

Walton Central **intouch**



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June/July 2017

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.

Walton Conservative Councillor Alan Kopitko, who sits 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 Birds Eye building always seems to divide opinion, but whatever your view do let the Council know. Comments will be taken up to when the Sub-Committee decides the application."*

To view the proposals in full and comment online visit elbridge.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.

BIN CHAOS

At the beginning of June a different company became responsible for the collection of waste bins. This contract has started badly, with missed bin collections and some residents having to wait weeks on end for their bins to be collected.

Walton Conservative Cllr Andrew Kelly said *"This new contract was agreed by the LibDem/Residents' Association (including Walton Society) administration at Elmbridge Borough Council. It is clear they have totally failed to ensure the new company was ready on day 1. They also totally failed to sort out on the issues when the first appeared and let them run and run. The Walton Society and their RA/LD colleagues have serious questions to answer about why they let this happen."*

Thank You!

Dear Resident,

I would like to thank all residents who voted for me in the Surrey County Council elections on 4 May. I was re-elected with an increased majority and look forward to representing all residents over the next four years.

After six years serving on the County Council's Cabinet, on 23 May I was elected Vice-Chairman of the Council. In this role I will support the Chairman in representing the county at civic events and supporting community and charity events across Surrey.

Do get in touch with me and Andrew Kelly, your Conservative Borough Spokesman, with any local issues we might be able to help with.

Thank you again.

Cty Cllr Tony Samuels

YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATIVES WORKING FOR WALTON CENTRAL

YOUR CONSERVATIVE TEAM



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STOMPOND LANE APPLICATION

Elmbridge Borough Council is currently considering a planning application for the Stompond Lane Sports Ground site. The proposal is for 49 houses (a mix of 3, 4 and 5-beds), 5 flats (one 2-bed and four 1-bed), a nursery with 21 parking spaces and 36 parking spaces for the adjacent tennis club. As we go to print, 310 objections have been received. The application will be decided by the North Area Planning Sub-Committee in due course.

LOCAL COUNCILLORS' SURGERY

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, an independent Government body. They claim that Council does not have a 5-year housing supply and that the land is 'poorly performing' Green Belt which is contrary to the Council's view.

The appeal documents can be viewed by searching for application 2016/2217 at elmbridge.gov.uk/planning. To view updates on the appeal visit <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> and search using reference number 3172429. The appeal will be at a public inquiry starting on 31 October at the Civic Centre in Esher.

Cllr Andrew Kelly, who voted to refuse the application at the Special Planning Sub-Committee, said "Like all Walton Conservative Councillors, I was elected on a pledge to protect the Green Belt - it is absolutely vital we do this to stop the urban sprawl of London. We also had concerns about the volume of cars over 1,000 new homes would generate and the pressure they would put on the local road infrastructure."

WALTON TRADING ALLIANCE MARKS FIRST ANNIVERSARY

The Walton-on-Thames Trading Alliance (WoTTA) celebrated 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 received funding from Surrey County Council for new town centre totem signs and flower planters, and have 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.

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. This takes place on Saturday 9 September.



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 (SCC). You can take part in the survey at www.wotta.co.uk/high-street-surveys.

Separately, SCC is looking to the possibility of a new or replacement pedestrian crossing by the Heart entrance on Walton High Street.



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. A community day to mark the Hub's opening will take place on Sunday 17 September from 10am to 4pm.

LOCAL CONSERVATIVES WORKING FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY