



Leatherhead AHEAD

Moving our town forward together

11 St Mary's Road, Leatherhead, Surrey. KT22 8HB

Phone: 01372 378604

email: leatherheadahead@aol.com

PHASE II – FINAL HUGE COSTS

LeatherheadAHEAD, with the support of many residents in the area, strongly opposed the Phase 2 works in Leatherhead Town Centre which, at the planning stage, included a water feature. This opposition was based on the firmly held belief that the monies involved in the scheme would be better spent in addressing the main problems affecting the Town, namely poor access and restricted parking.

Despite strong opposition, the scheme went ahead, and since its completion LeatherheadAHEAD have been pressing Surrey County Council to release the final cost for the work undertaken, on the basis that Councils should be held fully accountable for their actions.

In February of this year LeatherheadAHEAD were at last advised by the County Council through their Local Transportation Director Roger Archer-Reeves, that **the overall cost of the Phase 2 works in Leatherhead came to a Grand Total of £1,156,444** – an over expenditure of 54.2% against the final publicly quoted total of £750,000.

Of this total, the Council advised that £593,352 was sourced from Public Funds (Mole Valley and Surrey County Council), and £563,092 from so called Private Funds (Section 106 and Licence monies collected by the Councils in respect of planning applications and granted permissions). As these latter monies are still under the control of the Councils, they have the responsibility to ensure that they are spent wisely, so they are still accountable for their use.

Based on the original February 2000 proposed cost of £650,000 the Grand Total amounts to an even greater overspend of 77.9%.

In his detailed letter to LeatherheadAHEAD (attached), Roger Archer-Reeves quotes a proposed budgeted cost of £940,000, a figure which has never before appeared in the public domain. He apportions £206,237 of the over-run to “unbudgeted costs”, citing costs associated with “the aborted water feature”, additional staff costs, and additional contractor costs. We believe that these huge costs for a proposed 6 month project that took nearly four times as long (i.e. nearly 2 years) **demonstrate that this unwanted project was badly researched, badly implemented and badly managed.**

At a time when Council Tax is scheduled to increase by 3.7%, voters should ask themselves whether they were best served by the following Councillors:

Surrey County Council Members

Helyn Clack (Con),
Bob McKinley (Con),
Jim Smith OBE (Con)

and

Mole Valley District Council Members

Rosemary Dickson (Con),
Jean Pearson (Con),
Ben Tatham (Con),
Janet Marsh (Ind) (retired).

They voted in December 2002, against strong public opposition, for the Phase 2 project to go ahead, ie to build the ramps without the water feature, without knowing the final design, cost or finish date. They also voted against the proposal to delay the project until further consultation with stakeholder groups had taken place.

The greatest sadness of all is that the Phase 2 works, even with its wrought iron works, has done nothing to alleviate the real problems of Leatherhead, namely access and parking. The ramps themselves, constructed at such great expense, are unused and merely act as a barrier to both town access and visibility.

LEATHERHEAD NEEDS PARKING AND ACCESS NOW !

Text of two page letter from Mr Roger Archer-Reeves dated 4 February 2005

Mrs P Sabine
Leatherhead Ahead
11 St Marys Road
Leatherhead
Surrey
KT22 8HB

Our ref D2885/rar

February 2005

Dear Paula

LEATHERHEAD PHASE TWO COSTS

Further to your letter I have detailed below the final costs associated with the above project. The following notes are helpful in understanding the figures:

1. Staff costs shown are for phase 2 works - they do not include phase 1. They cover such issues as: contract supervision, project management, consultation with the wider community and statutory undertakers;
2. Burns & Nice costs are also only for Phase 2 and do not include phase 1. The costs include: design, supervision of contract, technical aspects of the project management and helping to organise appropriate suppliers of specialist materials;
3. The final payment to Blakedown includes approximately £13,000 "shut down" costs over the 2002 /03 Christmas period;
4. The statutory undertakers costs that were paid were due to the discrepancies between the preproject investigations of the sub surface disposition of the underground services, and those that were actually encountered once excavations commenced. As you will remember substantial works were required to divert various underground plant as these were not known prior to the works commencing. Sadly this is not uncommon as generally the statutory undertakers records of their plant is not definitive;
5. Additional unbudgeted staff costs were due to the extensive additional consultation with various groups once works commenced in the spring of 2002. These costs include Professor Whitelegg, the hiring of The Theatre etc.

Budgeted Costs	Proposed	Actual
Contractor Payments	£750,000	£760,047
Public Art	£60,000	£60,160
Burns & Nice	£80,000	£80,000
Staff Costs	£50,000	£50,000
Total	£940,000	£950,207

Unbudgeted Costs	Proposed	Actual
Aborted water feature		£8,938
Additional staff costs – extra supervision, longer contract, project management and extensive consultation		£41,249
Statutory Undertakers		£98,434
Additional Burns & Nice costs due to longer contract period, hence extra supervision and project management		£48,644
Carillion costs for some minor works		£8,972
Total		£206,237
Grand total		£1,156,444

Sources of funding for this contract came from a raft of areas and can fairly be described as 50/50 public - private, the tables below hopefully explain.

Sources of Funding

Private funds	£
Section 106 monies	508,884
Licence monies	54,208
Total	£563,092

Public Funds	£
Mole Valley Capital	100,000
Surrey CC Capital	81,574
Surrey CC Revenue	411,778
Total	£593,352

Total Funds **£1,156,444**

It is clear that this public investment is already resulting in a substantial improvement in the economic well being of the Town Centre of Leatherhead. Major investment in the Travel Lodge, New Flats, Sainsbury's and significant higher shop occupancy are all contributing to a more prosperous town.

If I can be of any further assistance then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Roger Archer-Reeves
Local Transportation Director