

Elmbridge Borough Council Elections: THURSDAY 5 MAY 2016

RUTH MITCHELL
JOHN O'REILLY
MARY SHELDON

Your local choice for
Hersham Village



Please display in your window

Promoted by Tim Grey on behalf of John O'Reilly, Ruth Mitchell & Mary Sheldon all of EWCA, 3 Bridle Close, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 2JW. Printed by 4-Print Ltd, 138 Molesey Avenue, West Molesey, Surrey, KT8 2RY



Dear Hersham Resident,

Hersham is a wonderful place to live and work – it has a popular community centre, thriving local businesses, a village green, its own library, four excellent schools and two large parks to relax in and play sport. And much more.

We are all longstanding Hersham residents, we work as a close team, and it has been a privilege to serve as your local councillors and be actively involved in our diverse and flourishing community.

On all the issues that matter to Hersham, encouraging our local businesses, championing our community services for young and old, protecting our unique environment, your priorities are our priorities, while ensuring you get the maximum value for your money.

We have always been accountable to you, providing regular feedback on our activities and local events through our “Hersham News” newsletters.

We hope to continue that service and ask for your support on May 5th.



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Ruth, Mary and John will:

- 1 Protect Hersham's unique character by scrutinising planning applications to ensure only high quality developments will be allowed and that we retain an environment that our residents value so greatly.
- 2 Champion Hersham's interests at all times with the Council and other bodies, particularly supporting our Centre for the community, our library, and standing up for commuters with SW Trains.
- 3 Promote Hersham's many local businesses. We have successfully encouraged several shops to apply for grants under the Elmbridge Civic Improvement Fund to enhance their frontages and attract more customers.
- 4 Always defend our attractive green spaces in the village and our two recreation grounds. The new splash park has proved a resounding success and we are keen to explore other leisure opportunities for Hersham families.
- 5 Be answerable to you all year round not just at election time! We produce the Hersham News which tries to cover all the important community stories. We particularly welcome residents' feedback.
- 6 Insist on value for your money in everything the Council does. We are passionate about the excellent services it provides and believe these can be even better by continuing to focus on efficiencies.

About Ruth

Ruth and her husband Chris have lived in Hersham for almost 25 years. Since becoming a Hersham Councillor in 2010, Ruth has taken a particular interest in promoting our many local businesses and is currently campaigning for the installation of a free cash dispensing machine in the Village. She is also passionate that all developments in Hersham should respect our distinct identity and location. Getting things done for Hersham and serving its residents, whatever the issues may be, is what Ruth most enjoys doing as a local Councillor. In her spare time, she is a keen gardener.

About John

John has been a Hersham resident for over 25 years and has been a local Councillor since 2005. He is always accessible, rarely too far away from the phone or e-mail. You may even catch him on his bike around the Village or running in Coronation Rec! John has helped many Hersham residents with serious problems, often to do with housing or involving the Council, particularly planning. Overcoming such concerns, often the cause of real anxiety, is the most rewarding part of being a local Councillor. His aim is to provide a first-class service for all our Hersham community.

About Mary

Mary has lived in Hersham for over 35 years, is married to John Sheldon and during the last 10 years has represented residents in Hersham as a local Councillor. In addition to the time spent on a variety of Council issues, she spends many happy hours with her 4 small grandchildren. She is essentially a community person, responsive to each and everybody, and is regularly seen out and about, ensuring personal involvement in every issue relevant to Hersham, whether it be about planning, the environment, housing, leisure facilities, even planting and tending the floral barrels around the village - always supporting residents and local businesses.

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 HERSHAM VILLAGE

RES DEVELOPMENT

Our children's education is of paramount importance, and Ruth, Mary and John have welcomed RES/Rydens School's scheme to redevelop the site of their existing school for housing, to enable them to build an outstandingly good new educational campus nearby. We have worked with residents and represented their concerns, especially on the access to the proposed housing development, and its internal layout for the housing units. A significant achievement, after negotiations with the developers, has been to limit the expected traffic through Felcott Road. Now it is proposed most of the units will be accessed via the Hersham Road entrance.



NEW BERRY LANE

Our long admired Burhill School for Infants has undergone a successful transformation into the larger Burhill Primary School, to meet the needs of the expanding population. However, its new entrances in New Berry Lane, intended to relieve traffic congestion in Pleasant Place, have brought a similar problem to this private road, created specifically to serve only Paul Vanson Court. Crowds of parents and children, unaware of the lane's special status, have streamed across it at the beginning and end of the school day, coming into conflict with traffic in and out of the sheltered housing site. By bringing together the residents, the school headteacher and the lane owners Elmbridge Council, your Hersham Conservative councillors have restored harmony, securing safety measures in the form of painted crossing points and extensive signage, whilst talks with the Surrey Education Authority are progressing, to deal properly with the problems arising from the new entrances.



HERSHAM CENTRE FOR THE COMMUNITY

Hersham's Centre for the Community continues to thrive with a full programme of activities. As one of Elmbridge's seven Centres, it is a precious asset, a focus for care in the community, maintained with volunteer help, and one which Mary, Ruth and John have consistently pledged to support.

Our Centre has recently benefitted from the refurbishment of a Shower Room and Therapy Room, assisted by a financial contribution from pupils of RES/Rydens School. Many will fondly remember the special events put on by the Centre throughout the year, some complementing other activities such as the summer concert in the Memorial Gardens and other seasonal events.



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