



# The Lymington Voice

*The Newsletter of the Lymington Society Spring 2010*

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## Chairman's AGM Address



**Society Chairman  
Clive Sutton**

Ladies and Gentlemen.

As those of you who have had the patience to listen to my previous Chairman's addresses will know, I tend to pick up the theme from the previous address and carry it forward.

Last year in asking the question: "What has the Lymington Society done this year which I can share with the members", I reminded

you of three recent headlines in the paper which the Lymington Society was connected with: "Chaos As High Winds Halt New Ferries"; "Landmark Homes Development on Wellworthy Club Site Refused"; "Builders Face Big Bill As Bid to Keep too High Homes Refused". You can obviously all identify these headlines and how things have developed

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## Summer Drinks Party and Hog Roast—June 9<sup>th</sup> at Moore Blatch

This year's Summer Garden Party will be in the gardens of Moore Blatch, 48, High St Lymington, SO41 9ZQ.

In addition to hosting the event, Moore Blatch have made a very generous donation towards the cost of the catering.

The Party will start at 6:00 pm, with Pimms and a selection of soft drinks or wine.

At 6.30 pm Ian Perry, the Head Gardener for Moore Blatch, will give a short talk and will then take members on a tour of the extensive and mostly hidden "gardens



within gardens" which unfold down the gentle slope beyond the lawn.

As we need to order the right

amount of food, we will not be able to offer large numbers of tickets on the day - so please book early for yourselves and any guest who

you wish to bring along. As numbers are limited early booking is advised to avoid disappointment

If you have any garden tables or chairs which you could kindly lend us, that would be very helpful. Please e-mail or telephone Don Mackenzie and we can discuss the arrangements.

Tickets are £10

Please order your tickets by email on [donald@donald-mackenzie.co.uk](mailto:donald@donald-mackenzie.co.uk) or in person at Solent House Dental centre, Cannon Street, Lymington. 01590 672986

## The 2010 AGM

About 60 members attended the AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010

The President Lt.Col. Chitty welcomed members.

Apologies:

The Mayor, Cllr. Jan Hawker, Julia Tremain, Mike & Maggie Thoys, Cllr. Adrian Evans,

Diana & Ian Doherty, Anne Thomlinson, Jackie Hay, Sue Ewer.

Minutes of the 2009 AGM were accepted unanimously.

Mr. Sutton gave the Chairman's Address (see above).

The Treasurer's Report was given by Mr. Sheffer.

Approval was proposed by Wendy Couch & Elizabeth Lewis and accepted unanimously.

Mr. Sutton announced future social events.

There being no nominations from the floor, re-election of current members of the Executive Committee:

Clive Sutton, Derek Sheffer,

Ivor Johnston, Jonathan Hutchinson, Nick King, Donald Mackenzie, Nigel Seth-Smith was proposed by Cllr. Elizabeth Lewis, seconded by Alison Bolton and passed unanimously.

Civic Trust leaflets were distributed for consideration. Mr. Sutton suggested that a

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## Planning— Application for a “Destination” Pub in St Thomas St

As you know, our committee members with responsibility for planning matters trawl the planning website once a week and precis the important applications. These are published on our website [www.lymsoc.co.uk](http://www.lymsoc.co.uk), click on “Planning and Development”

On April 21st we spotted this application:

**95473 - 47-48 ST THOMAS STREET**  
 registration date: 12/04/2010  
 Location: Ford's furniture shop  
 Proposal: Use as public house  
 (Use class A4)  
 Statutory Class: Change of Use

The application was on behalf of J D Wetherspoon plc.

We were not the only ones to pick up on the application; The Lymington Times also spotted it, and asked local organisations, including the Society, to comment. Our press secretary quickly put together a press release, which was submitted, and the first part of which was included in the following edition of the paper, in the front page article about the pub's application.

Unfortunately the selected part, which stated that “Any new commercial investment that brings vitality and economic activity to the High Street and helps to meet the needs of local people is to be welcomed” was not indicative of the Society's overall view of this specific application, and the Lymington Times agreed to publish, in full, a letter from our chairman in the following edition. The chairman's letter follows:

### Chairman's Letter to the Lymington Times

Dear Sir,

The planning application by Wetherspoon's for a pub next to the Parish Church in Lymington has merited your leading front page article for its newsworthiness and controversy. No doubt people are going to have strongly opposing views about this sort of pub in this location.

The Lymington Society tries to be objective about all planning applications and informs the planners as much as possible on each application. Here it may

be helpful if the Society informed the public through your pages as well. Can I firstly amplify the comments of the Lymington Society spokesman in your article by inserting the four paragraphs that you omitted from the press release.

*"However we note that local people have expressed concerns about the likelihood of such a large premises becoming a public house so near to the church and the adjacent graveyard.*

*The Society understand the concerns and also has reservations about what may well become an extremely large destination public house being developed so near to an area that some people may feel is inappropriate.*

*Large destination pubs such as this may become have been associated in the past with very late night licences and public order concerns, as we see regularly on TV news programmes.*

*Therefore whilst welcoming in principle investments such as this that bring new facilities, jobs and economic activity to the town, the Society hopes that the authorities will not allow a very late licence for this establishment which could cause problems for those living in the town centre from noise and nuisance from inebriated revellers in the early hours".*

This press release did not "cautiously welcome the move," but welcomed a commercial investment that brought vitality and economic activity to the High Street, but not the noise and nuisance of an establishment with the reputation of Wetherspoon's, which from their website reads

*"During the day, our Lloyds No.1 bars can offer a quiet, relaxed pub, for all to enjoy a drink or meal; at night, the teams up the mood and tempo. The night-time teams are really focused on, and enthusiastic about, people having fun and providing a really vibrant atmosphere. Watch out for our regular party nights – great fun and often a bit of an eye-opener! At the weekends, many of our Lloyds No.1 bars have live DJs or live music."*

The commercial ethos of Wetherspoon's, as I understand it, is to sell drink at a price lower than other outlets which will

not only damage the business of those outlets, but on the basis that there is no similar outlet between Bournemouth and Southampton, make Lymington High Street a focus, or destination, for that type of pub. It is very questionable whether that is appropriate to the present character of Lymington and its High Street.

The authorities would no doubt try to control excessive noise and disturbance from such a pub, but there would be continual friction and on the basis that this can be described as a "destination pub" designed to attract large numbers of young people from a wide area, there would no doubt have to be a regular police presence in the High Street. A few years ago there were continual disturbances monitored by the police in Queen Street because of the pubs there. To repeat those disturbances in the High Street next to the church and opposite a long established care home seems completely unnecessary.

Accordingly, whilst in principle welcoming facilities for young people in the right places, as the press release did, it clearly cautioned against this sort of outlet next to the parish church. The Lymington Society have now had an opportunity to discuss this within its executive committee and with many of its members, and the clear feeling accepted by everyone is that this is a proposal for what might, in certain circumstances, be the right facility but in completely the wrong place.

I appreciate that many with strong religious or traditional views may say that the proposal is outrageous and that it should not even be considered. The Lymington Society have now considered the proposal fully and objectively and, on all the arguments, a pub of the Wetherspoon's type is clearly wrong for Lymington High Street and in particular for this location immediately next to the entrance to the Lymington parish church.

For the full objection of the Lymington Society dealing with all the issues please look at our website.

Yours faithfully

Clive Sutton

## Your Committee Members

In the finest journalistic tradition, page 3 of your Newsletter has intimate insights into the lives of your Committee Members. In this edition: Derek Sheffer, the Society's Treasurer and Donald Mackenzie, the Press Secretary and Social Secretary.

### Derek Sheffer—Treasurer



Derek assumed the role of Hon. Treasurer from Peter Chitty at the beginning of 2006.

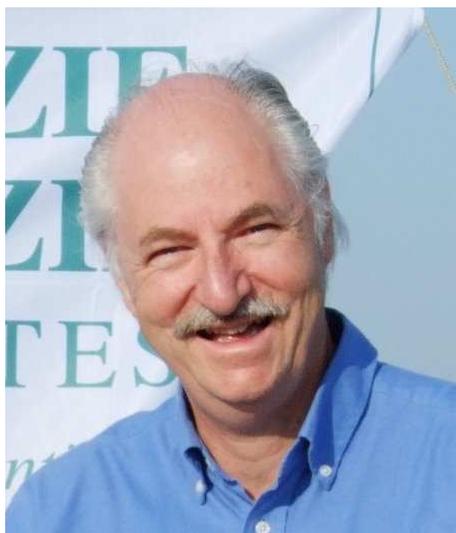
After qualifying as a Chartered Accountant, he spent the majority of his career in Institutional Investment Management in the City of London.

Pursuing his and his wife Janet's interest in sailing, The Sheffers moved from South West London to Lymington in 1996. Initially, most of their time was spent cruising French and Spanish waters through to the Mediterranean in their 35 foot sloop.

As residents of two of the High Street Burgage plots, their interest in local affairs soon involved them in the Lymington Society with first Janet joining the Committee, later to be replaced by Derek.

Along with active involvement in the Royal Lymington Yacht Club, local matters form an important part of their commitment to Lymington.

### Donald Mackenzie—Press Officer and Social Secretary



Donald became involved with the Lymington Society at the same time as Ivor Johnston and Clive Sutton seven or eight years ago.

Since then he has been responsible for originally developing the Society's Newsletter the "Lymington Voice", as well as the Society website now looked after by Nigel Seth-Smith. Donald organises the Social Programme and undertakes the role of Press Secretary dealing with queries from the press and issuing Press Releases. More recently he has been involved on part of the Society in examining the Wightlink proposal to bring larger ferries to Lymington, organising the Public Meeting which brought this matter to public attention two years ago.

Donald and his wife Yvonne both qualified as dentists in London in 1975 and now run the Solent House Dental Centre in Canon Street, which also doubles as the Lymington Society "ticket office" selling tickets for Society events.

Born in Plymouth in 1950 Donald met his wife Yvonne at King's College Hospital Dental School and they were married in 1977. Following the completion of their postgraduate studies at the Royal Dental Hospital in London's Leicester Square in 1981 they moved to Lymington, taking over the dental practice of retiring dentist Reg Runeckles dentist at Chawton House in Thomas Street, when the building was purchased by a local medical practice.

In 1985 Donald and Yvonne purchased their current premises in Canon Street and converted a former squash court into the current surgery practice.

For many years Donald represented the dental profession locally in the media as the Radio Solent Dentist, taking part in many phone in programmes - answering listener's questions on dental topics.

Since coming to Lymington they have had three children; James and Calum have now moved from the area to pursue their own careers, and Caroline is halfway through her university studies at Oxford Brookes University. They are therefore now truly empty nesters after many years of running a taxi service like many parents.

Donald is also involved with St Barbe Museum as a trustee of the Lymington Museum Trust.

Like many other people Donald and Yvonne were drawn back to Lymington by the opportunity to go sailing, and enjoy pottering in their 26 foot McGregor boat. They also find time occasionally to use their new golf clubs at the lovely course at Walhampton.

## The Master's House - an Update - Don Mackenzie



After Decades of Neglect



Nearly Finished

Society Members will most likely be aware that in 2005 the Lymington Society successfully managed to save from demolition, the imposing building known as The Master's House on East Hill, Lymington. The name derives from the use of the building to accommodate the Master of the nearby Lymington Workhouse (more recently The Infirmary) built in 1837 following the passing of the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act by Parliament.

The Master's House was built slightly later than the original workhouse and provided accommodation for occupants of the workhouse who became ill. The building which has been described in some documents as the "fever ward" is shown on a map produced in 1860 as a hospital.

Hearing that the previous owners the New Forest Primary Care Trust were planning to demolish the building to make way for a car park, the Society applied urgently to English Heritage for help. Thankfully they responded rapidly to our request and listed the building as a Grade 2 protected building in July 2005. Due a bureaucratic mix-up between the NFDC and English Heritage, previous requests for listing had not been acted on.

The Society has kept watch on progress with the Master's House and following its sale last year to a private owner, has recently been to visit the renovation programme to hear how things are going from the new owner David Stephenson.

One of the principal reasons for listing the building was that it was one of the last remaining complete workhouse hospitals in the country and still retained many of the original features of the building.

History had not been kind to the building which had been unused since the 1960s when it was used to accommodate doctors and it was in a very sad state of repair with little of the original grounds left due to nearby roads being built.

The Society is pleased to report that things are looking up considerably and that thanks to the efforts of the new owners, restoration is well underway.

A retaining wall has now been built to the east of the property to enable a reasonably large lawn to be constructed in front of the house giving it a much more suitable setting than previously.

Without disturbing the roof line of the original building two new bedrooms have been created in the attic creating a four bed roomed house. Only two of the original sash windows needed replacing and the rest had been restored back to their original Victorian condition.

New pointing and painting has repaired the ravages of time and this imposing and attractive building is once more reappearing having been hidden under Ivy and overgrowth for many years.

Internally the joinery and tiling and parquet flooring are being returned to a Victorian style together with modern facilities including wet rooms but all

with a Victorian flavour.

Once the renovations are finished, David plans to turn it into a holiday let property similar to historic properties let out by the Landmark Trust.

Once the building work is completed we plan to report in more detail on the finished project. In the meantime the Society's determination to save this historic building has been vindicated by the re-emergence of this impressive and imposing building after decades of neglect.

David has kindly agree to speak at our AGM next year when Don Mackenzie and he will give a presentation titled "Saving the Master's House"

**To Purchase Tickets for Social Events, Please Contact:**  
**Solent House Dental Surgery,**  
**Cannon Street, Lymington.**  
**01590 672986**

**Please check the website**

**[www.lymsoc.co.uk](http://www.lymsoc.co.uk)**

**for the latest planning developments  
and updates to social events**

## Recent Events

Christmas Drinks Dec 15<sup>th</sup>



The Christmas Drinks Party was held at the Stanwell House Hotel on the 15th of December.

Stanwell House served their usual high quality of canapés as well as a choice of wines, soft drinks etc.

The Committee enjoyed meeting many of our members and engaging in discussion about many issues.

### Keyhaven Nature Reserve

This year's talk was by Pete Durnell, Hampshire County Council's Countryside Service Warden for the Keyhaven Nature Reserve.

Mr Durnell's talk was extensively illustrated with pictures of the Nature reserve through the year, and the various creatures, including human, who enjoy its various personalities through the seasons.

### Illustrated Talk by Stephen Akester: "Alice 3" The Creation of A Sailing Legend.

One of the most striking and original boats to come out of Lymington's amazing boatbuilding heritage, Alice 3 is truly a legend not only in Lymington but far and wide.

More remarkable is the fact that most of the work in creating this 38 ft boat was done by three local people in their spare time. Steve Akester was one the three and he described the building and sailing of this wolf in sheep's clothing.

## Upcoming Events for your Diary

Summer Garden Party  
Wednesday June the 9<sup>th</sup>  
6.00 – 8.00pm

Garden of Moore Blatch  
48 High Street, Lymington

Details on Page 1

.....  
"Hampshire Treasures"  
A Private View  
Tuesday September 28<sup>th</sup>

St Barbe Museum  
6.00pm – 8.00pm



One of the main St Barbe exhibitions of the year, this exhibition features a mouth-watering selection of objects from the Hampshire County Council's Museums and Archives collections, many making a rare outing onto display. The result will be a combination of the quirky, mundane, unique and beautiful a gallery of curiosities". The Lymington version also includes material with New Forest links

Drinks and Nibbles and Talk £5.00

.....  
Christmas Drinks Party  
Tuesday December 14<sup>th</sup> 2010.

6.00pm – 8.00pm  
Stanwell House Hotel  
Lymington High Street

We return to the welcoming atmosphere of the Conservatory at Stanwell House for one of the best parties of the Christmas Season.

Come and meet your Committee member and friends old and new to kick off the festive season in style.

Tickets £7.50

Tuesday February 1<sup>st</sup> 2011.  
Lymington in Old Photographs  
Illustrated Talk by Steve Marshall  
6.00 pm – 8.00 pm  
St Barbe Museum



A fascinating look at the history and development of Lymington by Steve Marshall Director of the St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery.

Drinks and Nibbles and Talk £5.00

.....  
Lymington Society AGM  
Monday March 21<sup>st</sup> 2011  
Followed by an Illustrated Talk  
Saving the "Master's House"  
Lymington Community Centre



Following the main business of the meeting, Committee Member Don Mackenzie and David Stephenson the new owner of the Master's House will set out the history of this important building on East Hill.

From its early beginnings in about 1850 as the "Fever Ward" for the newly build Lymington Workhouse though sorry neglect and near demolition to the imposing and important Grade Two listed building which now happily being brought back to useful life. All will be revealed.

See page 4 for more information about this restoration project.

## Planning This Year to Date

### 85 Applications This Year

85 planning applications have been registered in Lymington and Pennington so far in 2010. The great majority have been in the "householder development" category, which covers alterations by their owners to existing dwellings. Not surprisingly, in the current economic circumstances, redevelopment proposals have been few and generally of small scale, with developers' activities limited to completing projects already started or approved. We continue to keep an eye on the expiry dates of plans for which consent has been given but on which the start of work has been delayed.

### Redrow Riverside Site

One such is the former chicken factory site between railway and river which was bought by Redrow Homes at the top of the boom. The site has planning permission, which expires in June 2010, for 308 homes, a care home and some commercial units.

### Mini-roundabout appeal rejected

A condition of the consent required the developers to provide a new access to the site before construction could begin, but their plan for a mini-roundabout a few yards east of the railway crossing was rejected on appeal at a public hearing to which members of the Committee gave evidence.

The developers have applied for an extension of the time limit (see Application 95286) and the Society has objected, on the grounds that circumstances have changed since consent was given; notably, the Local Plan has given way to the Core Strategy (which imposes substantially increased financial obligations on developers), the bigger ferries have brought yet more traffic, and the adjacent National Park is becoming more sensitive about contrasting developments on its borders.

### Welworthy Social Club

Stanford Road. application 94802;

Another major development in prospect is the proposed replacement for the former Wellworthy Social Club at the

top of Stanford Hill. The Society objected to the first, four-storey modernist replacement proposal, which was refused and dismissed on appeal. We again objected to the second proposal for 10 terrace houses in a more conventional building, principally because there remained no provision for parking or even stopping off the A337. Our objection drew no sympathy from the Highways Department and in spite of stiff opposition from the Environmental Design planning officer, consent has been granted [according to this week's Lymington Times].

### Corner of Southampton and Avenue Roads

Meanwhile, the vast McCarthy & Stone care home allowed by an appeal inspector some time ago but delayed by the recession, is now at an advance stage of construction and spreading its shadow across the northern approach to the town centre.

### 37 Avenue Road

application 95441

Further down Avenue Road at the corner with Buckland Road, the ugly shape which has come to be known as Rapunzel's Tower is slowly falling into decay following the collapse into administration of the developer. The developer's administrators have recently applied to modify the building to bring it closer to the terms of the original consent so that its dwellings can be offered for sale, which is probably the least undesirable outcome (short of demolition) of a case which has been a planning disaster for the town.

### 47-48 St Thomas Street

application 95473;

A case of a different kind is the recent application by JD Wetherspoons to convert the soon-to-be-empty Ford's furniture shop into a "destination" pub and eating house with all-day opening hours. Your committee is not opposed on principle to such developments, but it seems uniquely inappropriate to place one in the Conservation Area at a busy

road junction between the parish church and a care home, and within earshot of the substantial residential enclave of St Thomas's Park and much of the western end of the town centre. This view is shared by the 173 respondents (the Society among them) who had registered objections by 16th May.

### 89-90 High Street Conservation Area

application 94822; We objected to an application by Boots on the corner with New Street for 2 illuminated display signs and are glad to report that the NFDC development control committee applied local plan policy and rejected it.

### Membership Details

**New Members are always welcome to join the Lymington Society and existing Members are urged to encourage friends to join.**

**As well as receiving the Newsletter, Members will be welcome to attend regular social events arranged by the Social Committee.**

**Membership costs £10.00 per member. Application forms (available to print from our Web Site [www.lymsoc.co.uk](http://www.lymsoc.co.uk)) or from Derek Sheffer at the address below.**

**Please send Completed Membership to:**

**Derek Sheffer**

**Lymington Soc. Membership Sec.  
Lorne Cottage,**

**Navarino Court,**

**Lymington, SO41 9AE**

## Chairman's Note (contd from page 1)

since then.

The theme that struck me this year at our last monthly committee meeting on 9 March was the amount of dedicated detailed work that the committee members put into the work of the Society.

Here is another list of meetings attended by Members of the Committee in the preceding month.

1st of February: Exhibition on Shoreline Management Plan -- attended by one committee member

1st of February: Friends of Lymington Railway AGM -- attended by two committee members

25th of February: Local Distinctiveness meeting with council planners -- attended by four committee members

4th of March: Lymington Parking Study meeting -- attended by one committee member

8th March: meeting with Natural England regarding ferries and mitigation of their damage -- attended by three committee members

9th March: presentation by Redrow on their new development attended by five committee members

Finally 9th of March: our monthly committee meeting attended by all committee members including our president Peter Chitty, although one member could not stay, but came to deliver the envelopes he had stuffed with the notices of this meeting!

Is there any other organisation or any other chairman which is as lucky to have such a dedicated group of committee members always ready, if not vying, to attend meetings on subjects which they have a particular interest in connected with the Lymington Society.

As a result of those meetings one can summarise the Society's current situation:

On ferries we have responsibly promoted a situation where the ferries issue is going to be resolved with a full intervention of the appropriate authorities and not purely on the basis of a take it or leave approach by Wightlink, and with proper liaison with Natural

England as to an assessment of the impact of the larger ferries.

On the linked aspect of the shoreline, so important to Lymington, we are closely involved with that subject.

On the railway line, we support the friends of Lymington Railway and will maintain a useful liaison that will benefit Lymington and potentially affect development in the future

On Local Distinctiveness, this meeting has been one example of our lead role in cooperation with the planners in an analysis which I will mention more on in a moment

On the Redrow Riverside site, as I shall now call it, an extremely useful dialogue with Redrow as to its plans.

Finally I can say that our association with the Pennington Residents Association continues ensuring that our representations on Pennington are co-ordinated, if not always identical, and I paid particular tribute to Chris Howe for his cooperation.

Expanding on the subjects of these meetings can I say that the old Wellworthy Club site, which is going to be such an important building at the gateway to Lymington, is edging towards an agreed development with the cooperation of the developers, who have put forward various schemes. We thought the last scheme was probably as good as it would get but had strong reservations about the lack of parking and the effect on traffic. The planners would like something better and we hope that the eventual scheme will do justice to that sensitive corner.

I say this from the point of view that the other sensitive entrance to the conservation area, the traffic lights, is now in process of development with the assistance of the first crane of that size in the Lymington area. As this can be seen from the Keyhaven marshes there is no escape from being reminded of this planning decision.

The second major issue this year has been the Council's initiative on Local Distinctiveness in which they have involved the Society from the beginning.

I can remind members of a very useful

meeting hosted by the Society with local councillors to ensure that we all got off on the right foot with this.

Local distinctiveness will create a new Supplementary Planning Guidance covering the whole area of the town not covered by conservation areas to identify locally distinctive characteristics, with which new development should be sympathetic and should comply. One can imagine that if that policy had been in place, so that inspectors had to follow it, several of the more prominent new buildings recently would not have been built in the way that they have.

On the subject of what the Society considers planning mistakes in the area of Avenue Road, I suspect the final local distinctiveness document will identify some of these and say that they should not be followed as precedents as they have been built out of character with their particular locations.

That brings me onto the biggest new development which will soon take place on the old Webb Site, now Redrow's site. I recall this is one of the first issues I dealt with as Chairman, to be involved in the original supplemental planning guidance prior to the original planning permission, which conspicuously was not followed by the Council at that time. The position is that we are now fixed with the original permission that was provided by the Council, against many of the members' better judgement.

Redrow's could build on the basis of that permission, but as we learnt at presentation last week they have chosen to dramatically review the plans and come up with a much improved scheme.

Firstly specialist architects have been brought in and we were addressed at our meeting by Sir Richard McCormac of MJP Architects who is a former President of the RIBA.

The previous scheme had allowed for the road access with the condition of a rear pedestrian access somewhere across the railway.

The imaginative difference of the current scheme has been to make the pedestrian access across the railway the central focus of the site and a link with the

Continued on page 8, Col. 1

### Chairman's AGM Address, Continued from Page 7

Town. The bridge over the railway would be part of a graded access from the station car park, described possibly as "Station Square", onto a high level entrance square of the development. The semicircular development radiates out from there with radial visual lines to and from the Riverside. On the Riverside, buildings will connect with the water and relate to it rather than looking away and inwards from it as the previous development did.

The development will, as presently considered, still be quite dense with up to 300 units but much broken up and protected by trees. The other committee members and councillors and planning officers, who were at the meeting, felt that this was an imaginative way to review the development, given that there is planning permission for a significant scheme at present.

Another feature which has pleased me particularly is how the Council have now involved local organisations such as this Society with the initial concept, rather than the exclusion which took place under earlier regimes. I recall how when we have called the previous developers to a public meeting to explain their plan, councillors said that if they had been put in touch with public feeling, they would have started their plan from a completely different concept.

Perhaps this is what we have now achieved. I hope that in due course the current developers, Redrow, will be able to attend a meeting to explain their plan to our membership as a whole and to take into account any feedback, as indeed happened at this recent meeting.

The climate of dialogue with the planners has really changed dramatically over the last few years, in response, I hope, to the reasonable and objective approach taken by the Society committee members to development matters.

Not least this has occurred in relation to the Town Council, who have been extremely grateful by the frequent presence of Jonathan Hutchinson dealing with planning matters. I think they would not mind me saying that when Jonathan goes to express the Society's view on important issues which affect the character of the town, they wish he

would stay to help them with the more mundane problems that as planning committee councillors they have to face!

On the question of cooperation, can I say that whilst in the past successive Town Councillors took the view that cooperation between the Town Councillors and the Society was incompatible with their public position, again we now have an extremely good working relationship with the current mayor Cllr Jan Hawker, who attended our local distinctiveness meeting.

I am afraid our current cooperation does not extend to the practicalities of ensuring that our AGM and an important Town Council meeting did not clash which is why the Lady Mayor is not able to be here today, but I can assure our members that that is purely accidental and does not reflect on our relationship and she would be here if she could.

I am only the spokesperson for a Committee whose individual efforts for the Society are on a much more dedicated basis than mine. I tend to guide and encourage the Committee and where necessary pick up the pieces, but it is the other committee members who, all of them in their different ways, form the engine room of this Society.

I have named the committee members specifically previously and I will not embarrass them again but they are here today and can be spoken to informally afterwards. I will mention our thanks to Marion Jakes who joined us a couple of years ago as a committee member and took an interest in marshes and coastal matters but resigned recently.

The remaining members continue to offer themselves for re-election. I appreciate that new blood is always welcome but this committee works extremely well with all existing members having a task to do. I can assure you that it is in no way running out of steam or ideas and you would be well advised to re-elect its members rather than lose any of its wealth of talent.

Ladies and gentlemen I commend the committee to you for re-election in due course.

### AGM Report, Continued from Page 1

decision to join be deferred for further consideration by the committee.

The presentation by Redrow about the Webb's site was circulated. Elizabeth Lewis expressed concern about the height and asked members to attend the Public Enquiry on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Mr. Wallbank asked if Community Enterprise were involved. Richard Webb asked the committee to be proactive and propose a garden on the site with a greenfield site elsewhere in the town offered for building in exchange.

Mr. Sheffer pointed out that Redrow had already written down their loss on the purchase.

Chris Baldrick asked the position of the ferries. Mr. Sutton replied that the society continues to ensure that the proper authorities monitor and assess the situation.

**Peter Durnell** gave a talk on the Keyhaven Marshes Nature Reserve with a brief history and excellent photos of both the archeological remains and the abundant wildlife.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

### Membership Subscriptions Many Members Still not Paying Full £10

It is now more than two years since an increase in the Lymington Society subscription was proposed at the 2008 AGM, and more than a year since the increase was introduced at the 2009 AGM.

However, there are still members who are paying at the earlier £5 or even £3 rate.

Please check to make sure that you have updated your standing order to £10. Standing order forms are available online at [www.lymsoc.co.uk](http://www.lymsoc.co.uk). Click on "Join the Society" and then on "Please Download the Application Form..."

We greatly appreciate the subscriptions from all of our members, as they enable us to continue our work to protect and enhance the town and area. If the increase is difficult to manage, then please contact our membership secretary, Derek Sheffer, on 01590 678742 or email him at [d.sheffer@btinternet.com](mailto:d.sheffer@btinternet.com)