



The Hersham News

Edited by Mary Sheldon | www.eshersham.com | Local issues, local action, local Conservatives



New roles for Mary and Ruth

ON MAY 3rd, Ruth Mitchell was elected as a Hersham Village Councillor with a majority of over 500 votes.

Shortly afterwards, Ruth was appointed Portfolio Holder for Resources in the new Conservative administration at Elmbridge Borough Council.

Ruth tells *The Hersham News*: "I am honoured to once again represent Hersham residents and thank them for putting their trust in me. I will do my very best for everyone in our wonderful community, working closely with Cllrs Mary Sheldon, Roy Green and John O'Reilly as champions for Hersham."

Also in May, Cllr Mary Sheldon, a Hersham Councillor continuously for over 12 years, was unanimously elected Deputy Mayor of Elmbridge.

Mary feels immensely honoured to serve residents in this role. She adds: "My main duty is to support the Mayor in reaching out to and recognising the vast number of individuals and voluntary groups across Elmbridge who work tirelessly for our community and particularly the most vulnerable."

"We owe so much to them as I see almost daily as a Hersham Village Councillor".



AFTER a summer break Mary, Ruth and John have resumed their monthly surgery.

The next one will be on Saturday 3rd November between 10am and noon at Hersham Library, Molesey Road.

The following one will be on Saturday 1st December 10am – noon also at Hersham Library.

Please do come to see us if you have any concerns affecting Hersham, or just like a chat.

Preserving our Hall and Centre

Hersham Community Centre was packed on October 1st as well over 100 residents turned up to the 'Your Voice Matters' meeting organised by Elmbridge Borough Council.

There was only one topic that really mattered to those present and that was the future of our Village Hall which has been closed for almost 18 months. The Centre for the Community was also closed in the summer of 2017 but reopened after around £200,000 spending on remedial works.

At the meeting, residents expressed deep frustration at the prolonged closure which is shared by councillors Mary Sheldon and Ruth Mitchell. Both are determined that our much-loved Village Hall and Community Centre in their unique setting looking across the Village Green be made even better.

The clear wish from the meeting that the Hall be reopened speedily has been fully taken on board and Elmbridge officers are now commissioning an up to date survey to find out the precise costs for re-occupation. We are expecting the results in December.

One particularly positive outcome



Pictured at the meeting (l-r): Weybridge St George's Hill councillor Ian Donaldson, Council Leader Tim Oliver, Hersham's Ruth Mitchell, John O'Reilly and Mary Sheldon, and Oatlands' Cllr Barry Cheyne

has been the absolute commitment that the site will remain in Council ownership and not sold to private developers.

Consultation with residents and users is key to making sure we take the right decisions for many years ahead. We hope that as many as possible will be able to attend the consultation meetings which will take place in November. These will

be extensively advertised.

Speaking to *The Hersham News*, Mary and Ruth commented:

"This is a once in a generation opportunity for Hersham to bring a renewed lease of life to our precious Centre and Hall and get the best possible outcome for users and the community as a whole."

"We will always be guided by residents' views and we urge

everyone to join the discussion just as they did at the October 1st meeting. We will keep you informed every step of the way".

If you missed the recent Your Voice Matters event and would like to hear from the Leader of the Council, the next one is at Walton Centre for the Community on Tuesday 30 October, from 7pm.



Hersham's long and shiny roads!

THE increased spending on highways has certainly benefitted Hersham.

So far this year, Seven Hills Road has been extensively repatched while most of Trenchard Close has been resurfaced and the last few weeks have seen Thrupps Lane and Arch Road restored to a pristine state. And there's more good news.

Hersham's County Councillor, John O'Reilly understands that it is almost certain that Queens Road from the Village Green to the Westcar Lane roundabout will be fully resurfaced and also that major patching will take place in



Clarence Road. With luck, both projects will be done before Christmas.

John says, "I am delighted that Hersham is getting this attention and my expectations have been exceeded with the progress so far. But we must keep applying the pressure until all our roads are in a satisfactory condition".

Council secures court injunction on traveller camps and flytipping

FOR well over a year, we have echoed residents' fury over the numerous traveller incursions that have caused disruption, distress and soaring costs of clear ups.

In a major success for the new Elmbridge Conservative Administration, in August the High Court granted the Council an interim protective injunction banning unauthorised encampments on identified public land.

Over 150 sites were highlighted including car parks, green spaces, recreation grounds and parks.

The injunction initially lasts for three months but a further hearing is scheduled for early November where the Council will apply for an extension.

This year has seen an unprecedented increase in levels of unauthorised encampments on



public parks and open spaces.

The size of the camps has also risen dramatically with some being over 60 vehicles in size.

Since the injunction, incidents have dropped to almost zero and the few that have taken place have ended within hours.

Council Leader Tim Oliver said: "Residents demanded action to tackle these incursions and this Administration is delivering."

Unlock your child's potential

with our expertly led singing, dancing and acting classes for 4-18 year olds.

Find out more today:

stagecoach.co.uk/walton
walton@stagecoach.co.uk
 01932 506806

ASK ABOUT OUR TWO WEEK TRIAL

STAGE COACH

Creative Courage For Life®





Never forget, your Hersham Conservative Team of Ruth, Mary and John is always here for you. Please contact us if you have any problems or concerns relating to Hersham, particularly regarding Elmbridge Borough and Surrey County Councils - we'll do our best to help. And don't forget to take our Residents Survey when it arrives.



CONTACT US: John O'Reilly, 01932 253090; Mary Sheldon, 01372 467812; Ruth Mitchell, 01932 220557
Email: oreillyjohn1955@gmail.com, marysheldon@ntlworld.com or frcmitchell@aol.com

The big developments



Your local councillors have been keeping a close eye on the major housing project for 296 homes on the site of the former Rydens/RES school.

Demolition of the old buildings is almost complete and Phase 1 of the housing (current access via Felcott Road) has over 60% occupancy of the new build in that section.

The really positive news is that when the whole project is completed, there will be 128 affordable units of which 65 will be affordable rented homes; already 49 of these are either completed and nearing completion.

Residents and particularly those in Felcott Road/Close and Hersham Road, have been very patient during this building work.

We can assure everyone that the roads will be resurfaced when the

building work is completed, but in the meantime Bewley Homes are filling a few potholes in Felcott Road which has suffered notably from the heavy vehicles entering and leaving the site.

■ Many residents and visitors will have noticed the very large crane that has been in situ at the Lidl site for some time – it has become quite a focal point in the village and some have said they have driven round specifically to see what position it is in that day!

Lidl confirm that the store should be open early in 2019, with the completion of the 33 flats (1.2 and 3-bedroom units) later in the summer.

Residents living nearby have been long-suffering with several incidents of disruption, noise and unsocial activities. Most were resolved, some after assistance from local councillors.

Burwood Road signs on their way



QUITE a lot will be happening over the next few weeks at Burwood Road.

First, the four and perhaps five Vehicle Activated Signs should be installed in the near future. The format and locations of the signs were agreed in the summer on site with local residents and Hersham councillors. Let's hope they do the trick in reducing speed in the approach to the Village.

Second, the markings on the zebra crossing by the Green will be repainted. Safety is paramount with children crossing the busy road to



get to school or enjoying the play equipment on the Green.

The long delay in completing the work around the junction with Pleasant Place has been rightly criticised. This work needs doing, and soon.

■ The Hersham Parking Review has taken some time but last month Hersham Councillors agreed on the outcomes.

We haven't space to list them all, but key decisions included no changes to the times for the Hersham CPZ (roads close to Walton station); no double yellow lines at the turning point in Clarendon Close and residents' parking in Faulkner's Road, Felcott Road/Close and Old Esher Road.

Hersham's County Councillor, John O'Reilly remarked: "Parking is always contentious but we have tried our best to act positively on residents' requests."

TENNIS court hire charges are being reviewed by Elmbridge's Conservative Administration.

These were introduced by the Residents Association parties and Liberal Democrats when they ran the Council from 2016-18.

The new Tory administration suspended the fees for six weeks this summer and will consider whether to amend or scrap the policy.

In the meantime tennis courts can be reserved online, at: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/>

Bins contractor told to improve



ELMBRIDGE laid down the law with its waste contractor after hundreds of missed collections over the summer.

Following the change of administration, the new Conservative cabinet member for Environment and Transport, Cllr Glenn Dearlove, moved swiftly to tackle the crisis - holding "robust" meetings with Amey and its directors, in which he insisted the company improves or faces fines.

Cllr Dearlove told *The Hersham News*: "As a result, our contractor, Amey, has trained more existing staff to be drivers and is rolling out improvements to the in-cab devices, so that missed collections can be closed down in real time. In addition an extra garden waste vehicle has been introduced.

"We will continue to monitor performance to ensure that residents of Elmbridge receive the quality of service they expect."

Green-fingered residents ensure Hersham blooms



DESPITE the soaring heatwave this memorable summer, the team of Hersham In Bloom volunteers, all 12 of them at present, managed to keep everything watered and alive on a daily basis.

Judging by the large number of compliments the group has received, Hersham residents have been very pleased with the results – and thankfully the colourful display continues into the beginning of the Autumn too!

Cllr Mary Sheldon, HiB's coordinator, informs *The Hersham News* that the group will soon be panning ahead for winter planting and into 2019, and to consider other initiatives to enhance our lovely village.

Mary adds, "we are always looking for more help – on planting out, weeding or watering, and for new ideas. We are incredibly grateful to Squires of Hersham for their regular advice and sponsorship, and to the many local shops and businesses who also sponsor us on an annual basis – without their help we would not be able to buy so many plants to fill the pots!"

In addition, PA Housing held a presentation in the Community Allotments in Walton for the winners



of their Housing in Bloom competition. Not only has the weather been particularly challenging but this year also included tenants from as far afield as Leicester.

Cllr Ruth Mitchell who was one of the judging panel, says: "I am thrilled that three Hersham gentle-



men scooped prizes.

Both Ken Bowman (above left) of Paul Vanson Court and Paul Kent and Ray Smith (above right) were awarded prizes for their Hanging Baskets and for their use of the Community Space".

A Defibrillator for Hersham?

IN AUGUST resident Derek Benelisha contacted Cllr Mary Sheldon to ask for assistance in installing a defibrillator in Hersham in a central place and easily accessible in any emergency.

Mary and Derek met to see how this idea could become reality. Apart from the doctor's surgery in Pleasant Place and that



in St Peter's Church, there is not one available for 24/7 public access. But this could change soon.

Mary informs *The Hersham News*: "It's looking likely we've found a central site and that funding could be found. We are currently discussing with St John Ambulance about which kind of defibrillator to buy and hope that by early Spring we will have it installed. We'll make sure everyone knows where it is."

COMMUNITY NEWS

DO YOU know of any groups, local charities, schools, playgroups etc who could benefit from some funding? Elmbridge Borough Council is inviting local organisations to submit applications for funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Successful applications in Hersham have included improvements to schools, playgroups, youth club, countryside access improvements. Applications must be submitted by 21 October, and decisions will be made in Spring 2019. Details of how to apply at elmbridge.gov.uk/planning/community-infrastructure-levy-cil-funding/

SHOULD Hersham have a Community Council? The arguments for and against are balanced. Advocates argue that the proposed council "will help the community of Hersham retain its identity and give it a public voice". But many residents have concerns about the costs and whether an additional layer of government with 12 more councillors is necessary. The consultation closes on October 23rd.

BACK in February the old (and rarely used) toilet at Pratts Lane was disabled when the contract expired. We are now pleased to report that a new three-toilet facility has been ordered. It will be installed at the Recreation ground, close to the splash park by the end of the year, and will be free to users.

OUR next litter-pick will be on Saturday 24th November. Feel free to come for as long as you can spare: there will be a warm cup of something suitable when the job is done! We'll meet outside Costa's at the Hersham Centre at 10am and finish to finish around 12 noon.

Become a member

WHY join the Conservatives? Membership comes with a number of benefits, including:

- A chance to choose the national party leader
- An invitation to all of our events, from regular small informal gatherings to large dinners with high profile guest speakers
- The opportunity to stand for the party in local elections
- A chance to vote in other internal elections and to attend the Party Conference.
- As a member you will also be helping to shape the future of Hersham, Elmbridge and the wider country.

Find out more at www.conservatives.com/join

