

THANKS FOR READING!

The next local elections on 7 May will be crucial for Elmbridge's future. ● We need to restore a Conservative Council to rescue our finances, safeguard our environment and put in place a plan for new homes that retains the character of our communities. ● Elmbridge

Conservatives are a united, locally focused team working for you at Borough, County and Parliamentary levels. ● If you can spare a little time to help us deliver or campaign, we'd love you to get in touch. Email us, including any questions you have to office@esherwalton.com. ● Go to esherwalton.com/join to find out the benefits of joining the party.

Conservatives will defend Green Belt

Elmbridge is estimated to need up to 9,000 new homes by 2035. Conservatives believe future housing demand can be met without bulldozing our precious Green Belt.

Councillor James Browne, who leads the Conservative group, currently in opposition, at Elmbridge Borough Council, is pictured *right* at Knowle Hill in Stoke d'Abernon, a beautiful part of our borough which has been open land for many years. It is home to deer and other wildlife and is one of the natural areas that could be lost forever if Elmbridge Borough Council is forced, or chooses, to release Green Belt land for development as part of our 'Local Plan' to meet future housing requirements.

The elections in May will be about who you trust to defend land like this from the developers who want to build on it.



Liberal Democrats and the Residents Association political parties make the right noises about defending the Green Belt, but their Council Administration consulted on releasing three large tracts for development, including Knowle Hill.

And when push came to shove in the Council chamber recently, they refused to honour the results of the Council's Local Plan consultation, where 85% of respondents said they did not want to see our Green Belt built on.

A new Conservative Administration would challenge our borough's housing quota, which we think is too high. We would ensure that the one, two-and-three-bedroom homes we need for young families, key workers and the vulnerable are built on brownfield sites and in existing urban areas.

Our approach will be to make sure that new housing is fairly distributed across our communities, avoiding ugly high rises and recognising the need for new infrastructure.

Our Green Belt is beautiful and also vital. It prevents London sprawl, provides a buffer between our localities and functions as the green lungs of our Borough, soaking up pollution and helping to combat climate change.

Please trust your local Conservative candidate with your vote in May to ensure that beautiful parts of our borough are kept safe for generations to come.

ELMBRIDGE IN THE RED?

The recent Budget of the coalition of seven Resident Associations and the Liberal Democrats which controls Elmbridge Council, shows spending is substantially exceeding income.

Councillor Ruth Mitchell (pictured) warns, "To pay its way this year, Elmbridge Borough Council is having to take £1m from savings (reserves). Even worse, a budget deficit of £5m is forecast by 2023/24. This is on gross annual spending of around £40m. "While the costs of providing our services increase, we are seeing income reducing for a variety of reasons such as reductions in grants, falling car park income, lower returns for recycling materials, and smaller returns for demand-led services such as planning. Although this situation is clearly unsustainable, the Borough's Coalition Administration has not put forward any plans to tackle it. We cannot allow Elmbridge to be put into emergency measures like Northamptonshire County Council in 2018 because of financial mismanagement. "Action must be taken now and a Conservative Administration will make sure public services in Elmbridge are financially sustainable."



Refill scheme

Councillor Charu Sood and colleagues are helping to cut out single-use plastics in Elmbridge by promoting free water refills.

She has signed up 60 businesses in Weybridge to offer free tap water and



promoted the scheme in schools and via a high street stall.

Refill is spreading across the borough. Download the app from www.refill.org.uk to find out who is participating near you or look out for the bright blue Refill sticker in windows.

Lottery launch

Elmbridge Council has launched a local lottery. It has a weekly jackpot of up to £25,000 and other cash prizes. 60p from every £1 ticket sold goes to local good causes who have signed up to benefit. Tickets are on sale at www.elmbridgelottery.co.uk

Cash for causes

Elmbridge Council is inviting applications from local groups and organisations to fund community projects. Money collected from developers (Community Infrastructure Levy) will be distributed in the summer. Applicants must apply by 29 March via www.elmbridge.gov.uk

CUVÉE
ESHER

WINE BAR
MIXOLOGY
LIVE MUSIC
LUNCH MENU
DINNER RESERVATIONS
PRIVATE ROOMS
VENUE HIRE
BUSINESS MEETINGS
CELEBRATIONS

CUVÉE VIII, 2-8 CHURCH STREET, ESHER, KT10 8QS
INFO@CUVEE8.COM 01372 468880



Elmbridge is due to award a new contract for running the borough's sports facilities, from the Xcel Leisure Centre and Sports Hub to football pitches and athletics tracks and the Hurst Swimming Pool.

Cllr Malcolm Howard (pictured) is Shadow Cabinet Member for Leisure in the Conservative team. He says: "If we are running the Council after May we'll ensure the new contract places great emphasis on providing first class facilities for the public.

"But we also need to shift the balance so that we are in a position to charge contractors

for the privilege of running Elmbridge facilities rather than the other way around, which happens currently."

The Hurst Pool in Molesey is key. "It has come to the point where it requires either an expensive refurbishment or we take the bold step of building new and expanded facilities," said Malcolm.

He added: "In addition the Council is looking to take the management of our various public halls back under our control and aim to deliver an improved service.

"This also includes the Walton Playhouse, which we will modernise."

ROADS THAT WORK!

Elmbridge Conservatives will work at borough and county levels to improve our local roads network.

Councillor Steve Bax (right) shadows the Transport portfolio at Elmbridge. He said: "I know that roadworks are a massive source of frustration for residents. Conservatives will impose a lane rental charge on utility companies to incentivise them to work faster.

"We'll also reduce emissions by adding charging points for electric vehicles in our car parks and we'll encourage more cycling and walking.

"We'll work with County to improve bus routes and connectivity, and support new homes in our town centres with 'car clubs' - where cars can be hired via an app when residents need them."



Your Conservative candidates

We are standing candidates in all 16 wards at this year's Elmbridge Borough Council elections on 7 May. Conservatives are a strong, locally focused and united team, working collaboratively at Borough, County and MP levels, and on policing matters through our Police & Crime Commissioner candidate Charlie Chirico.

CLAYGATE  Mark Sugden Retired Marketing Director	COBHAM & DOWNSIDE  Alistair Mann Financial Planner	ESHER & HERSHAM RIVERSIDE  Richard John Retired IT Director	HERSHAM VILLAGE  Paul Wood Retired HR Director	HINCHLEY WOOD & WESTON GREEN  Geoff Herbert Technical Manager	LONG DITTON  Claudia Riley-Hards Project Manager	MOLESEY EAST  Xingang Wang Accountant and Magistrate	MOLESEY WEST  Agnes Fuchs Nursery Practitioner
OATLANDS & BURWOOD PARK  Glenn Dearlove Property Consultant	OXSHOTT & STOKE D'ABERNON  Cathy Davies Retired Teacher	THAMES DITTON  Nicholas Weber Business consultant	WALTON CENTRAL  Paul Liptrot Journalist	WALTON NORTH  Andrew Kelly Civil Servant	WALTON SOUTH  Kris Januszajtis-Neale IT Manager	WEYBRIDGE RIVERSIDE  Manjit Gill Charity Founder & CEO	WEYBRIDGE ST GEORGE'S HILL  David Harvey Estate Agent

'Straight back to work'

By Dominic Raab
MP for Esher & Walton

Since the general election, it's been straight back to work on local issues.

I have been working with Cobham Free School (CFS) to secure vacant possession of their new permanent site at Munro House. CFS now have planning permission, an essential step to moving the whole school in. I also received an update on Heathside Walton, which is progressing its plans for opening in the Walton/ Molesey area.

Over in Esher, I launched the Your Bank initiative with Barclays branch, which is offering new services tailored to local customers as part of its push to keep the last bank on the High Street open.

I am liaising between Molesey Hospital and the government, to review how the extra investment going into the NHS will benefit local patients – and ease pressure on the larger hospitals like Kingston.

I know it has been a rough time for local train passengers on South Western Rail lately. So, I am engaged with the government during the review of the franchise system, to put the focus on consumer concerns like reliability of service and overcrowding.

Next, illegally moored boats blight the quality of life for



riverside residents in Molesey and Walton. So I am calling on Elmbridge Borough Council to introduce a Public Space Protection Order to effectively tackle the issue.

Finally, I have been dealing with Heathrow, urging the airport to ensure that local authorities (including Elmbridge Borough Council) have a direct role on the Independent Scrutiny Panel, to hold the airport to account on noise levels and air quality as it expands.

In all these areas, I work very closely with our local Conservative councillors.

They champion your voice, and feedback to me on local issues. We work as a team. So please help us to deliver for you, by voting Conservative in the local elections in May.

More police on Elmbridge streets

Elections will be held on 7 May for Surrey's next Police & Crime Commissioner. The role is similar to a local Home Secretary. The PCC sets the strategy and budget for Surrey Police and holds the Chief Constable to account.

Charlie Chirico is the Conservative candidate for PCC. An experienced criminal lawyer, her top priority will be to put more officers on the streets to detect and deter crime.

She said: "I will ensure that victims are at the very forefront of Surrey's Criminal justice system. All appropriate measures must be taken to build confidence in the police's ability to deal with sensitive matters such as domestic violence.

"We also still need to improve outreach into our rural communities, where the reporting rates are lower than urban areas. I am committed to improving the victim experience in Surrey and increasing reporting rates across the county."



Raising the bar at Surrey

Tim Oliver is the Leader of Surrey County Council and the division member for Weybridge. He writes:

'Since becoming Leader in 2018 I've been determined to get Surrey County Council's finances on a stable footing and raise the bar in terms of service delivery, innovation and meeting our climate change obligations.

We have embarked on a period of root and branch transformation. That has required hard choices but is starting to bear fruit. It has allowed us to take significant sums out of back office functions and improve our ways of working, that has delivered £200m in efficiency savings.

Most of the increase in council tax now is to fund the increased demand for adult social care and Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) services. This continues to be our largest area of spend (at about £1.5m per day).

I hope the government's Fairer Funding Review, which was being run by the new Chancellor Rishi Sunak, will level out funding across the country and we will benefit from that. In the meantime we will continue our drive for efficiency and to get better value out of our property estate among other things.

We continue to lobby the Government on the funding formula for roads. Surrey gets £28,000 per mile which is half of what London boroughs get, yet our 3,000 miles of roads are heavily used.



We have topped up that money by millions and are starting to see fewer potholes and improved repairs.

Ultimately we need to get more people out of cars and on to public transport as part of our greener agenda. We will put more electric buses on our roads, underpinned by an app where passengers can see in real-time where the next bus is, or book it.

We have been working with Leeds University to analyse our carbon footprint and put in

place a strategy for continued reductions to make us carbon neutral by 2050. This will include planting 1.2m trees - one for every Surrey resident.

Finally, we've set aside £100m over five years for a Community Investment Fund. We're setting up a website for residents to tell us what they want in their communities, for example a refurbished hall, a new playground or bus, anything that will make a real difference to your area. Look out for more details later this year.

FOUNDATION | BTEC | UNIVERSITY DEGREE | TRAINEESHIPS

Walton Casuals Academy

FULL TIME FOOTBALL AND EDUCATION PROGRAMME

FOUNDATION SUMMER CAMP:

Boys & Girls Ages 6 - 15

Aug 3rd - Aug 7th
Aug 10th - Aug 14th
Aug 17th - Aug 21st
Aug 24th - Aug 28th

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW



STUDY



PLAY



WORK

ACADEMY TRIAL DAYS:

Boys & Girls Ages 16 - 24

Monday 16th March: 5pm - 7pm
Wednesday 15th April: 12pm - 4pm
Monday 4th May: 5pm - 7pm
Wednesday 3rd June: 5pm - 7pm
Monday 29th June: 5pm - 7pm
Thursday 30th July: 3pm - 5pm

REGISTER NOW



Academy Director Kelly-Jade Whelan | 07929131898 | academy@waltoncasuals.co.uk
Xcel Sports Hub, Waterside Drive, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 2JP