



In Touch Hershham

News from your local Hershham Conservatives

Editor: Councillor John O'Reilly | Email: joreilly@elbridge.gov.uk | Web: <http://www.esherwalton.com>

Elmbridge council tax frozen again! For five years in six!

DESPITE 4% inflation and having to find over £1.2 million in savings, we are pleased to announce that the Elmbridge Borough Council component of the Council Tax will be frozen for next year.

This means that since the Conservatives formed the Administration in 2006, there has been no increase in the Council Tax for no fewer than five years out of six.

We are one of only nine other Councils in England and Wales to have achieved such an outstanding result. And what's more, there have been no reductions in the Council's services, nor have we needed to increase charges within our control for the fourth time in six years. Over the last 6 years, the Council has managed over £6 million in budget reductions.

Elmbridge also won high praise from the District Auditor who confirmed that the Council is among the country's top performing authorities.

Investment

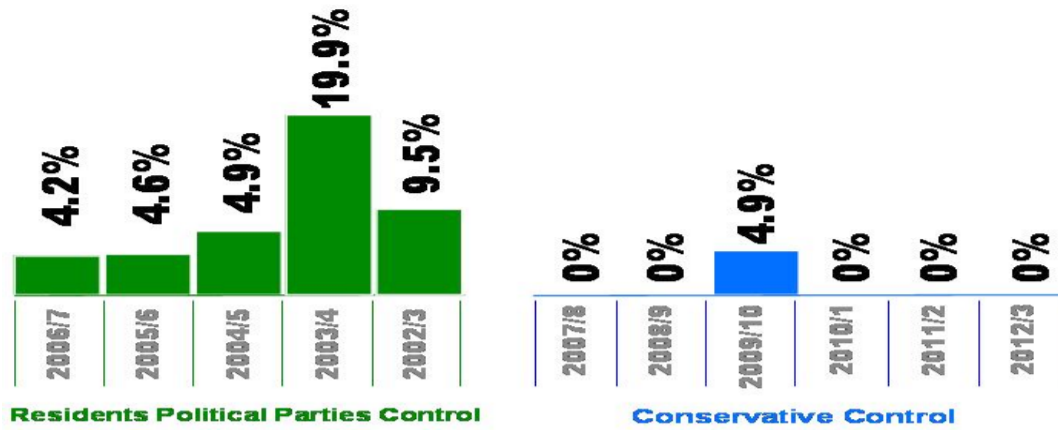
In presenting the budget to the Council on February 22nd, Leader of the Council and Hershham Councillor, John O'Reilly, commented: "Furthermore, and unlike many other authorities, we have protected all the Voluntary Sector Grants yet again, amounting to a continuing investment of over £400,000."

Pointing to the Council's continuing commitment to help, support and nurture Elmbridge's flourishing community and voluntary sector, Cllr O'Reilly referred to the £300,000 allocated directly for this purpose through the creation of an Olympic Legacy Fund and a Diamond Jubilee Fund specifically directed at the voluntary sector on a one-off basis to make a reality of projects that will benefit our residents.

He concluded by saying: "The aim of this budget can be encapsulated in six words: 'protecting our residents' and 'strengthening our community'."

Your Conservative Councillors are always on your side and particularly in these difficult times.

We are relentless in demanding value for money, doing things ever more efficiently, but



protecting our superb community and other services.

Speaking to In Touch after the meeting, Cllr. O'Reilly added: "The Council Tax freeze is particularly welcome for those Hershham residents, including many in Whiteley Village, who have to rely on their pensions and where every penny matters."

Pictured above: The annual Residents' Council Tax presentation at the Civic Centre on January 23 which drew over 90 people. Right, Cllr. O'Reilly addresses the audience.



Truly a summer to remember

THE Olympics and Diamond Jubilee will be a once in a lifetime experience for Hershham.

We'll see the Road Cycling Race on July 28-29 and the Time Trials on August 1.

The Time Trial event actually goes through Hershham passing through the village green and out onto Burwood Road so there should be great opportunities to see the race.

There will be restrictions of access for the Time Trial, which will affect residents getting in and out of roads along the route of the race.

Please look at the GoSurrey website, <http://www.gosurrey.info/cycling/> for up to date information. Residents living along the route will receive further information from Surrey and Elmbridge councils.

And Hershham library is to become a tourist information point during London 2012.

We are sure our village will come together and enjoy participating in this exciting event and commemorate it for future generations.

And talking of celebrations, why not organise a street party to celebrate Her Majesty's 60 years as our Queen?

Hershham Councillor John O'Reilly said: "Elmbridge had record numbers of street parties for the Royal wedding last year and we hope that again our communities will celebrate this momentous event. It's the perfect opportunity to meet up with neighbours, friends and family and have fun come rain or shine. And there are tips on the EBC website to help you plan a great street party."

Visit <http://www.elbridge.gov.uk/elbridge/sparty.htm>

Help us support our local Hershham shops



We are really fortunate in having the Hershham Green Centre and the surrounding shops at the centre of our village.

It is important that we do everything to maintain these in difficult times. Your councillors are working with the shopkeepers, to enhance the appearance and visibility of the centre to ensure that this remains a success.

The first event was the Christmas Lighting Switch On, with

Max Clifford doing the switch.

Many families came to enjoy the mince pies and roasted chestnuts.

The centre's traders are now busy arranging some fun on Easter Saturday (April 7). We hear that the Easter Bunny will be there from 10am till noon and a free 'Children's Easter Egg Hunt' will take place, with chocolate eggs as prizes.

And more events are in the pipeline. So keep a look out for

notices in the shops when you support your local traders.

In the words of Cllrs. Ruth Mitchell and Simon Desborough: "The Hershham Green Shopping Centre and surrounding shops are at the heart of our community and their ongoing survival is vital for all the residents of Hershham."

"That is why we are working closely with the traders to promote and enhance the benefits of shopping in our unique village."

Work to begin on Hershham Rail Bridge

RESIDENTS will know, in April some vital reconstruction work will be carried out to Hershham Railway Bridge in Molesey Road.

Network Rail plan a partial replacement of the railway bridge at Hershham station which means the road will close between Walton Park and Broad Close from April 1st until

April 11th.

Your Hershham Borough Councillors have confirmation from Network Rail that they will at the same time re-paint the bridge, remove the barbed wire and other debris from it, and generally smarten up the bridge.

The Network Rail 24-Hour Helpline number is 08457 11 41 41.

Planning a move?...

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COMMUNITY NEWS

AT THE last police panel meeting residents prioritised speeding in Queens Road, Molesey Road, Burwood Road, Mayfield Road and Esher Road. And also inconsiderate parking around West Grove, Claremont Close, Belgrave Close, Thrupps Lane and Havers Avenue.

Come and meet your neighbourhood team and share your views and vote on your priority. The next Hershams Panel meeting will take place on Wednesday 21st March 2012, 7.30pm at St Peter's Church Hall, in Burwood Road.

THE recent decision by Surrey CC to deal with the parking problems in West Grove and Clarence Road have not met with unanimous approval, especially by residents living along West Grove between Clarence Road and Belgrave Close.

There have been some legitimate concerns raised by residents in this section of the road at the proposed solution, and we are hoping that these will be reflected in the final outcome to this longstanding problem.

IN CORONATION Recreation Ground there are four excellent tennis courts - free to use and no need to book.

Your Councillors fought hard to keep these courts and have them resurfaced. Also you may be interested in the new Elmbridge Tennis League open to adults of all standards - it's not too late to sign up.

See <http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/leisure/sports/TFF.htm> for more details.

CHILDREN can enjoy a variety of fun, low-cost activities during the Easter school break with the Shout! Holiday programme running from Monday 2 April to Friday 13th April. Look on the EBC website for more details.

YOUR Hershams councillors have been active in promoting the 'Community Connect' scheme, introduced this year.

We have obtained grants for our local police team to assist in their Police on Wheels scheme, which helps them reach every part of Hershams by bike instead of having to walk everywhere.

And the swimming pool at Whiteley Village will be the venue for a series of 'Aquacise' therapy classes available to all.

Cllr. Mary Sheldon said: "We would like to thank everyone who made suggestions on how we might use the Community Connect funding. This is a great example of where spending a little goes a long way".

YOUR Councillors have enjoyed meeting residents at our regular Saturday morning surgeries at the Hershams Centre for the Community.

If you have any issues you would like to discuss, just drop in at our next session on Sat 31 March. No appointment is necessary and they will be available from 10.30 till noon. A private room is available for anything you wish to discuss in confidence.



Elmbridge Councillors for Hershams North

Elmbridge Councillors for Hershams South

Cllr Ian Donaldson 96 Burwood Road Hershams KT12 4AP Tel: 07981 827941 Email: iandonaldson@elmbridge.gov.uk	Cllr Simon Desborough 14 Clarence Road Hershams, Surrey KT12 5JU Tel: 07734 533593 Email: sdesborough@elmbridge.gov.uk	Cllr Mary Sheldon 69 Esher Road Hershams, Surrey KT12 4LW Tel: 01372 467812 Email: msheldon@elmbridge.gov.uk	County Cllr Margaret Hicks 73 Westcar Lane Hershams, KT12 5ES Tel: 01932 248864 Email: margarethicks@surreycc.gov.uk	Cllr Ruth Mitchell 72 Onslow Road Hershams KT12 5AY Tel: 01932 220557 Email: rmitchell@elmbridge.gov.uk	Cllr John O'Reilly 28 Garrick Close Hershams, Surrey KT12 5PA Tel: 01932 253090 Email: joreilly@elmbridge.gov.uk	Cllr John Sheldon 69 Esher Road Hershams, Surrey KT12 4LW Tel: 01372 810088 Email: jsheldon@elmbridge.gov.uk
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Tree-mendous effort Mr Mayor!



AN UPDATE from the Worshipful Mayor of Elmbridge, Hershams Councillor John Sheldon.

"When I promised to accompany Burhill School children to the Christmas tree on Hershams Green, I forgot how tall it was!

The mission was to decorate it with the pictures they had drawn of a robin, which is both the School's symbol and that of our village.

Gathering round in the snow,

the girls and boys soon filled the lower branches, but the higher ones were out of reach. Until, that is, a friendly builder from the newly completed development Parkview saved the day by bringing a stepladder, which I climbed, then attached the decorations handed up to me.

Mission successfully accomplished - but not one I would recommend whilst wearing the Mayor's robes!"

Farewell Derek Denyer, and thank you

ON FEBRUARY 27 a packed St Peter's Church bade farewell to Derek Denyer, a Hershams South



councillor for 20 years and a most distinguished Mayor of our Borough, who had passed away last month.

Nothing was ever too much trouble for Derek in helping others and solving problems; his warmth, generosity and kindness touched so many people. He was a Councillor who got things done for his community.

He will be sorely missed and the huge attendance at his funeral service demonstrated the affection of his legion of friends.

Our thoughts are with Derek's widow Olga and her family.

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Parkview opens

PARKVIEW - the new apartment block in Queens Road has been formally opened by the Mayor, Hershams Councillor John Sheldon, accompanied by the Mayor-ess, Councillor Mary Sheldon.

After cutting the ribbon, Cllr Sheldon said "Like every resident to whom I have spoken, I admire and approve of this fine building for occupying so fittingly its important position overlooking the Green and the Conservation Area.

"I congratulate all concerned with the project, the architect, the developer, and the marketing agents Castle Wildish, for enhancing our village centre".

Latest Hershams planning applications

303 Molesey Road - an application for 33 apartments and 6 terraced houses was recently refused by the Planning sub-Committee. The developer has lodged an appeal and a decision by the Planning Inspectorate is expected to be made in the next 2-3 months.

Hylton Lodge, Queens Road - as many residents will have noticed Shanly Homes have now started work on this development comprising 33 houses and 9 apartments. Demolition work is nearly complete.

39 Charlton Avenue - following a further refusal for 3 houses on the site of this property, the applicant's appeal was dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate.



Hershams Youth Club reaches milestone

HERSHAMS Youth Club is 10 years old this year!

Celebrations were held recently with a visit from the Mayor and Mayoress, John and Mary Sheldon, together with other founders and supporters of this outstanding independent youth club.

Your Hershams councillors are proud that so many young people

Margaret's View

Surrey County Councillor for Hershams, Margaret Hicks, gives her round-up of the news.



RESIDENTS will see that the Highway Team has been busy installing the road markings agreed within this year's

budget. Also road surface improvements have been completed including Back Green and the roundabout Westcar Lane/West Grove.

Meanwhile Surrey is to elect a Police and Crime Commissioner on November 15 to be the interface between the public and the Police. Supporting the Commissioner will be a Panel made up of a nominee from each Borough, a County Council nominee and two independent residents.

St. Peter's Church will celebrate 125 years in May. At the patronal week-end, June 29 - July 1 there will be a Hershams family picnic on Vaux Mead open to all and a Flower Festival within the church.

Following the magnificent community campaign, I am delighted that Hershams Library will not be included in discussions that might have seen the facility partly run by volunteers. The people of Hershams really value this facility that attracts readers of all ages.