

# Elmbridge Borough Council Elections: THURSDAY 5 MAY 2016

## CHRIS CROSS CHRISTINE ELMER MALCOLM HOWARD

### Your local choice for Walton South



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Promoted by Tim Grey on behalf of Chris Cross, Christine Elmer & Malcolm Howard 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,

You probably know that this year's election for Elmbridge Borough Council is different. It's an "all-out" election.

All 60 Councillors are retiring and a completely new Council has to be elected. The new Council will have only 48 Councillors. The number of wards has been reduced from 22 to 16, and all ward boundaries have changed.

This year you will have three votes to choose three candidates. The candidate with the most votes will serve a four-year term, the candidate coming second a three-year term, and the candidate coming third a two-year term. In two years' time, elections by thirds will resume.

The good news is that you have three Conservative candidates, who all live in the ward, so you can cast all your votes for local Conservatives. There is more information about each of us below. We look forward to meeting many of you during this campaign and would be pleased to hear from you if there are any local issues you would like to raise.





Yours sincerely,

Chris Cross

Christine Elmer

Malcolm Howard

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## Our priorities are:

- 1 To protect our town, and our quality of life, from over development and planning applications that do not take design, density and parking into consideration.
- 2 To continue to resist encroachment on the local Green Belt and protect publicly used open green space.
- 3 To work with Surrey County Council on trying to make our roads safer, and to work alongside Surrey Police to keep you updated and informed about changes within your area.
- 4 To continue to be a strong voice for Walton South Ward and keep you informed by providing regular InTouch newsletters, e-bulletins and postings on social media.
- 5 To listen to the concerns of residents, consider them fairly and assist in resolving issues wherever possible.
- 6 To work with colleagues across the Council to ensure that the Council delivers the quality of services for Walton and Elmbridge that residents have come to expect.



## About Chris

Chris was born in Bristol and moved to London at the age of 21 to take up employment with the BBC. She has lived in Walton for 24 years where her children all attended local schools, has been an active member of the Walton Conservatives for the last 16 years and elected as one of your local Walton Councillors for the last 9 years. Chris is the Cabinet Member for Community Development and has sat on many Committees including Planning, recently opposing the Application for Weylands Recycling Plant. She was also a Member of the Walton Steering Group that introduced the local neighbourhood wardens to Walton and was Chairman of the W&H Police & Community Partnership Group until it was replaced by Police Panels. Chris is a Governor of Grovelands School.

## About Christine

Christine has lived in Elmbridge for over 50 years and Walton for 26 years. She is married with two grown-up children and two grandchildren. She worked for the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs as a Senior Policy Advisor. First elected as a Walton South ward Councillor 10 years ago, Christine is the Cabinet Member for Social Affairs covering community support services, Centres for the Community, and the Voluntary Sector. She has been an active and vocal champion in promoting, supporting and protecting Walton. Christine has worked with residents campaigning on a range of local issues including Weylands, Drake Park, Severn Drive Green. She is a Governor of Kingston Hospital, and Board Member of Mediation North Surrey & Relate West Surrey.

## About Malcolm

Malcolm was born in Walton. After ten years in the Army he ran an employment business before starting a school for young British ski racers, which is now the British Ski Academy. Prior to retirement, he worked for the Probation Service supervising Community Service projects. Malcolm brought up his children in Walton, was a Governor at Cleves School and taught swimming and canoeing to Cubs and Scouts. Malcolm still works occasionally for the Prison Service, delivers Meals on Wheels, chairs the Conservative Walton South Branch, co-ordinates Community Speedwatch, acts as an invigilator at Rydens Enterprise School and is a Governor of Danesfield Manor School. He is also an athletics official and competes in Masters events with Walton Athletic Club.

## 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 WALTON

### WEYLANDS NO WAY

Your Walton Conservative Councillors have campaigned against the Weylands proposal for a new industrial estate since the first application in 2013. Our main concerns are Green Belt, additional HGVs on our local roads and the impact of emissions on air quality.

In conjunction with the Weylands No Way campaign group, we started the petitions against both applications. Elmbridge Council objected to the current proposal late last year and Surrey County Council (SCC) is currently waiting for additional information from the applicants before deciding the application. We are taking up residents' concerns about the proximity of the site to housing and asking SCC to remove the site from their Waste Management Plan.

To sign the petition visit [petitionbuzz.com/petitions/weylandsnoway](http://petitionbuzz.com/petitions/weylandsnoway).



### KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH YOU

Being a local Councillor is about more than Council meetings. Being active in our community is just as important. Whether that's our stall at Heritage Day each year or helping residents set up a Community Speed Watch.

Walton Conservatives are the only party to deliver regular newsletters. We do three a year to every home, plus special newsletters ensuring residents in particular parts of Walton are kept up to date on issues relevant to their area - for example about upcoming exhibitions, planning applications or public consultations.

We run a monthly surgery at Walton Library and are always contactable by phone or email to assist and advise you with any local concerns.



All our newsletters since 2015!

### STANDING UP FOR WALTON

Your Walton Conservative candidates are local residents who form a strong, united team fighting for Walton. Our eight current Walton Councillors form a large part of the Conservative administration at the Council and we are able to ensure our town's voice is heard and listened to when decisions are made.

Between us we have a voice on all the main Committees including Planning, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Licensing and the Borough's Cabinet. We also lobby outside bodies such as South West Trains, Thames Water, the local health authorities and Paragon/Elmbridge Housing Trust.



### PLANNING AND GREEN SPACES

Planning is an important issue in Walton, and we seek to find a balance between the need for new homes and ensuring development respects Walton's character and infrastructure. New housing must not only fit in with the area, but also take into account density and parking and the quality of life enjoyed by existing residents. We are increasingly concerned about 'garden grabbing' across the area, and we will always fight to protect our local Green Belt.

Using the Government's new 'Local Green Space' designation we are championing for greens across Walton, such as at Shaw Drive, Severn Drive and Riverhouse Gardens, to have additional protection.



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