

# Walton North **intouch**



Delivered by your Walton North Conservative team

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## WATERSIDE DRIVE

The construction of the new Sports Hub in Waterside Drive is currently taking place with the focus being on the remediation of the contaminated site. It will be a home for Walton & Hersham FC, Walton Casuals FC and Walton Athletics Club. There will also be a children's playground and dog walking area. It is on schedule for completion in September 2017. More information and regular updates are available at [www.elmbridge.gov.uk/sports-and-health/elmbridge-sports-hub](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/sports-and-health/elmbridge-sports-hub).

There was uncertainty about the future of the Sports Hub after the May elections when the Residents' Associations (RAs) (including the Walton Society) and Liberal Democrats formed a coalition administration to run Elmbridge Borough Council. The RAs had previously opposed the Sports Hub and the connected redevelopment of Stompond Lane, but in July the new administration confirmed they would continue with both projects.

Your local Councillors Rachael Lake and Andrew Kelly visited the site in September. Andrew said "Although I'm pleased that the Coalition are continuing with the Sports Hub project, it is surprising to see the Walton Society Councillors so quickly ditch their long-standing opposition to the proposals now they



are in power. Even more shocking is their support for the redevelopment of Stompond Lane. Clearly for them, election promises mean nothing." Rachael said "Although I've spoken against this development over many years, most of my major concerns have now been addressed."

## WEYLANDS SUCCESS

Over the last four years we have battled against the proposals for a new industrial estate at Weylands near Hersham station with the top concern being the HGVs it would have brought to our local roads. Rachael Lake, now our County Councillor, started a petition with residents against the first Weylands application. This finished at over 2,500 signatures and the application was refused in April 2014.

Sadly though this was not the end of the story and a second, very similar application was submitted months later by Clean Power Ltd. We started a new, and now online, petition which again got thousands of signatures. This application was due to be decided in July this year. However before a decision was made, Clean Power withdrew the application and subsequently confirmed to us they have no further interest in the site. Rachael said "After fighting this for so long, I'm delighted this proposal has now reached the end of the road. I want to thank the many, many residents who joined the campaign, especially the Weylands No Way group."



## Thank You!

On 5 May all Elmbridge Borough Councillors were up for re-election on new boundaries. In our ward, Walton North, local Conservatives Andrew Kelly, Alan Kopitko and Rachael Lake were elected as your local Borough Councillors.

Andrew, Rachael & Alan would like to thank all residents who voted for them on 5 May. All three will continue to work on behalf of all residents both at the Council and in the community.

A new Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Surrey was elected on 5 May. Conservative David Munro, a long-serving councillor in Farnham, defeated incumbent Independent Kevin Hurley. For more information on the PCC visit [www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk).

## COALITION IN CHARGE OF ELMBRIDGE COUNCIL

At the May elections the results across the borough were Conservatives (22 seats), Residents' Associations (RAs) (19 seats) and Liberal Democrats (7 seats). Although Elmbridge Conservatives got more votes and seats than the RAs, the Liberal Democrats decided to go into coalition with the RAs and together they now run Elmbridge Borough Council.

The Elmbridge RA group is a coalition itself, being made up of seven different RAs from across the borough, including the Walton Society (who did not bother to stand a candidate in Walton North or Walton South in May). Cllr Tim Oliver, leader of Elmbridge Conservatives, said after the coalition was formed "This mismatched marriage of convenience makes a mockery of the Residents' Association Group's frequent claims of being above party politics. At the first opportunity of taking power they have joined with the Liberal Democrats - a national political party."

Elmbridge Conservatives will be vigorous in holding the new administration to account in the interests of Elmbridge residents and in line with our proven commitment to sound government and value for taxpayers' money.

**YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATIVES WORKING FOR WALTON NORTH**

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Your Walton Conservative Councillors hold a surgery on the first Saturday of each month (Farmers Market Day) at the Library from 10am to 12 noon. There is no need to book, so please just turn up on the day.

## UPDATE FROM RACHAEL

A few weeks after the May elections, the Council did me the great honour of electing me the Deputy Mayor of Elmbridge. Time has flown since then and I've enjoyed meeting so many residents across the borough.

I've attended a wide variety of events such as a students awards evening at Brooklands, a Buddhist Lantern Floating Ceremony in Long Ditton and a Fire Station Open Day in Walton. I've also gone to a Surrey Cubs gathering and presented an award to a local printing business on the Lyon Road estate. I've supported many charity events, including a British Legion Gala and an Army Benevolent fundraising evening.

Recently I also became Surrey County Council's first Armed Forces Champion. Aside from Council duties, I love helping at the fishing academy youth engagement scheme in Walton North which I've now been doing for seven years.



## DRAKE PARK PROPOSAL

The biggest planning application in Elmbridge history is due to be decided in November. The 'Drake Park' proposal for 1,024 homes on 147 acres of Green Belt land off Fieldcommon Lane between Molesey Road and the River Mole was first brought to public attention at an exhibition in summer 2014.

The first application submitted by Bonnar Allen was withdrawn last October just days before Councillors were to make their decision. The Council's planning officers had recommended the application be refused on four grounds, including the site being Green Belt.

A second, near identical application was submitted in July. In addition to the homes, the plans include a primary school, doctor's surgery, shop, pub, restaurant, recreation area and public open space. Half of the homes would be 'affordable housing'. For more information and to submit your views, visit [www.elbridge.gov.uk/planning](http://www.elbridge.gov.uk/planning) and search for application 2016/2217. A special Planning Sub-Committee will decide the application on 21 November - this meeting will start at 7.00pm and will be held at the Civic Centre, High Street, Esher. All are welcome to attend and it will be webcast live at [elbridge.public-i.tv](http://elbridge.public-i.tv).

As we went to print, Bonnar Allen confirmed they are doing a public information day on 14 October from 5pm to 9.30pm and 15 October from 9.30am to 2.30pm at Esher Rugby Club.

## NEWS FROM ALAN

As Walton North's representative on both the Planning Committee and the North Area Planning Sub-Committee, planning matters have been a big focus of mine over recent months. The application for 83 homes on the [Rivernook Farm](#) site off Terrace Road came before the Sub-Committee, and then the main Committee, in May/June. I raised concerns that I know many

residents had, but the application was approved.

I've also attended a briefing on the Council's ongoing planning policy and housing numbers review, including the [Green Belt Review](#). All your local Conservative Councillors will be monitoring this very closely and will always fight to protect our precious local Green Belt.

Away from planning, I've been helping residents on a wide-range of local issues and went to a Wotta meeting in May. In September I attended a meeting of the [Vicarage Fields & Area Residents Association](#), a new group which I hope will grow in strength and numbers.

## WALTON EVENTS

The Walton-on-Thames Trading Alliance (Wotta), formed earlier this year, has been organising some fantastic community events including most recently Walton Heritage Day on 10 September. As always Walton Conservatives were there with our food and drink stall. Although the weather was not ideal, it was a great day with lots going on at the Wharf, the Riverhouse Barn and St Mary's Church.

The next big event is the Festival of Light in the town centre on Saturday 26 November. There will be market stalls, children's rides, singing and, in the evening, a lantern parade finishing with the turning on of the Christmas Lights. Visit [www.wotta.co.uk](http://www.wotta.co.uk) for more on Wotta's activities and how you can get involved.



Local MP Dominic Raab with Walton Local Councillors Chris Cross, Andrew Kelly and Rachael Lake at Walton Heritage Day 2016

**LOCAL CONSERVATIVES WORKING FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**