

Walton Central **intouch**

Local news from
your local Surrey
County Councillor
Rachael Lake



Delivered by your Walton Central Conservative team

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Autumn 2016

PROPOSAL FOR OVER 1,000 HOMES IN WALTON GREEN BELT

The largest 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 between Fieldcommon Lane, 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The first application submitted by Bonnar Allen was withdrawn last October just days before Councillors were to make their decision.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 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 elmbridge.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 elmbridge.public-tv.

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.

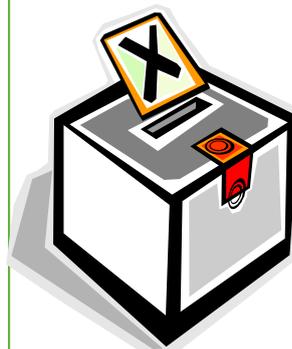
There was uncertainty about the future of the Sports Hub after the May borough elections when the various Residents' Associations (RAs) (including the Walton Society) and Liberal Democrats formed a coalition administration to run Elmbridge Borough Council. The RAs had previously opposed the Sports Hub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

Walton Councillors Rachael Lake and Andrew Kelly visited Waterside Drive in September. Rachael said "Although I've spoken against this development over many years, most of my major concerns have now been addressed." 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."

Elmbridge Council in coalition control



On 5 May all seats on Elmbridge Borough Council were up for election on new ward boundaries. The results across the borough were Conservatives (22 seats), Residents' Associations (RAs) (19 seats) and Liberal Democrats (7 seats). Although Elmbridge

Conservatives received the largest number of votes, 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 candidates in two of Walton's three wards 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.

- Walton Conservatives won all six seats in Walton North and Walton South and together form a strong team working for all of Walton and its residents. Andrew Kelly, Alan Kopitko and Rachael Lake represent North with Chris Cross, Christine Elmer and Malcolm Howard representing South. The Walton Society won the three seats in Walton Central.

- Conservative David Munro, a long-serving Farnham councillor, defeated incumbent Independent Kevin Hurley to become Surrey's new Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) on 5 May.

YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATIVES WORKING FOR WALTON CENTRAL

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 College, 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**.

As an Elmbridge Councillor I attended a briefing on 2 August on the Borough 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.



I'm in the process of prioritising the **roads and pavements** in Walton that need attention for my 2017/18 work schedule and I'll be going down every road in my division over the next few weeks. I'm pleased that over the summer the end of Esher Avenue (near the Churchfield Road junction) got its much needed resurfacement. There's always more to be done, but our roads are in a better shape now than when I was elected to the County Council in 2013.

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COALITION INCREASES COMMUNITY CHARGES

Inflation is running at a mere 0.6% but on 12 October the Residents' Association led Elmbridge Cabinet (which includes the leader of the Walton Society) voted to increase charges for meals-on-wheels and lunches at the Day Centres by over nine times that figure.

It's even worse for community transport users. A single journey to a Day Centre will cost a whopping 30% more from January, and the average rise for transport is over 13%. Another service charge was also hiked by 14%.



Walton Day Centre in Manor Road

The Walton Society had a detailed section about the Council's finances in their election literature this year, but they didn't mention they'd be increasing charges for the elderly just months after taking office.

CONTACT RACHAEL



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Walton's 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.

WEYLANDS SUCCESS

Over the last four years we have battled against the proposals for a new industrial estate at Weylands near Hersham station. The chief concern has always been 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."



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 for more on Wotta's activities and how you can get involved.



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