



DON'T FORGET: The Police Panel Meeting is on Wednesday 13th August 7.30pm at St Peter's Church Hall. Make your voice heard on Hersham's policing priorities.

Local issues, local action, local Conservatives | Visit our website: www.esherwalton.com

Elmbridge local election results

WE are delighted that Mary Sheldon and Ruth Mitchell (pictured right) were re-elected as Councillors for Hersham North and South respectively at the May 22nd local elections.

Ruth and Mary write: "We would like to thank residents for once again putting your confidence in us. It is a huge honour to represent our community in Hersham and, whether you voted for us or not, we shall do our very best to respond to every request you may make or concerns you may have and to always act and speak on your behalf during the next four years."

Overall in Elmbridge, the Conservatives gained an additional seat in Molesey East against the national trend.

We now have 32 seats out of 60 on the Council.



Elmbridge Civic Improvement Fund

ECIF has been established for many years and is still going strong. It is a discretionary scheme that provides funding to improve towns and villages in the Borough.

Applications from independent retail businesses, trade associations/groups, chambers of commerce and community organisations will be accepted.

Priority will be given to projects that enhance the area, are likely to attract business and where improvement will be long lasting (e.g. 5 years).

Several shops, businesses and community groups in Hersham have already benefitted from ECIF. Why not apply at www.elmbridge.gov.uk/business/ecif, or business@elmbridge.gov.uk or 01372474398.

New playgroup

A lease has been signed for a playgroup to open in the Herbert Crook Pavilion close to the cricket square in Coronation Recreation Ground.

After some internal refurbishment works to be carried out by the new lease holder the group is expected to open in autumn.

All users are being strongly encouraged to drop-off and pick-up their children in the car park in Coronation Recreation Ground rather than the Rydens Grove entrance, which is not suitable for a number of vehicles to park on the narrow corner in this road.



Certain to make a big splash!



OUR last newsletter reported the agreement to put a splash-park in Hersham Recreation Ground, and we promised to give more information on this.

A suitable contractor has now been identified and installation will be in the autumn so that everything will be ready for lots of fun next summer.

One of the main advantages of a splashpark, apart from pure enjoyment, is that it can be turned on at very short notice compared to the 1-3 hours for a paddling pool.

Daily decisions will be taken on the weather to decide to open the park on warmer days outside of the six week school holidays.

Residents have asked about the possibility of vandalism - due to the design of the splash-park almost all of the moving parts are underground and will therefore be very robust.

It will be installed on the same footprint as the existing paddling pool, which is already surrounded with animal proof fencing."

Council must act over Pleasant Place

As residents will know, the travellers in Pleasant Place submitted a further Planning Application, seeking to extend their residential occupation on a permanent basis.

The Application was considered on 30th June by the North Area Planning Sub-Committee. Hersham South Councillors John Sheldon and John O'Reilly (pictured) forcefully voiced the anger and frustrations of local residents over the last nine years and particularly since the disastrous decision by a Planning Inspector to grant a five year temporary permission in 2009.

In the event



the Committee voted overwhelmingly to allow a further five year temporary permission and while recognizing that changes in the law had meant that the Council had not yet been able to identify alternative sites, this process must be completed before 2019.

Meanwhile all conditions must be rigorously enforced.

Speaking to *The Hersham News* after the meeting, councillors

Sheldon and O'Reilly said:

"The Council is on notice that we expect that five years must be sufficient time for the identification of other sites and we and residents demand final closure on this unacceptable problem."

Safety improvements for Burwood Road

Hersham South Councillors Ruth Mitchell, John Sheldon and John O'Reilly with Hersham County Councillor Margaret Hicks have met Surrey Highways Department to discuss progress on the proposed traffic enhancements along the Burwood Road.

We have reached full agreement on the way forward and are optimistic that an additional £85,000 will be allocated from Elmbridge's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to complete the programme.

The next phase will hopefully be the installation of a pedestrian crossing and the options for this are expected to be published soon followed by a full consultation with residents.

Margaret and Ruth commented: "This is one of the first partnership



funding arrangements using CIL between Surrey County and Elmbridge Borough Councils.

"We look forward to residents being actively involved so that this part of Burwood Road becomes safer for all users and particularly children attending Burhill School."

Cleaning up paths

Cllr Mary Sheldon writes: "Many residents have contacted me about dog-fouling on pavements, and the need to cut back the undergrowth and clear litter."

I recently visited every footpath in Hersham, accompanied by the Borough Council officer responsible for having them swept, cleaned up and litter-picked, and have highlighted several areas that seem to get overlooked.

In particular the back of Albany Road between Thistlecroft Road and Pratts Lane and the footpaths between Queens Road and Queensway South.

Scotts Lane has now had a grand clean-up and a litter bin will be installed on a trial basis - I encourage everyone to use it.

If you notice any footpath that you feel should be given more attention please let me know.

Colborne's have also been asked to provide a cigarette-butt receptacle for the many stubs on the ground close to their premises."

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Helping Hersham to bloom

HERSHAM in Bloom has once again filled the troughs and barrels throughout the village with colourful plants, and this year the group has grown in numbers of helpers.

A most successful planting session was held in early June when over 20 people turned up outside Costa to help with the work.

Squires again recommended and supplied the summer bedding plants, and more than 80 geraniums were kindly donated by Woodlark Nurseries for the enjoyment of the Hersham community.

Should anyone wish to sponsor a plant container and/or have your name or company displayed on it please contact Mary Sheldon 01372 467812.

Elmbridge Council sets out 2020 vision

ELMBRIDGE'S Conservative administration has set the ambitious goal of making the Borough Council financially self-sufficient by 2020.

Like all local authorities, EBC is dependent on an annual maintenance grant from Central Government but this has been diminishing for years under successive governments. Not knowing how much of a hole this could leave in the finances has made long term planning more difficult.

Despite this Conservatives have frozen council tax for six of the past eight years, and trimmed £8million from annual spending without impacting services.

Esher councillor Tim Oliver is the Cabinet member for Resources and oversees Elmbridge's legal and IT departments, finances and asset management.

He said: "All local authorities would like to be in the position of not having to rely on the Government grant, but for most self-reliance is not a realistic prospect. Elmbridge is one of the few councils where, because of the decisions we've taken, that is now achievable."

To reach the goal the council has



been using money from the Government's 'New Homes Bonus' to bolster reserves. This has allowed the council to invest £13million in local assets, such as a row of shops which was purchased in Cobham.

Acquisitions will be made around the borough, and intended to yield a 6% annual return.

Cllr Oliver said: "Local government isn't just about emptying the wheelie bins, Elmbridge has the ability and resources to be a top borough to live in. We've got the environment and the quality of life and it's up to the council to see how we can add to that."

A word from Margaret

Hersham's county councillor Margaret Hicks surveys the Surrey scene:



I am commencing the process of developing a five year parking strategy for Elmbridge looking at the needs across the Borough so that businesses and retail can attract local shopping.

And also a strategy for cycling in Elmbridge so that longer cycle routes can be marked up on our roads and encourage cycling as a healthy family activity. Increasingly Surrey Libraries are becoming information points and I would like to see if we can build an extension to our own Hersham Library with the extra space being used for quiet reading and small meetings. What do you think?

I have been working with Surrey Early Years and Walton Charity to secure a safe building for the Burwood Play Group in Burhill Road.

It's been a privilege to have represented Hersham residents for 25 years and I was touched to have been awarded a certificate by colleagues to mark the occasion.

Scouts' 'well deserved' windfall

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Hersham made its first recommended payout on 17th July, when the Local Spending Board granted £6,000 for refurbishment of the 1st Hersham Scout's hut in Burwood Close.

The Board Chairman, Hersham South Councillor John Sheldon, said: "This was a well-deserved award, and a great start for CIL, which we expect to be available every year for supporting local

good causes, as a direct benefit from building developments."

1st Hersham are a successful scout group in Burwood Close with over 100 youth members, supported by a team of adult leaders and volunteers.

Its sections are: Beaver Scouts (for boys and girls aged 6 to 8), Cub Scouts (aged 8 to 10) Scouts (aged 10 to 14) and Explorer Scouts (for young men and women aged 14 to 18).

'Soundbite' News and Events:

■ Hersham Panel Meeting - This is an opportunity for residents to meet their local policing team and have a vote in local policing priorities. Please come along and have your say.

The next meeting is on August 13th at 7.30pm in St Peters Church Hall, Burwood Road. Further info at www.surrey.police.uk

■ The Hersham Youth Centre, in Arch Road, which

opened in 2002 is seeing a big rise in members and is among the most successful in the entire County.

It is FREE so if you are 11 to 19 years of age come along and have fun. More info at www.hershamyouthtrust.co.uk

■ Hersham's Boys very own Sham 69 played at GuilFest, Guildford's Stoke Park on July 18th.

■ Enjoy the holidays but make sure your home and belongings are safe!



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About your councillors

YOUR five Conservative Borough Councillors for Hersham work as a team (with Margaret Hicks as our County Councillor) so please approach any of us with problems or concerns – we'll do our utmost to work with the Council officers to ensure a successful outcome.

Ian Donaldson.... chairs the Borough's Licensing Committee that includes taxis and pub issues

Ruth Mitchell.... has specific responsibility for the Council's corporate development and improvement. Ruth is also a Board member of Paragon Housing.

John O'Reilly...is Leader of Elmbridge Borough Council (the buck stops!) and serves on the North Area and Full Planning Committees

Mary Sheldon....has responsibility for all the Borough's Leisure and Culture activities and is also a member of the North Area and Full Planning Committees

John Sheldon....serves on the key Scrutiny Committee that oversees the Council's work. He is a Council representative on both the Older Peoples' Advisory Body and the Hersham Youth Trust

Margaret Hicks...takes the lead on all matters relating to Surrey County Council.



Elmbridge Councillors for Hersham North



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