

Elmbridge Borough Council Elections: THURSDAY 5 MAY 2016

MIKE BENNISON JAMES BROWNE DOROTHY MITCHELL

Your local choice for Cobham & Downside



Conservatives



Please display in your window

Promoted by Tim Grey on behalf of Mike Bennison, James Browne & Dorothy Mitchell all of EWCA, 3 Bridle Close, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 2JW. Printed by 4-Print Ltd, 138 Molesey Avenue, West Molesey, Surrey, KT8 2RY



Cobham
Conservatives

Dear Resident,

Elmbridge Council has reduced the number of Councillors from 60 to 48 and therefore the whole council has to stand for election on May 5th. You will be asked to vote for up to three candidates.

With massive government cuts to our funding it will be important to have experienced Councillors to provide sound management and to maintain a high level of services. We are proud to be part of the Cobham community with its excellent local organisations. We believe firmly that we need to protect our Green Belt and open spaces from development. We are also working to ensure that we have a viable shopping centre offering a choice of goods and services. We are also looking at ways to increase our parking capability.

Cobham is under threat from outside forces with plans to develop Wisley and dozens of large lorries using Cobham as their route from the works at The Drift. Elmbridge has already objected to both of these. We will do all in our power to protect Cobham from these plans and keep it the place we all value. Thank you for taking the time to read our letter and we hope for your vote on May 5th.

With our best wishes ,

Mike Bennison

James Browne

Dorothy Mitchell



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Our priorities are to:

- 1 Preserve the character of Cobham.** It is very important that we retain the character of Cobham. This means that we have many planning battles to fight, but we have to take into account planning policies, otherwise we are over-ruled by planning inspectors which can cost the taxpayer. Dorothy will continue to do battle as we want to see our town remain an attractive place for us all.
- 2 Keep our town centre alive.** We are all determined to ensure that the empty parade of shops on the High Street remains as a mixture of small units and we will oppose any attempt to combine them into a single large shop.
- 3 Support public transport.** The popular new Chatterbus service from the town centre to the train station and Brooklands has our full support. We obtained financial backing for the launch from Elmbridge Council.
- 4 Defend Downside.** Your Councillors have fought for Downside residents over the M25 service station for years. We continue to challenge the proposed works at the Drift golf club which will lead to more traffic. We recently awarded a grant to St Matthew's School for an outdoor play and learning area.
- 5 Defend the Green Belt.** We successfully urged Elmbridge to oppose the building of over 2000 homes on the former Wisley airfield. This development, with the traffic it would generate and the demands it would place on our local amenities, would be disastrous for Cobham.



About Mike

A retired senior captain with British Airways, Mike has lived in the area most of his life and is married with one son. He has represented Cobham and Downside for nearly 16 years. On top of that he has the advantage of being a Surrey County Councillor covering an adjacent area for the last nine years. This dual role gives him an in-depth knowledge and experience, which is invaluable to solving our residents' problems. He works hard on behalf of our community and is influential in many ways with his knowledge of the area. If re-elected Mike will continue to work hard on behalf of all residents and will continue to give us a strong voice on Elmbridge Borough Council.

About James

James and his family have lived in Cobham for 10 years. For the last 8 years he has been an Elmbridge Councillor and is the Cabinet member for Housing. During that time James has defended local residents against the threat of mobile phone masts and other inappropriate development, and has helped ensure that over £150,000 of funding was made available to local schools, doctors' surgeries and community facilities. James is a director of the Cobham Cedar centre in the new library building which provides free accommodation for local charities. He is also proud of the new affordable housing recently built in Gavell Road and Wyndham Avenue.

About Dorothy

Dorothy Mitchell has represented Cobham for over 30 years.

On behalf of residents she has battled many major planning applications, often successfully. She persuaded Surrey County Council not to sell the Cedar Road site for flats but to build a new library and community hub which is now open.

Dorothy is a widow with two adult children and spends most of her time involved with and working for her community.

LOCAL ISSUES, LOCAL ACTION, LOCAL CONSERVATIVES

CONSERVATIVE ELMBRIDGE - LET'S KEEP MOVING FORWARD

ELMBRIDGE IN SAFE HANDS



OUR PLEDGES TO YOU

WE WILL

- ✓ Continue to work hard as Conservatives to provide excellent services and value for money for our residents.
- ✓ Work closely with residents and community groups to oppose inappropriate development and seek to protect the character of our borough whilst striving to ensure adequate and proper housing for all those who live in our borough.
- ✓ Promote and support a vibrant and successful business, retail and social environment in our town centres.
- ✓ Proactively engage with and support our community and voluntary sector partners.
- ✓ Above all, listen to our residents and act upon your concerns and needs.

YOUR CONSERVATIVE COUNCIL

As Conservatives we believe in value for money as well as open, transparent and effective democracy. That is why as Conservatives we have eliminated unnecessary and wasteful expenditure from Elmbridge Borough Council achieving savings of nearly £10 million over the past 7 years. We have also delivered on our pledge to reduce the size of the Council (it had the most elected Councillors in Surrey). This is why the whole Council is up for election. We will continue to look for ways of streamlining your Council.

Elmbridge continues to be not only one of the highest performing Councils in the country but also one of the most sought after boroughs to live in. Conservative councillors will do all they can to maintain our residents' quality of life by keeping increases in council tax to the minimum, investing in your borough, opposing inappropriate development and continuing to deliver high quality efficient services to our residents.

This year will see a reduction in central government funding of £550k which is 28% less than we received last year (Elmbridge now receives just £21 towards the £125 annual spend per resident). To cover a proportion of that shortfall we are having to increase the Elmbridge element of the Council Tax by £3.93 per year for a Band D household. This will ensure we can continue to deliver those vital services you rightly expect from your Council.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Since taking control of the council we have

- Invested in the improvement of our town centres through grants from the Elmbridge Civic Improvement Fund.
- Achieved zero Borough Council Tax increases in 7 out of the last 10 years (the Residents' Political Parties put up taxes in 12 out of 13 years).
- Given local communities access to funding for improvements to their locality through the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- Increased funding to the voluntary sector and provided use of the Elmbridge Community Hub.
- Worked closely with our partners to provide in excess of 1000 affordable homes in the borough.
- Put the Council on a strong financial footing with robust governance and accountability.
- Seen the level of residents' satisfaction with our services rise to an all time high of 88%.
- Planned to start the building of a state-of-the-art Sports Hub in Walton.
- Reviewed all key contracts - for example, waste collection, maintenance of green spaces and CCTV monitoring - to deliver the best value for money.
- Pursued joint working with other local authorities, Surrey Police and key stakeholders to provide more effective services.



CARING AND CAMPAIGNING IN COBHAM & DOWNSIDE

ACTION FOR YOU ALL YEAR ROUND

What we have achieved together

DOROTHY MITCHELL



Dorothy outside the new Cobham Library which she fought to have built.

Dorothy managed to find half the funding for our popular skate park.



Dorothy is proud of the Jubilee status of our Recreation ground and objects to any development on this site.

MIKE BENNISON



Mike wants to increase the green protection around Cobham, and is working closely with both the Cobham & Downside Heritage Group and the two Residents' Associations.

Mike regularly attends meetings on the issues of Community Support Services for the elderly and the young. It is vital that you have someone like Mike to speak on behalf of the vulnerable.



Fly tipping is prevalent in certain parts of the borough. Mike is working hard to protect our excellent waste facilities such as those at Randles Lane, Leatherhead.

JAMES BROWNE



James has helped local residents to resist unsightly mobile phone masts in residential areas and is urging the telecoms

providers to look for more sympathetic locations.

James says "we need more of the new houses built in Cobham to be affordable. It is very difficult to get on the housing ladder and house prices are deterring key workers like police officers and school teachers from making their homes in the community which they serve".



Discussing how we can protect Cobham's thriving town centre with local residents.

KEEP ELMBRIDGE IN SAFE HANDS - VOTE LOCAL CONSERVATIVES ON 5TH MAY