

Walton North **intouch**



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END OF THE BIRDS EYE BUILDING?

An application has been received by Elmbridge Borough Council to knock down Walton Court, the office block commonly known as the Birds Eye building by Walton station. The building dates to the early 1960s and is Grade II listed by Historic England. It has been vacant now for many years. The applicants, Crest A2D, state that structural problems makes the building unfit for viable future use.

A separate planning application has been submitted to replace Walton Court with 375 homes. These would be 137 1-beds, 213 2-beds and 25 3-beds. The proposals indicate 93 of these would be 'affordable homes'. The homes would mostly be flats, spread across eight blocks. A total of 375 parking spaces would be provided. The proposals also allow for two 'flexible retail/business/leisure and community units' that would be on the ground floor of the block facing Station Avenue.



The Walton Court site includes a memorial to Flt. Sgt. Charles Sydney, who died when his plane came down on the site during the Battle of Britain in 1940. The applicants have promised to relocate the memorial on the site if their application is successful. They

have also said the Grade II listed sculpture of three rising birds (pictured above) would be kept and relocated on the site.

Cllr Alan Kopitko, Walton North's representative on the North Area Planning Sub-Committee, said "The view of Historic England as the statutory body is vitally important when the Council decides the future of this listed building. The design of the proposed new building as well as parking and highways issues are also major factors when the Sub-Committee decides the application. The deadline for public comments has been extended to 2 June. The Birds Eye building always seems to divide opinion, but whatever your view do let the Council know."

To view the proposals in full and comment online visit elmbridge.gov.uk/planning and search for the application using reference number 2017/0928. Comments can also be sent by post to Planning Department, Elmbridge Borough Council, Civic Centre, High Street, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9SD - please quote the reference number. A date for the Planning Sub-Committee that will decide the application has yet to be announced.

Thank You!

Dear Resident,

Thank you for your support in the Surrey County Council elections on 4 May. I was re-elected with over 50% of the vote and I look forward to continuing to work in the best interest of all Walton residents.



It is a great honour to have been nominated by my fellow councillors on Elmbridge Borough Council to become Mayor. I look forward to representing the borough at various local events and supporting numerous organisations and charities that make the lives of Elmbridge residents and their families better.

During the recent elections it was good to see so many of you on the doorstep. There are many concerns in these difficult, financially stringent times. It is critical that we get as much benefit for each and every pound that is available. We have to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our society, ensure our children have access to good local schools and repair our roads for the benefit of all residents and businesses.

Do get in touch with me, Alan Kopitko and Andrew Kelly, your Walton North Conservative team, with any local issues we might be able to help with.

Thank you again.

Cty Cllr Rachael Lake

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.

DRAKE PARK APPEAL

Last year Elmbridge Borough Councillors refused the Drake Park planning application. This was for over 1,000 homes on the Walton Green Belt off Molesey Road. The applicants Bonnar Allen have appealed the decision to the Planning Inspectorate, a Government body. They claim that Council does not have a 5-year housing supply and that the land is 'poorly performing' Green Belt, contrary to the Council's view.

The appeal documents can be viewed by searching for application 2016/2217 at elmbridge.gov.uk/planning. To make a representation, visit <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> and search using reference number 3172429. The deadline for comments is 23 June. The appeal is likely to be via a public inquiry.

Cllr Andrew Kelly, who sat on the Planning Sub-Committee that refused the application, said "Like all Walton Conservative Councillors, I was elected on a pledge to protect the Green Belt - it's absolutely vital we do this to stop the urban sprawl of London. We also had concerns about the volume of cars 1,000 new homes will generate and the pressure these will put on the local road infrastructure.

WALTON TRADING ALLIANCE MARKS FIRST ANNIVERSARY

The Walton-on-Thames Trading Alliance (WoTTA) marked their first anniversary on 4 May with an AGM at the Heart.

WoTTA have achieved a great deal from organising the Christmas Festival of Light to regular litter picks.



They have got funding from Surrey County Council for new town centre totem signs and flower planters, and launched a Walton Watchdog for reporting anti-social behaviour. The next litter pick is on Sunday 1 October, meeting at 9.50am at the Heart's High Street entrance.

Their current projects include a Walton in Bloom and a Walton Trail allowing local families and visitors to get to know our town. They are also taking over the organising of Heritage Day this year, which Walton Conservatives will be supporting as usual.

WoTTA is a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers. For more information and to get involved visit www.wotta.co.uk.



Councillors Rachael Lake and Andrew Kelly visited **Waterside Drive** on 12 April for an update on the construction of the new Sports Hub. Work is continuing to progress on schedule and the facility is due to be open in time for the new football season in September. We understand a community day is being planned by the Council to mark the Hub's opening.

THE HIGH STREET



WoTTA are conducting a survey of local residents and businesses about whether the High Street should be pedestrianised, for all or part of the time. This is an initial survey by

WoTTA before approaching Surrey County Council. You can take part in the survey at www.wotta.co.uk/high-street-surveys.

TERRACE ROAD

Many residents have questioned the need for the recent work on Terrace Road (from Church Street to the Cottimore Lane junction). County Councillor Rachael Lake says "The view of Highways officers is that this top dressing, following the full resurfacing a few years ago, protects the surface and is cost effective in the longer term. The work was not requested by me, we have much needed work elsewhere I would have prioritised instead."

LOCAL CONSERVATIVES WORKING FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY