

The Molesey News



In support of **STEVE BAX**, **DEBI OLIVER** and **PETER SZANTO** for Molesey East

Elect a team that works for Molesey

Hello and welcome to this special Local Elections edition of *The Molesey News*. I am Councillor Steve Bax, the editor, and I'm proud to be part of a very strong Molesey Conservative team, working hard for you and for Molesey.

On Thursday (May 5th) you will have THREE votes to elect all three of your Elmbridge Borough Councillors for the new Molesey East ward - as this year all the Council seats are up for election.

So what's going on? You will have read in *The Molesey News*, or heard on the doorstep, that the Conservative Administration at Elmbridge was able to persuade the Boundary Commission to reduce the number of Borough Councillors from 60 to a more appropriate 48. This fulfills a manifesto pledge we made in 2012 and will save taxpayers at least £50,000 a year.

BIG CHANGES

Elmbridge has had 60 Councillors since it was formed in the mid 1970s, but over the years there have been big changes to the council's remit. Housing stock was transferred to a social landlord, roads are now administered by Surrey County Council, and services like refuse collection are now done by contractors.

Officer headcount was reduced accordingly but what never changed was the number of Councillors (the old saying about turkeys not voting for Christmas comes to mind). In fact Elmbridge had the most Councillors of any Surrey borough.

Ever the guardians of the public purse, the Conservative group, supported by



■ Pictured: Cllr Peter Szanto, Dr Debi Oliver, Cllr Steve Bax out in Molesey with Elmbridge Conservative leader elect Cllr Tim Oliver.

the Molesey Conservatives, resolved to approach the Boundary Commission for a reduction. We were opposed at every turn by Residents Association Councillors - among them prominent Molesey RA Councillors - who argued the Council could not function properly with less politicians. Even though Surrey County Council, a much larger authority, runs on just 81 Councillors across a wider area.

Though they failed to prevent the reform, they did succeed in voting down moves to hold elections every four years (instead of the current three years in four) which would have saved even more taxpayer money.

When the Molesey RA and their colleagues last ran the Council they put up the Council Tax for 12 years out of 13.

By comparison in the subsequent 10 years of the current Conservative administration, the Elmbridge part of the Council Tax has been frozen for seven years out of 10. We have clamped down on waste and renegotiated contracts, saving £10million annually and weathered the recession.

We're on track to achieve independence from the ever dwindling Government grant in two years.

This has all been achieved without cuts to frontline services or to the grants we

give to volunteer-run groups providing essential services like Meals on Wheels.

The result has been that Elmbridge has one of the highest resident satisfaction scores in the country.

Conservatives demand high standards from your Council in all things and strive to deliver value for your money. Our residents deserve nothing less.

Here in Molesey East, Councillor Dr Peter Szanto and I are also delivering. We are action-orientated and 100% focused on our residents and on local priorities.

We always put Molesey's interests first and because we are Conservatives we provide a stronger voice for Molesey on the Conservative-run Borough and County Councils, and work closely with our very effective MP Dominic Raab.

UNITED TEAM

None of your three Conservative candidates are career politicians. I am a local journalist while Peter is a retired executive for a multinational energy company, who previously managed multi-million pound budgets. Dr Debi Oliver, joining us, is a former Molesey GP.

Together we are a united, focused and dedicated team which is working for Molesey and will continue to deliver if you elect all three of us on May 5th.

This will be the first election under the new ward boundaries and the result could be very unpredictable - your vote could make all the difference.

Please support us and let's keep Molesey in safe hands. You can be sure we will work tirelessly to repay your trust.

Dominic Raab MP

As your MP, I rely on teamwork. I work closely with Molesey businesses - from the High Street to Bridge Road - on issues like parking, to promote greater footfall of customers into local shops. I also campaigned for a cut in business rates, and at the last Budget the government delivered. That is a boost for small businesses and local high street stores competing with online retailers.

When it comes to transport links, like many local people, I commute to London and know first-hand the pressure of overcrowding on South West Trains.

The Cross Rail 2 project has just been given the green light and will release investment into a rail service, which will link Surrey to wider points across London, and - critically - ease pressure on current commuter services. It's a major victory for Elmbridge.

On 6 April, I hosted a public meeting at St Mary's Church, with senior officials from Heathrow explaining progress in dealing with the levels of noise experienced in Molesey, and taking questions on both flight paths and their plans to expand Heathrow to include a third runway. That's another good

example of local teamwork.

Your local Councillors, Steve Bax and Peter Szanto, have been tenacious in keeping up the pressure on this important quality of life issue.

Likewise, we have been working together with local doctors and Friends of Molesey Community Hospital in relation to the borough-wide community hospital review. We are united in wanting to make sure the current Molesey hospital site is used to provide health services the community most needs, and that the review takes a long-term strategic approach.

In addition to the Heathrow meeting, we held another public meeting at St Lawrence School in Molesey on 24 March. I hope that gives you confidence that the views and voice of people in Molesey really do count.

I am lucky to have a great team of local Conservative Councillors. We want to add to that, at the local elections in May, by getting Debi Oliver onto the council too.

With her experience as a GP, she'd make a fantastic addition to our dedicated Molesey team, working on your behalf.



A year on, a record of action

IN OUR manifesto last year we promised to stand before you in 2016 with a solid record of achievement - a year of action.

Councillors Steve Bax and Dr Peter Szanto have been hard at work, and we have kept our word.

We met with the new owners of the Jolly Boatman site for productive talks on a new planning application that would see a public open space at the site, preserving the view of Hampton Court Palace from Molesey. If re-elected we are determined to steer this process to a successful conclusion.

We listened to residents in roads close to Hampton Court Station, plus our local retailers, all of whom suffer from all-day commuter parking. We organised petitions for restrictions that will free-up spaces for residents, their visitors, and local shoppers, benefiting local businesses.

Over 90% of respondents supported this initiative, whereas our opponents ignored the problem in the past.

We've attended consultations on the future of Molesey Hospital and met with the hospital Friends group as well as questioning the decision makers, to help save the hospital from closure.

We are concerned about the difficulties our residents have experi-



enced at Glenlyn surgery and have met with the practice manager and our local MP.

We stood up for residents concerned about the over-development of Radnor House, at the Planning Committee. We have organised three residents meetings with Heathrow Airport to achieve a reduction in aircraft noise and a fair deal for Molesey from new flightpaths.

We attended the exhibition into Crossrail 2 and are supporting plans for a secondary free school for Molesey children.

On all the big local issues from aircraft noise to hospitals and healthcare, schools, roads and parking - the Molesey Conserva-

tives are taking the lead.

By contrast, our Molesey Residents Association political opponents hark back to events of many years ago and disingenuously claim credit for any and all Council activity in Molesey, from graffiti cleaning to abandoned car removal - none of which owe their solutions to the MRA party - and to the successful renovation of Mole Hall which the MRA actually opposed at the time.

Voter beware, We're surprised they're not claiming credit for the sun rising over Molesey too.

The Molesey Conservatives are genuinely working for the area and with your support on May 5th we will continue to deliver.

MEET THE CANDIDATES: Why you should vote for Peter, Steve and Debi on May 5th

Cllr Dr Peter Szanto: 'An honour to serve'



Molesey Hospital, River Thames Scheme, Crossrail 2 and major planning developments and made preparations for the forthcoming parking review by Surrey County Council.

With my fellow Molesey Conservative Councillor Steve Bax, I meet regularly with our MP Dominic Raab to discuss and develop solutions to local issues.

I bring a wealth of business, finance, negotiating, planning and strategic thinking experience to the Council, which I gained in my 33 year career as a senior executive in the largest publicly traded energy company. This included managing large workforces and negotiating multi-million pound contracts.

With your support I will continue to bring my experience to the service of Molesey to ensure that the Council provides the most effective and efficient services for residents and value for your

taxpayer money. I am highly committed and enthusiastic, keen to get things done in a safe, ethical and professional manner and have the time and energy to best serve you, the constituents of Molesey East.

I am a good listener and a team player and never forget that you are the boss. I will always do what is right for Molesey and put the good of residents before party or other considerations.

It has been a privilege to meet you again on the doorsteps and I ask you to re-elect me so that I can continue to deliver for you and for Molesey.

I WAS honoured to be elected last May and have worked hard to repay your trust by involving myself wholeheartedly in a wide range of matters both at Council and in Molesey.

In addition to dealing promptly and effectively with day-to-day queries and issues from residents, I have actively participated on a number of Council committees, among them Audit and Standards, Overview and Scrutiny and the Elmbridge Local Committee as well as being a member of the Affordable Housing, Youth and Heathrow task groups.

I have had numerous meetings with a wide variety of key local services including Molesey Hospital, GP practice manager, Elmbridge Business Partnership and the Citizens Advice Bureau.

I have attended public consultations to represent your views on

'I will continue to bring my experience to the service of Molesey'



TWO years ago you, the voters of Molesey East ward, did me the great honour of electing me as your Borough Councillor. It was a proud moment for me and I have been working tirelessly on your behalf ever since - tackling local issues, big and small, and speaking up for your interests and for our Molesey community.

As a member of the North Area Planning Committee I have taken a stand against overdevelopment, including recently arguing for a less dominating scheme at Radnor House. We need new homes in Molesey but should take care to ensure they are neighbourly and in keeping with the area. I will also continue to safeguard our open spaces and parks.

As part of the Council's back-bench Overview & Scrutiny Committee, I have challenged service providers from South West Trains and the Environment Agency to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) contemplating the possible closure of Molesey Hospital.

I helped allocate Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money collected from developers to local good causes, such as the renovation of St Mary's Church, the indoor rowing centre at Molesey Boat Club and replacing the aging kitchen facilities

Cllr Steve Bax: 'Always working hard for Molesey'

at the 2nd Molesey Scouts' hut.

When East Molesey was subjected to the din of aircraft noise I teamed up with MP Dominic Raab and we persuaded Heathrow to end its disruptive airspace trials early.

Noise continues to threaten our quality of life in Molesey, so I lobbied to be made the Council's representative on the Heathrow Community Noise Forum - to fight residents' corner - and I chair the Council's Heathrow Task Group.

I promised to press for a new and better scheme at the Jolly Boatman and to tackle parking problems in residential streets around Hampton Court Station, and I am making good progress on both.

I've hugely enjoyed the last two years and hope to continue serving the residents of Molesey. My focus is, and will always be local issues and not party politics.

I ask you to vote for me as well as for Peter and Debi so we can continue our efforts on your behalf.

WHERE WE STAND

Here's a quick reminder of our policies and priorities and what we stand for.

- **KEEPING** Molesey Hospital open: We'll continue to make the case for it to receive long overdue investment and be a key provider of local patient care for Molesey.
- **INFLUENCE** for Molesey within the Conservative majorities at Elmbridge and Surrey Councils to ensure our area gets a fair share of investment. Unlike our rivals we have the decision makers' ear.
- **VALUE** for taxpayer's money. Conservatives have clamped down on wasteful spending at Elmbridge and kept taxes low for 10 years.
- **COMMON** sense in local development. Molesey needs more homes so our children can get on to the property ladder, but we will protect our open spaces and resist harmful over-development.
- **A FRESH** start for the Jolly Boatman site. Cllrs Bax and Szanto held productive talks with the new owners about a new scheme that preserves the view of Hampton Court Palace from East Molesey.
- **MOLESEY** having its own secondary school. We're a population of 20,000 and shouldn't have to send our children to neighbouring towns for their education.

■ **KEEPING** pressure on Heathrow to address low flying aircraft and nightflights that are causing an unreasonable disturbance. Nobody has been more engaged on this issue than the Molesey Conservatives.

■ **TACKLING** potholes and poor road surfacing. Several roads in Molesey need attention, like Dennis Road, Molesham Way and others. We will keep the pressure on Surrey Highways.

Dr Debi Oliver: I'll fight for improved healthcare

MOLESEY'S residents have every right to expect the highest standards of healthcare, whether at Molesey Hospital - which we must keep open - or from local GP surgeries like Glenlyn.

I have fond memories of my time as a GP and Partner at Glenlyn Medical Centre in the 1990s when the practice had a reputation for high standards and efficiency and was well regarded locally.

Sadly I now read in the local press, and hear on the doorsteps in person, about public frustration with the practice and how getting an appointment to see your GP in the first place can be a challenge.

This must be improved and if you elect me as one of your three



Elmbridge Borough Councillors for Molesey on May 5th, I will work with Cllrs Steve Bax and Peter

Szanto to build on the work they have done in the last year in meeting with the practice management to press for improvements.

That leads me on to Molesey Hospital. I know from my time as a doctor just how important having a local facility for patient care is.

I have been attending consultation meetings with the Clinical Commissioning Group to discuss its options for Molesey Hospital and will do everything I can to ensure it is kept open and receives the investment it

needs - and which is long overdue. I know the ropes at Elmbridge

having been a Borough Councillor from 2006 to 2010 so I will be able to hit the ground running. I am married to Cllr Tim Oliver, who is the Leader-elect of the Conservative Group on the Council and we have three grown-up children.

After retiring from general practice I ran my own business - the Lily & Bow ladies clothes shop in Esher - for a time, and have been actively involved with local charities including the Shooting Star Chase Children's Hospice. I have run seven London marathons to raise money for them so far.

I know how much can be achieved with hard work and dedication. If I am elected I will listen carefully to your concerns and do all that I can to help resolve issues.

On Thursday 5th May use your THREE votes to elect the TEAM that DELIVERS for Molesey East. Vote ...

STEVE BAX

X

DEBI OLIVER

X

PETER SZANTO

X

Molesey Conservatives