



The Dittons News

In support of **HUGH EVANS** your Conservative candidate for Long Ditton



A hard working team for Long Ditton

Hello I am Hugh Evans your Conservative candidate for Long Ditton at this Thursday's Embridge Borough Council by-election. I hope you will take a few minutes to read this newsletter and as ever I welcome your views.

It was a great privilege for me to contest the elections in May and I was delighted and humbled by the warm response from Long Ditton voters on the doorsteps that was reflected at the ballot box, where I finished just 49 votes shy of victory.

Though I was not expecting to have another opportunity to stand quite so soon, it has been enormously enjoyable to pick up my campaign where I left off and continue meeting residents and making the case for better, more

effective representation for Long Ditton at Elmbridge Borough Council.

The truth is that whomever is elected on Thursday (July 23rd) will have just 10 months to make an impact before the 'all up' elections in May 2016 where all of the council seats will be up for election on new boundaries (see the article elsewhere in this newsletter for more on this).

I am adamant that if elected there will be no drift or coasting along; I am promising 10 months of hard work and action for Long Ditton so that when I stand before you next year it will be on a solid record of achievement.

My priorities are firstly school places – too many families are being forced to travel out of the area. We need good

quality places for Long Ditton children at local schools, and I will take up the cause with Surrey County Council.

Second, road safety blackspots and potholes need to be addressed and I will get on the case. Third, Long Ditton

needs a strong voice and genuine influence at Elmbridge Borough Council.

The Liberal Democrats number just six councillors out of 60 and are on the side lines at

Elmbridge.

If elected I can count on the support of the powerful majority Conservative group at Elmbridge Council, who make up the Administration, and would also have the ear of Conservative colleagues at Surrey County Council and our

effective local MP Dominic Raab.

I am uniquely placed among the candidates at this by-election to provide the influence that Long Ditton deserves.

Although this election is for an individual councillor, a vote for me is also a vote to get the right TEAM for Long Ditton. One with the ability and the will to deliver results.

I know the Dittons very well having lived in the area all my life and, since getting married, my wife Catherine and I are building our future here. We are very passionate about this area and I would be honoured to represent Long Ditton formally at the Borough Council.

Please vote for me on Thursday July 23rd so that I can get to work on your behalf and ensure that Long Ditton's voice is heard loud and clear at Elmbridge Borough Council.

'A strong voice and genuine influence at Elmbridge Borough Council'

Striving for a better local NHS

HUGH works as an NHS administrator and is a strong supporter of world class local hospitals and GP services.

He believes that locally based healthcare is more convenient for residents and eases the pressure on our already overburdened A&E department at Kingston Hospital.

Emberbrook health centre at Giggs Hill Green (pictured) has weathered a stormy few years financially. Thankfully things are looking up following its merger with the larger Glenlyn practice in Molesey.

We understand this will allow for economies of scale, better access to doctors, and for services to be shared between the two sites.

If elected a councillor Hugh will take a close interest in how these developments work in practice and will champion our local NHS, while ensuring residents concerns are brought to the attention of politicians and surgery managers.



Sound finances, quality services

LONG Ditton is a great place to live and Conservatives will ensure it stays that way.

For us this means insisting on the highest standards of services the Council delivers to residents; from the quality of our parks and leisure centres to the reliability of refuse collections and the cleanliness of our streets.

It also means keeping a tight control of the finances which is what we have strived to do since forming the Administration at Elmbridge in 2006.

In the last nine years we have frozen council tax a total of seven times, whilst protecting frontline services from cuts and safeguarding the grants the Council gives to voluntary organisations such as Meals on Wheels and Citizens Advice. This has been achieved in the



face of an extremely challenging climate of austerity and falling Government grants.

Conservative-run Elmbridge has trimmed £8million from the

annual budget largely through efficiency savings, renegotiating contracts and eliminating waste.

Our record is one few other councils can match, but we won't rest on our laurels.

Our Cabinet member for Resources, Cllr Tim Oliver (pictured), has set out ambitious plans to free Elmbridge from dependence on Government maintenance grant by 2020 by strategically investing in locally-based property to generate returns.

He said: "All local authorities want to be in that position but for most it is not realistic. Elmbridge is one of the few councils where that is achievable, because of the decisions we've taken."

Hugh Evans added: "Residents can be assured that Long Ditton is in safe hands under the Conservatives."

Dominic Raab MP:



I was humbled and delighted to be re-elected as your local MP in May. On top of that, and against the odds, we secured a Conservative majority government under David Cameron.

The new government has hit the ground running. The Chancellor's recent budget cut taxes for low and middle income families, and took further measures to boost our economy.

We will ensure those who work hard in Elmbridge can pass their family home worth up to £1million to their family without paying Inheritance Tax. And there is a new levy to pay for extra apprenticeships which, along with our schools reforms, will make sure we build an opportunity society as well as a prosperous economy.

In addition, after the election, I was made a Minister for Justice, charged with delivering in human rights reform – replacing the much maligned Human Rights Act with a British Bill of Rights. I am already enjoying getting stuck into this important challenge. We want to protect our fundamental rights, but put a stop to abuse of the system.

These national reforms matter. But, so does the local context. Across Elmbridge, I am working with our local councillors to respond to local pressures.

We've got a review of business rates underway

to support retailers and small businesses in Long Ditton. We're working as a team to address pressure on local school places – having delivered a substantial injection of additional funding for local schools.

In my work as your MP, I rely heavily on feedback from our local councillors, and I want Long Ditton to have a strong voice both locally and up at Westminster.

So, the upcoming by-election in Long Ditton for Elmbridge Borough Council really matters.

I have got to know Hugh Evans well. He's smart, energetic, hard-working and straight-talking. He wants to get things done, and I would be delighted to see him elected, so that we can strengthen our team delivering for all the residents of Long Ditton."

- Dominic

Pictured: Dominic's election win above, and, below, discussing local issues with Long Ditton by election candidate Hugh Evans.



LONG Ditton residents are being invited to have a say on a new proposals from the Local Government Boundary Commission.

The Commission is undertaking a review of the number of Elmbridge councillors and has concluded that a 20% reduction is appropriate for the current roles and responsibilities of the Council. This means the number of councillors will reduce from 60 to 48, to take effect from next May's elections.

There will be 16 new wards, each represented by three councillors. Long Ditton will remain under the new proposals but will be enlarged to encompass just over 6,000 electors. The new Long Ditton ward will be bordered in the east by Kingston and by the railway line in the west, and by Portsmouth Road, Ferry Road and the A309 Hinchley Way.

Residents may be surprised to know that the composition of the Council hasn't altered in almost 40 years; how many businesses and organisations retain the same structures, let alone employees, as they did 40 years ago? Should Elmbridge Council be an exception to a process that its 130,000 residents have experienced in their own lives?

Boundary review to cut councillor numbers

The Council has changed significantly since the 1970s when Elmbridge borough was formed. Council housing was sold in 2000 to Elmbridge Housing Trust and Surrey County Council has taken back responsibility for street maintenance. In recent years refuse and leisure centres have been contracted out.

The Borough has a vital role to play providing high quality services across the whole range of policy (environment, leisure, community support for young and old, planning etc.) and local councillors are

indispensable to the democratic process as champions of their area. But the Conservative group has long felt that a leaner council would be more appropriate to today's circumstances.

This is why the Conservatives made a manifesto pledge in 2012 to seek a boundary review and have honoured our promise.

Now it is over to you. The Commission has published its proposals at <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/surrey/elmbridge> and is seeking your views by August 24th.

You can write to: The Review Officer (Elmbridge), Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 14th floor, Millbank Tower, London, SW1P 4QP, or email reviews@lgbce.org.uk.



Support for schools not lip service

RISING birth rates in recent years has led an inevitable demand for school places in Surrey including locally.

Despite the challenges, last September the Conservative Administration at Surrey County Council was able to find 412 extra places at primary school level and ensure that all Surrey pupils who wanted a place got one.

At secondary level the number of applications hit a record high of nearly 11,000 (up 300 on the previous year!).

82.4% of children got their first choice school, but this trend is declining. The county estimates that 13,000 additional primary and secondary school places will need to be found in the next five years.

On the doorsteps in Long Ditton, Hugh Evans and his team continue to meet parents who are concerned about whether their children will secure a place at a good quality

local school.

If elected Hugh will make schools a priority. He will fight their corner for a share of resources, and keep a dialogue with Conservative colleagues at Surrey to press for local access to local schools such as Hinchley Wood.

By contrast, last month when Hinchley Wood's head teacher applied to the Local Spending Board for Thames Ditton, Long Ditton, Hinchley Wood & Weston Green for a £9,898 contribution to refurbish sports hall toilets – the committee chaired by Liberal Democrat Cllr Shweta Kapadia rejected it.

The board, which is also attended by Long Ditton Lib Dem Cllr Barry Fairbank, is there to distribute money collected by Elmbridge in taxes from developers to local good causes.

Surely our children and schools are the best local cause there is?



On Thursday July 23rd let's get the right man (and team) for Long Ditton

VOTE

HUGH EVANS



For Long Ditton at Elmbridge Borough Council