

More Houses on Cobham Green Belt?

Elmbridge Borough Council is running a major planning consultation exercise from 16th December 2016 to 10th February 2017. This follows a thorough review of the local area's future housing needs. Due to population increases and a higher birth rate, a further 9,480 housing units will be needed between now and 2035. 99% of these will have 3 bedrooms or fewer and a large proportion will have to be available for rent at affordable levels.

The difficulty as ever is the availability of land. Once all brownfield sites have been taken into account there is a shortfall of over 5,000 units. The only way of finding space for these new homes will be to adjust the boundaries of the local Green Belt. No-one wants to lose any of our open spaces, but the risk is that if your elected representatives don't take control of this process then developers and planning inspectors who do not understand our local area will fill the vacuum.

Elmbridge has commissioned an



Cllr James Browne visits Chippings Farm, one of the threatened sites.

independent review of the local Green Belt and, as a result, has identified a number of parcels of land that are, it is said, performing weakly against the criteria by which Green Belt protection is assessed. Two of these areas are in Cobham: Knowle Park off Blundel Lane and Chippings Farm / the Fairmile between Portsmouth Road and the A3. We now face the risk that these areas

may lose Green Belt designation. Cllr James Browne, speaking to the Cobham Conservation and Heritage Trust, recently said: "This is the most important planning decision facing the people of Cobham in a generation. It is essential if local people want to keep these areas as open spaces that they take part in the current consultation exercise and ensure their voices are heard. At the same time your local councillors will work tirelessly to ensure that the present Elmbridge administration respects the views of local people."

The consultation can be viewed online at www.elmbridge.gov.uk/council/consultations.

Pavement Horizon Helps Residents and Commuters

Residents and commuters who walk to Cobham and Stoke d'Abernon station will have a smoother journey to work in 2017 and beyond thanks to local County Councillor Mary Lewis.

"Following strong representations from members of Stoke d'Abernon Residents Association about the state of the pavements in Station and Bray Roads, by which many people access the station, buses and shops, it was determined that we would benefit from Surrey County Council's Pavement Horizon programme. Our pavements were not on the original list, but I argued that condition AND usage had to be considered. I am delighted that I was listened to."



Station Road and Bray Road pavements under repair

Conservatives Select County Council Candidate

Mary Lewis has been selected by local Conservatives to fight the Cobham seat in the Surrey County Council elections on 4th May this year.



Cobham and Stoke d'Abernon Conservative Members at the Selection Meeting

Mary said that she was honoured to have been chosen to stand again and that, if re-elected, she would continue to work on important local issues, as well as undertaking her strategic role at County Hall, where she is the Cabinet Associate for Children, Schools and Families. "My priority will continue to be the improvement of services for vulnerable children. A lot has changed

about Surrey CC's systems in my year on the Cabinet team, but I am determined that we will make a real difference to the lives of the users of the service. We are also in the midst of a huge building programme, having created 15,000 more school places since 2013. We have 11,000 more to complete by 2020. These and other aspects of being a County Councillor are challenging but also enjoyable."

Since being elected in 2013, Mary has worked with local residents on many different projects, including being Deputy Chairman of the Cobham Chatterbus. This vital service links Cobham and Stoke d'Abernon station to the town centre, as well as taking residents to places like Brooklands Retail Park, Weybridge, Oxshott and Leatherhead. For more details and special offers see www.chatterbus.org.uk



Introducing the High Sheriff of Surrey, Mr Richard Whittington, to the Chatterbus

rural heritage. "I know many people in Cobham and Stoke d'Abernon love getting out and about in the local countryside. Downside Conservation Area, Oxshott Heath, Old Common, Littleheath Common and Hatchford's footpaths onto Chatley Heath are all historic and highly valued open spaces within my Electoral Division."

Amongst other things, Mary is an active member of Surrey Countryside Partnership Board, which brings together fifteen different local authorities to maintain, promote and protect Surrey's beautiful



Interested in Fostering?

There will be a chance to find out more about being a Foster Carer at the Cobham Cedar Centre on Tuesday 14th February between 9.30 and 11am. You might enjoy having an informal chat with foster carers about what it's like to foster with Surrey County Council over a cup of coffee. The Cobham Cedar Centre is behind the High Street in Cedar Road and is home to Cobham's library and community hub.

You may be interested to know that there are over 900 children in care in Surrey. Around 40% of them are placed outside the county because there simply aren't enough foster carers locally.

Contact: fostering.recruitment@surreycc.gov.uk



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News from Cobham Conservatives

Including Stoke d'Abernon, Downside and Hatchford

Better Opportunities for Young People

Young people in Cobham can now benefit from the support of professional youth workers on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Surrey County Councillor for Cobham, Mary Lewis, a Member of the Elmbridge Youth Task Group, is delighted with the new provision: "There is a range of voluntary groups in Cobham, but I was determined that we would get some professional youth workers back here too. They have particular skills related to getting young people into training and employment, and are able to deal with a variety of complex issues. By working with our partners there is now a varied programme on offer."



On Wednesdays, a Youth Club for the 14+ age range is run by Surrey County Council's own professional Youth Workers, in partnership with the Youth Worker from St. Andrew's Church. All those aged 14 upwards are welcome from 7pm to 9pm in Church Gate House, behind St Andrew's Church. Walk across the churchyard or enter via the car park in Downside Bridge Road.

On Tuesdays Lifetrain bring their yellow bus to the Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground (behind the Village Hall) from 6pm to 9pm. This is funded by Surrey County Council, through the Elmbridge Youth Task Group. Young people of all ages are invited to turn up and get involved in this very informal setting. Access

for young people from Stoke d'Abernon is via the Chatterbus or 408 bus.

The young people on the National Citizens Service (NCS) summer scheme were able to contribute to improved youth provision by re-vamping the Lifetrain bus. For more details of the NCS scheme post

GCSE exams, visit their website (www.ncsyes.co.uk) Former Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron set up this scheme and said it was one of his 'proudest achievements' in six years as PM.

"Working as Cabinet Associate for Children, Schools and Families at Surrey County Council, I hear a lot about how difficult it is to be a young person these days," said Mary Lewis. "I hope that these different activities will provide more fun and bring good advice right into the heart of our community."

Walton Firs, an activity centre for young people in Cobham's Convent Lane, has also benefitted from Mary's help. Along with Margaret Hicks, County Councillor for Hersham, she has used some of her Surrey County Council Member's Allocation money to support the equipping of the new shower blocks there. Walton Firs is a fabulous, local facility which boasts climbing walls and caving



Margaret Hicks, County Councillor for Hersham, Tannia Shipley, Mayor of Elmbridge, and Mary Lewis, County Councillor for Cobham, at the opening of the new Walton Firs shower block.

facilities, amongst other things. The shower facilities are now up to 21st century standards, which will be appreciated by the Scouts, Guides and other youth groups that use the centre.

Heathrow - Good or Bad for Elmbridge?

By Oxshott & Stoke d'Abernon Councillor Andrew Burley

One of the bigger concerns for Cobham residents is the prospect of a third runway at Heathrow Airport. We are privileged to live in such a vibrant area but the benefit of our location comes at a cost. The skies above us are full of planes, often not going anywhere but circling, waiting to land at an Airport that is over capacity.

What will expansion at Heathrow mean for residents of Cobham? As a Borough Councillor, I had the opportunity to consider this on your behalf as part of the Elmbridge Council Heathrow Task Group.

There will be benefits. Expanded airport capacity is crucial for the UK's long-term prosperity. The economic case for Heathrow expansion is strong. The infrastructure funding gap faced by Surrey County Council is recognised as being caused in part by our major airports reaching full capacity. Enabling infrastructure is considered a major economic benefit and, of course, key to businesses in Cobham.

However, there will be negative impacts, not least to our environment. A third runway will lead to 250,000 additional aircraft movements per year, the impact of which is not clear due to flight path changes. Technology improvements can limit noise but noise is currently self-regulated by Heathrow. At Elmbridge, we take the view that noise should be independently monitored, which would give greater protection to our residents.



We are concerned about air quality. Elmbridge Council has not been made aware of a plan that ensures Heathrow can be expanded and remain within EU air quality limits. Heathrow claims no increase in airport related road traffic. We do not accept this and are concerned

for the impact on the Stoke Road (A245) and the Leatherhead Road (A244).

The views of residents are most important. Elmbridge Council conducted a survey just before the Government's October announcement of its preference for expansion at Heathrow. The survey revealed that 56% of respondents opposed expansion.

On 7 December, Elmbridge Councillors decided that the Borough cannot support current proposals for expansion at Heathrow Airport. Irrespective of the position taken by Elmbridge, the Council is committed to work with Heathrow and the wider community to address the impact of expansion on the Borough. The Council also called upon the Government to support the dispersal of flight paths to minimise local disruption, regardless of expansion. Your County and Borough representatives will continue to work to deliver the best options for the residents of the Cobham area.

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At the request of residents, a 30 mph speed limit has been imposed on A245 Stoke Rd on a trial basis. If you want to ensure that the speed trials are favourable, please stick to the new limit. If average speeds go up, the road will revert to 40 mph.



YOUR CONSERVATIVE TEAM

Your Elmbridge Councillors for Cobham & Downside

Your Elmbridge Councillors for Oxshott & Stoke d'Abernon

Your Surrey County Councillor for Cobham

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If you would like to be involved in the social or political aspects of Esher and Walton Conservative Association, delivering leaflets, attending events or campaigning in elections, please contact the association office: 020 8546 2934