly raised up on a gothic urn, partnered by a small pond with tadpoles, a waterlily and irises, a variety of different shape

leaves which provide architectural interest. A corkscrew hazel tree stands at the back by the chimney pot, affords interest all year round with its contorted branches. Daisies by the path, tulips in window boxes and hanging baskets galore shows the promise of delights to come.

Christine's back garden has a gentle slope affording views across Weybridge allotments towards the church spire.

Our first treat was a blushing pink rhododendron full of bloom by the back door. Down the path with neat lawn and flowering strawberry bed on one side, then under a rustic rose arch accompanied by a red cotinus (such a bold contrast with the green lawn) and festooned with hanging baskets. She had been busy.

We continued past crowds of visitors, all eagerly admiring and full of questions, along the stepping stones to a raised

sun terrace surrounded by green lawns on either side. The path continued on to a 'secret' doorway with a mirrored window providing access to the churchfields allotments, but cleverly hidden by charming climbing wisteria and a honeysuckle.

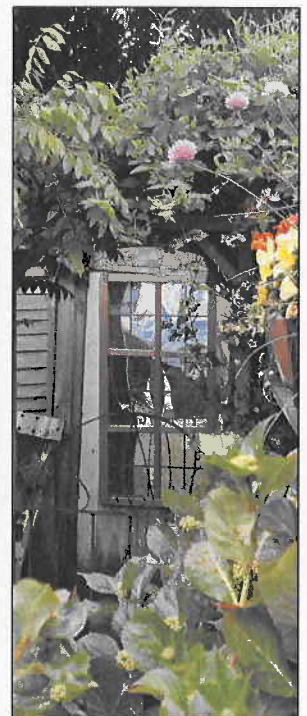
Back up the garden we walked past the undulating beds of shrubs, admiring more rhododendrons, and the first blooms of roses, which are not so easy to grow in our sandy rather acid soil. We lingered at a charming bench sited for the evening sun under an old apple tree.

What a pleasant way to spend a Sunday afternoon. It seemed that most of the residents of Weybridge were out meeting friends and enjoying such a wonderful variety of gardens, all within a short stroll of our town centre.

Maggie Alderman



A Bench sits in the shade of an old apple tree gathering the dying embers of warm evening sunlight



The 'secret' mirrored door leads to Churchfields Allotments



Weybridge Open Gardens Weekend was organised by Jackie Roberts of the Friends of Weybridge Hospital.

This year the event was shared with Sam Beare Hospice. On the Sunday Friends of Weybridge Hospital provided the teas and on the Saturday they were provided by the Sam Beare Hospice supporters. The event has raised two-thousand pounds and these proceeds were shared equally by both organisations.

Christine enjoys the sun along with her blushing pink rhododendrons full of bloom providing a splash of subtle colour by the back door



LEFT: An ornamental fountain flowing over a mound of stones cleverly raised up on a gothic urn, with a by a small pond below complete with a waterlilies and irises.

RIGHT: A path cuts through a neat lawn and flowering strawberry bed on one side, then under a rustic rose arch, festooned either side with hanging baskets

