

# Elmbridge Borough Council Elections: THURSDAY 5 MAY 2016

# STEVE BAX DEBI OLIVER PETER SZANTO

## Your local choice for Molesey East



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Promoted by Tim Grey on behalf of Steve Bax, Debi Oliver and Peter Szanto of EWCA, 3 Bridle Close, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 2JW. Printed by 4-Print Ltd, 138 Molesey Avenue, West Molesey, Surrey, KT8 2RY



Dear Resident,

At these key elections on May 5 when all Council seats are being contested, we have assembled a strong, talented and hardworking team to represent you in Molesey East.

Steve Bax and Dr Peter Szanto have demonstrated they are active and committed councillors, taking the lead on major issues from local health care and aircraft noise to parking and planning. Joining the team is Dr Debi Oliver, a former Glenlyn GP, who is married to the Council's Deputy Leader and is passionate about community service and local healthcare.

Your Conservative team works closely with our MP and all branches of government, unlike our rivals. We will support the excellent work of the Elmbridge Conservative administration in carefully managing the Borough's finances, while ensuring continued delivery of effective and efficient services. Our first duty will always be to Molesey residents and what's good for our community.

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## Our priorities are:

- 1 To put the interests of Molesey residents before any other considerations.
- 2 To continue to oppose the closure of Molesey Hospital and fight for the highest standards of healthcare in Molesey.
- 3 To protect Molesey's unique character and open spaces from harmful development.
- 4 To tackle anti-social and unsafe parking on our roads.
- 5 To support Elmbridge's Conservative administration in keeping taxes and charges low and providing even better services to residents.
- 6 To press for a more sensitive scheme at the Jolly Boatman site.



## About Steve

Steve's passion for community issues stems from his years as a journalist and editor working for local papers in Surrey and London. He revitalised the local Conservatives and started the Molesey News to provide an alternative to unhealthy one-party rule in Molesey. Since you elected him he has worked tirelessly to be your voice and champion your causes at Council. He serves on the local Planning Committee as well as Overview & Scrutiny and Licensing, and represents Elmbridge on the Heathrow Noise Forum fighting your corner against aircraft noise. Steve is married to Kim, who runs a children's nursery in West Molesey and they have three children.

## About Debi

Debi and her husband Tim moved to Molesey over 23 years ago following the birth of their eldest child. Debi joined Glenlyn Medical Centre as a GP following completion of her training and, soon after, became a Partner. After she retired from general practice she set up Lily & Bow, a ladies' clothes shop in Esher, whilst also bringing up their three children. Debi has continued to be actively involved in the local community. She is a long-time supporter of local charities, particularly Shooting Star Chase Children's Hospice, and was an elected Councillor from 2006 to 2010. Debi is a keen runner, having competed in seven London marathons as well as completing the RideLondon-Surrey 100 cycle event for the last two years.

## About Peter

Peter was born in Australia and grew up in South West London. He received a doctorate from Bristol University and worked for a major oil company for 33 years, initially as a research scientist and later in various senior management and executive roles until his retirement in 2013. He has extensive international management, finance and strategic planning experience. After you elected him a Councillor last May, he hit the ground running, participating extensively in the full range of Council committees and business, and speaking up loudly for his constituents in Molesey. Peter has lived in Elmbridge for 24 years and is married to Ros (a retired doctor) and they have two grown up daughters, one a junior doctor and the other a solicitor.

## 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 MOLESEY EAST

### MOLESEY HOSPITAL

Molesey Hospital delivers care closer to home for our residents and eases the pressure on beds at Kingston Hospital. Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group is considering closing Molesey's 120-year-old hospital and transferring its beds to Cobham, which is not supported by satisfactory public transport links.

Your Conservative team raised the alarm last autumn in the Molesey News and Cllr Szanto has met with staff as well as the CCG, the Hospital Friends and actively participated in the consultation. We want Molesey Hospital to remain open and to be better utilised with investment. We will keep the utmost pressure on the decision makers to advocate that the site becomes a key facility for local healthcare.



### ROADS AND PARKING

Surrey County Council's review of parking in the borough will turn its attention to Molesey in the near future. In preparation for this Cllrs Bax and Szanto have set up petitions involving over 400 households in 11 roads as well as retailers close to Hampton Court Station. The petitions propose moderate but effective measures to tackle long-standing problems caused by all-day rail commuter parking on weekdays. The changes would free up more spaces during the day for residents and their visitors as well as benefiting our local shops and businesses. We are also looking further afield to address parking problems at other pinch points around Molesey and are keen to hear from residents about issues in their streets.



### HEATHROW NOISE

While Heathrow Airport is a key asset for the UK economy and local businesses and jobs, a balance must be struck between the benefits it brings and the impact on residents. East Molesey was badly affected by aircraft noise during flight path trials 18 months ago.

Cllr Steve Bax, working in partnership with MP Dominic Raab, was successful in getting these ended two months early. He is leading from the front on the issue as Elmbridge's representative on the Heathrow Community Noise Forum and as chairman of the Council's Heathrow Task Group of which Cllr Szanto is also a member. We will keep the pressure on Heathrow to remedy low flying planes, night flights and provide noise respite for Molesey.



### HOMES AND DEVELOPMENT

Councils are under pressure to enable more homes for key workers and for our children to get a foothold on the housing ladder. As your Councillors we are receptive to the concerns of Molesey residents and take the view that new builds must not be excessive or detrimental to the area. We will always speak up if our open spaces are threatened as these are essential to the great quality of life that Molesey provides. We are opposed to building next to the Pavilion and are working with the new owners of the Jolly Boatman site for a more sensitive scheme which preserves the view of the Palace from East Molesey.



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