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## **Leatherhead Update from Councillor Simon Edge, Cabinet Member for Prosperity**

Councillor Simon Edge, Mole Valley District Council Cabinet Member for Prosperity said, “In response to recent communications from individuals, individual business owners and local business groups on the subject of ‘What is Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) doing for Leatherhead?’, we respond below and welcome your feedback in return to [transformleatherhead@molevalley.gov.uk](mailto:transformleatherhead@molevalley.gov.uk).

“The Transform Leatherhead team will be hosting an exhibition about the initial Claire House and James House proposals at The Leatherhead Institute from 10am – 4.30pm on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

“We welcome you to come and share your views. If you cannot make it along on this date then see [www.transformleatherhead.com/claireandjameshouse](http://www.transformleatherhead.com/claireandjameshouse) where the consultation will be open from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018 until Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

### **Transform Leatherhead – A long term, complex, revitalisation project about to enter its third year**

“MVDC is investing millions of pounds to Transform Leatherhead with a comprehensive range of projects. The first, the public realm improvements to Church Street, is complete. Works to the Swan Centre car park, lifts and facilities are starting soon and other projects will take place over the coming years. We are working to make Leatherhead a great place to shop, eat, relax and have fun by the riverside. The High Street, together with upper Church Street, North Street and upper Bridge Street makes up the Retail/Leisure Quarter, the heart of the town and a focal point for the majority of the retail and leisure offer in Leatherhead. We are working with Cushman & Wakefield to identify options to improve the contribution that the Swan Centre makes to the retail and leisure offer in the longer term. We recently acquired two units in the High Street which gives MVDC greater scope to unlock potential redevelopment options for the Swan Centre, and in so doing demonstrates our commitment to the future of the High Street.”

## **Traffic or no traffic on Leatherhead High Street?**

“We are aware of the discussion around opening up the High Street to traffic and allowing parking on it in the afternoons for an experimental period of six months. This idea was raised by the Leatherhead Resident’s Association and the Leatherhead Chamber of Commerce.

“The extent to which the High Street should be open to traffic is one which divides public opinion and retailers within and adjacent to the High Street.

“We are working with WSP and Surrey County Council to undertake a Transport Study. The Transport Study involves the construction of a desktop model to understand the current traffic flows in and around Leatherhead and it will then be used to evaluate the various different options. The data collection was undertaken 18 – 24 June 2018 and construction of the model is underway.

“Previous attempts at revitalising the High Street have been seen by many as little more than unsuccessful tinkering. This is not our approach. In our view, it is essential to gather the data and to undertake the desktop modelling work before formulating any proposals as to the future use of the High Street by pedestrians and vehicles. The implications of the various options available need to be understood as far as possible and be evidence based before any are trialled.

“Making any changes to traffic or parking in the High Street requires rather a lot of process to be followed, including a formal statutory consultation. It is also worth noting that as a district council, these are decisions and changes that MVDC can influence and request but cannot make alone. We are therefore working closely with our colleagues within the Highways team at Surrey County Council in relation to this and other transport-related initiatives.

“Please keep up to date with all the Transform Leatherhead news by following us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) and signing up for our newsletter, to do this email us your details at [transformleatherhead@molevalley.gov.uk](mailto:transformleatherhead@molevalley.gov.uk). We do welcome feedback on this email too, if you don’t make it to the Claire House and James House consultation then do put the next Forum update in your diary, this is on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018, from 6.30pm at Leatherhead Theatre.”

**Ends**

## **Media contacts for further information**

Liz Rice Interim Communications and Marketing Manager

Tel: 01306 879113

Email: [liz.rice@molevalley.gov.uk](mailto:liz.rice@molevalley.gov.uk)

**Twitter** - [@molevalleydc](https://twitter.com/molevalleydc) **Facebook** – Follow us at: [www.facebook.com/moretomolevalley/](http://www.facebook.com/moretomolevalley/)

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