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Good news for Hersham shoppers!

- New Lidl to open in 2018
- Cashpoint success at last

Hersham Conservatives Mary Sheldon, Ruth Mitchell and John O'Reilly recently met with representatives of Lidl UK to discuss the supermarket chain's plans to open store on the former Riverdene Estate in Molesey Road.

Demolition work has been in progress for some weeks and is nearing completion and construction work of the new supermarket and associated flats is due to begin in October.

The development should be complete in March 2018 and the store will create up to 40 jobs.

Lidl UK's Regional Head of Property, Chris Young-Wootton, told us: "There's been much anticipation for this new Lidl store and it's great that we are now in a position to break the ground and start the site redevelopment."

"We are extremely grateful for all the support that we have received so far, and would like to thank everyone



■ Ruth Mitchell, John O'Reilly and Mary Sheldon with Lidl's Head of Property and Property Consultant on the Lidl site.

for their patience and understanding whilst we enter this next phase of the development."

Mary, Ruth and John are enthusiastic about the project and believe Lidl will be a boost for Hersham. We join residents in looking forward to the store's opening.

■ There was more positive news for Hersham Village when, after years of waiting and following a tireless campaign by Ruth Mitchell on behalf of local residents, we learned that Waitrose has agreed to provide a free ATM at their Hersham store.

At the time of writing, all that remains is the installation of the electrics so it is very possible that by the time you read this edition, the cash machine will be up and running!

Speaking to the *Hersham News*, Ruth commented "For far too long, Hersham and its residents have been disadvantaged compared to other areas of Elmbridge with no free ATM, so I am absolutely thrilled that Waitrose have so generously agreed to locate one here in Hersham."

"This will benefit many local people and already the response on social media has been resoundingly positive. It also shows what a great community spirit we have in Hersham that has made the campaign such a success."



Bus service cuts

WE were alarmed and dismayed when Abellio Buses notified Surrey County Council (SCC) that bus routes 458, 514 and 555 would be terminated by them.

One glimmer of good news is that the 564 service commencing at Whiteley Village will remain.

Immediately SCC has been seeking a replacement bus operator for those routes and the hope is that very soon another operator will take up running these routes.

If this is successful, we should again revisit whether the 555 can start and finish its route at Whiteley Village as requested by many of its residents.

As soon as we have more information, we will let you know.

Work out in the Rec

At your own pace naturally! And you will probably see it before reading about it here as the new Green Gym in Coronation Recreation Ground is being installed as the *Hersham News* goes to press.

It is adjacent to the car park on the open green space. Residents

were enthusiastic when consulted this year, so help keep yourself fit and get your friends to join you too.



Work begins on new Rydens

FOLLOWING the ground-breaking event in March when we were honoured to be involved with digging the first and second sods, work has now commenced on the construction of the new Rydens Enterprise School.

The contractors are on site and

have started laying roadways and stripping topsoil to prepare for the foundations.

Progress is on schedule and the tower cranes have begun the process of erecting the steel structure.

We will report further in the next *Hersham News*.

More improvements in Hersham

OCTOBER is 'Walk to School' Month and what better news that we have used funding from our local CIL Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to improve the footpaths in Coronation Recreation Ground.

Thank you everyone who responded to the recent consultation - your support most certainly helped to secure the funds for this new all-weather route around and across the recreation ground.

Cllr Mary Sheldon said: "This is a popular walking and cycling route and will make it more useable year round, not only for schoolchildren but also for many

others who want to walk round the park".

CIL funding of £17,300 was also recently agreed for improvements to the Burwood Playgroup in its new home at St Peter's Institute in Faulkner's Road.

However, an excellent proposal for a short footpath on Hersham Green to link up with the existing one from the children's play area which was backed by most of the councillors representing Hersham has been blocked by the disgraceful action of Cllr Roy Green in persuading the eight non-Hersham councillors in the cabinet not to approve it.

HELLO and welcome to the Autumn edition of the *Hersham News* - produced and delivered by your local Conservatives at no cost to the taxpayer.

Mary Sheldon, Ruth Mitchell and John O'Reilly would like to express their grateful thanks to those Hersham Village residents who voted for them in the elections on May 5th.

In the event, Mary was re-elected but both Ruth and John narrowly lost out to Roy Green and Anne Hill of the Hersham Village Society. In Elmbridge as a whole, the Council is now run by a coalition between the Residents Associations and the Liberal Democrats.

The Conservatives, despite winning the most votes and seats, are now in opposition.

The two HVS councillors fought an aggressive and often negative campaign focusing on services, Council Tax, Stompond Lane and other issues. Residents will naturally expect them to deliver on their promises. In a positive and constructive spirit, Hersham Conservatives will promote and encourage such accountability.

Cllr Mary Sheldon, commented, "It's an enormous privilege to have been re-elected and I promise to remain Hersham's vigilant eyes, ears and, above all, a strong voice in the Council on behalf of resident, reporting back regularly and always being accessible to them."

Ruth and John added, "We would have liked to continue serving Hersham residents as their councillors but whether winning or losing, we will be active, steadfast and involved champions of our community to the best of our ability, working closely with Mary to get things done for an even better Hersham".

Your Conservative team will always be campaigning for our community and working for you. And continue to report back to you regularly about our activities.

■ **INFLATION** is running at a mere 0.6% but on 12 October the RA led Elmbridge Cabinet which includes the HVS, voted to increase charges for meals-on-wheels and lunches at the Day Centres, including Hersham, by over nine times that figure.

And it's even worse for community transport users. A single journey to a Day Centre will cost a whopping 30% more from January, and the average rise for transport is over 13%.

Another service charge was also hiked by 14%. They didn't mention this in their election literature, did they!

■ **MP Dominic Raab** will answer your questions on Brexit at a public meeting. It's at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Road, Claygate on Thursday 27 October, 7.30pm.

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Margaret's Column



With Hershams county councillor Margaret Hicks:

I'm delighted at this month's opening of the Burwood pre-school in Faulkner's Road and I have given them support through my member's allocation, along with the Hershams Youth Trust, Whiteley Village and the bursary for Looked After Children.

A lot is happening on the road front in Hershams. The long awaited improvements to the entrance of Pleasant Place have now been approved and work is scheduled for February.

The speed table at the Burwood Road/Queen's Road junction will be installed shortly and a large section of Burwood Road pavement has been resurfaced. Surrey County Council is consulting on partial street lighting during the night hours. Please do respond and make your views known.

Hershams Library is dear to us all and I am working to see if we can have an extension on the site that could offer a quiet space, coffee facilities and meeting area.



Never forget, your Hershams Conservative Team is always here for you. Please contact us if you have any problem that we may be able to help solve or address concerns about local Hershams issues. From November, we will be holding a monthly advice surgery on the first Saturday of each month, The first of these will be on Saturday 5th November from 10.00am until 12 noon at the Hershams Centre for the Community in Queens Road. Please do raise issues relating to Elmbridge Borough Council and Surrey County Council. Or if you just want to pop in for a chat on any subject – we'd be delighted to see you.



CALL: Margaret Hicks, 01932 248864; John O'Reilly, 01932 253090; Mary Sheldon, 01372 467812; Ruth Mitchell, 01932 220557

Pothole frustration

MANY residents have expressed frustration about the state of our roads, potholes, parking, and other highways matters.

Margaret Hicks, Hershams County Councillor, Mary, Ruth and John all share these concerns and working together do our very best to address them.

On the positive side, Rydens Grove, Green Lane, Mole Road and Primrose Road, Molesey Close, Ashton Close and Eastwick Road have all recently been completely resurfaced, with improvements in Burwood Road too.

Margaret has ensured that Old Esher Road (including the entrance to Old Esher Close) will be resurfaced later this year.

Other good news is that a new road layout will be introduced this financial year to improve the entrance to Pleasant Place off the Burwood Road to improve safety for pedestrians and motorists.

Surface flooding areas in Hershams have been reduced over the recent years and ditches and gullies are cleared and the £40,000 top-up from the Elmbridge Local Committee to the Borough's highly

successful Street Smart team means that vegetation clearance on the highways can be tackled more effectively.

But the inescapable truth is that money is tight - there is honestly no easy 'fix'. Both SCC and EBC have seen funding from central government drastically reduced for many years and it's only going to get worse.

However, that makes the imperative of a more joined-up approach and focus even more essential and your Hershams Conservative team will be unrelenting in seeking improvements.

■ **HERSHAMS Village Society councillor Roy Green promised free car parking on Saturdays if his side won the election.**

But now they are in office, the Residents Association-Liberal Democrat coalition he serves, appears to be back-tracking.

Their transport portfolio holder refused to set a date for the introduction of free parking - or to say how it would be paid for - when questioned by the Conservatives.

Instead the Coalition will consult councillors before deciding whether to honour the pledge.



We are proud of the amazing work done by youth workers and volunteers, including some local Conservative councillors, at the Hershams Youth Centre in Arch Road.

It continues to attract a large number of young people each week, currently about 150 to 200

between the ages of 11 and 19. The Centre's music room, pool tables, computers and the outdoor area being its most popular features.

What is particularly encouraging is that the young people see the club as a safe place where they can meet their friends.

It is open every week night and Saturdays from 1pm to 5pm.

Recently a team of volunteers laid a new floor in the original part of the building as part of a programme of upgrades. There are currently some spaces for 11-13 year olds on Monday and Thursday evenings. Also during the summer they enjoyed a successful trip to Brighton.

Recycling charges spark fears

SURREY County Council has introduced charges for disposing of non-household waste at its recycling centres.

Critics fear it could lead to more flytipping, but Elmbridge Conservative leader Tim Oliver said that the charges "reflect the financial and environmental cost of landfill".

Elmbridge's new deputy leader in the Coalition, Lib Dem Andrew Davis, told the local media that the Council should do more to make fly-tippers and litter louts feel more

like they "belong" in the community! "We should do more to tackle the deeper issues," he said.

Last year alone, it cost Surrey taxpayers £1 million to clear up after fly-tippers.

Cllr Tim Oliver added: "For Cllr Davis to blame the Council or society is a bit patronising. I don't see why people who don't feel part of their community should display that by not bothering to go to a tip."

Charges range from £5 for tyres to £50 for a car full of building waste.



A Bloomin' marvellous effort

TWO residents of Paul Vanson Court have won awards in the annual Paragon in Bloom Competition.

Congratulations to Ken Bowman for winning first prize in the "Best Community or Communal Garden" category.

Anyone who visits can see how he has transformed the area with plants, shrubs, vegetables and ornaments.

The judges were particularly impressed with Ken's imaginative use of recycled items donated by current and past residents, including a "Mad

Hatters Tea Party" area where residents take tea on sunny afternoons!

Ken told the Hershams News, "I have never entered the competition before so I am absolutely thrilled to have won a first prize".

Another winner was Linda Wright who was Highly Commended in the "Best Small Garden" category. She has crammed a very tiny space with plants and feeders to attract birds and other wild life. Both Ken and Linda faced strong opposition from a record number of entries.

Neighbours meet with police



PC CHRIS Smith and PCSO Vicky Holdaway continue to work in and around Hershams.

Recently, following a request from Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for Hershams, Beverly Schjelderup, and her colleague Edward Meryon, Mary Sheldon arranged for them to meet at the Hershams Cafe together with John O'Reilly and Sgt Greg Turner.

It was very helpful to learn

about the new approach to neighbourhood policing and discuss how it can work best with our residents' involvement.

And earlier this year Neighbourhood Commander Sarah Milligan spoke at an Elmbridge Borough Council meeting on local policing arrangements and engagement.

To contact your local team you can call Surrey Police on the non-emergency number 101.

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