

**USEFUL NUMBERS:**  
 Elmbridge Council's out of hours emergency number is 01372 466114. Surrey County Council Social Care out of hours emergency number is 01483 517898.



# The Esher News

Local issues, local action, local Conservatives | Visit our website: [www.esherwalton.com](http://www.esherwalton.com)

## Council crack-down on illegal camps

**ELMBRIDGE Council will seek to extend a High Court injunction which bans unauthorised encampments and fly-tipping in the borough.**

The borough's new Conservative administration secured a three-month injunction in August which protects 150 local parks, open spaces and car parks. It has proven highly effective so far at preventing traveller incursions or moving them on within hours.

However, it expires in November and so the Council will be returning to Court to apply for a three year extension to the order.

Over the past year, Elmbridge has experienced an unprecedented increase in unauthorised encampments at public parks and open spaces - including the week-long occupation of the green at West End in Esher (where protective measures are now in place).

The size of these camps has also risen dramatically with some parts of the borough experiencing convoys of 60 or more vehicles.

Leader of the Council (and Esher councillor) Tim Oliver, said: "The



painstaking work undertaken by officers and members of the Council to collect evidence enabled us to make a case for an extensive ban on unauthorised encampments and that the Court gave its backing to the Council.

"The injunction is the only one in Surrey and as it has proved to be effective we will seek to have it extended by way of application to the High Court next month. Indeed irrespective of the injunction I have asked officers to review all 150 public open space sites with police colleagues to see if additional security measures are

possible."

Previously, the Council was able to evidence the impact of unauthorised camps - these include: large-scale fly-tipping and the cost of clearing it, damage to gates and barriers, lost parking income, the significant impact on communities living adjacent to each encampment and the loss of community facilities during the summer.

Our injunction prevents any individual from occupying land and/or depositing waste, as well as stopping anyone from entering or occupying any part of the land

for residential purposes, including caravans, mobile homes and vehicles.

It saves the Council from having to obtain court orders for the removal of these encampments, which can take several days to obtain, and authorises High Court enforcement officers to move people on if they take no notice of the injunction order. Failure to do so can result in fines, seizure of assets or imprisonment.

Elmbridge has invested £80k this year to install increased security measures on public land, in collaboration with the police. Surrey County Council is looking to identify possible transit sites where travellers can be forced to move to by the police.

It is important for residents to report all aspects of disruption or damage, as this is useful to support the ongoing case for the injunction. Also report any weakened security fence posts, railings etc. that protect public land, so the council can affect repairs.

Go to [www.elmbridge.gov.uk/news/unauthorised-encampments](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/news/unauthorised-encampments)



### SIMON SAYS

*Hello and welcome to the Autumn edition of The Esher News, a community newsletter from your local Conservatives.*

*I'm Simon Waugh, one of your three Esher councillors at Elmbridge Borough Council. I would like to start by thanking residents for electing me in May. It is a privilege to serve as your local Councillor and I will do my best to stand up for our area for the next four years.*

*Overall, the Conservatives won over 46% of the vote in Elmbridge and regained control of the Council. I am delighted that my fellow Esher Councillor Tim Oliver has been appointed Leader of the Council and I know the borough will be in safe hands.*

*The elections were an opportunity for us to hear your concerns and aspirations for our borough. We are working with Surrey County Council to improve the state of our roads and minimise the disruption caused by statutory bodies digging up the road network.*

*We have taken direct action to protect our open spaces from unauthorised encampments and are pressing the police to use their powers to combat anti-social behaviour related to this, or wherever it arises.*

*We will continue to face pressure for more house building locally to meet the need and because Elmbridge is a desirable borough in which to live. As councillors we will manage this fairly, while defending our open spaces and the character of our area.*

*Please do contact us (see details overleaf) if we can help with any issues. I hope you enjoy the newsletter. - Simon*

## Community centre back in service

**LOWER Green Community Centre is re-establishing itself at the heart of its community after reopening following a period of closure.**

Elmbridge and Surrey Councils have been working in partnership to get the centre back on its feet - and the Borough contributed £200k towards a major refurbishment. This has included the creation of a new community café at the centre in Farm Road.

The Councils have been learning what residents would like to see in the centre, and putting together a programme of activities. They hope to recruit and train a new team of new trustees to take over the running of the community centre in 2019.

The summer holidays saw a range of activities at the new centre, including a family picnic, a summer fete and the launch of a children's cookery group. Funds have been found for cookery to continue weekly after school, starting in November.



The centre will also be used for Pilates, yoga youth football, a Monday morning computer course and coffee mornings for parents and over 60s.

Leaders are required for Brownies and Rainbows on Wednesday evenings and volunteers are also being sought to help run the café.

If you are interested in volunteering, becoming a Trustee or using the centre, please contact Joanna Sansom, Lower Green Development Worker, on [joannas@surreyca.org.uk](mailto:joannas@surreyca.org.uk) or Like the Lower Green Community Centre page on Facebook.

## David moves the memorial



**COUNCILLOR David Archer has delivered on his promise to move Esher's war memorial to the centre of Esher Green.**

David has been passionate about moving the memorial in the interests of pedestrian safety.

The crossroads between Church Street and Lammas Lane are acknowledged by the Surrey County Council as one of the worst accident blackspots in Surrey.

David told *The Esher News*: "I am absolutely delighted that we've managed to move the war memorial to a more dignified position, using

private money. The fence is still in place to protect the turf we have re-seeded. It will be coming down in time for Remembrance Sunday where the War Memorial will be re-dedicated.

"Since the move we've had only one reported accident. We can't be complacent and the work to make the junction safer will continue."

It was this issue which prompted David to seek election to Elmbridge Borough Council 20 years ago, when, as Chairman of Esher Place Residents, an elderly gentleman he represented was knocked over at the site.

Over the years he has successfully campaigned to have crossings installed at Church Street and Lammas Lane. Moving the memorial has cost £30,000 but taxpayers have not been charged a penny thanks to David approaching local businesses to cover the costs.

Companies who have generously sponsored the project are: Keltbray Civil Engineering, TGL Traffic, George Nixon Homes, Birchwood Homes and Calderpeel architects.

**ESHER and Walton Conservative Association (EWCA) has an exciting opportunity for a new Organising Secretary.**

The role is part-time, with flexible hours (24 per week) and is based in Kingston. It pays £20-22.5k depending on experience and involves office administration, campaign management and events organising. See [www.esherwalton.com/events/job-advertisement-organising-secretary-office-and-campaign-manager](http://www.esherwalton.com/events/job-advertisement-organising-secretary-office-and-campaign-manager) for details.



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  - The opportunity to stand for the party in local elections
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  - As a member you will also be helping to shape the future of Esher, Elmbridge and the wider country.
- Find out more at [www.conservatives.com/join](http://www.conservatives.com/join)
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## Can we help?

Your local Conservative team will be pleased to assist you with any local matters relating to Elmbridge or Surrey County Councils.

## Can you help?

We need deliverers to help us distribute the Esher News and leaflets. Could you spare some time to deliver your road or more? If so, please email us.



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## Bins contractor told to improve



**ELMBRIDGE laid down the law with its waste contractor after hundreds of missed collections over the summer.**

Following the change of administration, the new Conservative cabinet member for Environment and Transport, Cllr Glenn Dearlove, moved swiftly to tackle the crisis - holding "robust" meetings with Amey and its directors, in which he insisted the company improves or faces fines.

Cllr Dearlove told *The Hersham News*: "As a result, our contractor, Amey, has trained more existing staff to be drivers and is rolling out improvements to the in-cab devices, so that missed collections can be closed down in real time. In addition an extra garden waste vehicle has been introduced.

"We will continue to monitor performance to ensure that residents of Elmbridge receive the quality of service they expect."

# 'Severe financial challenges'

By Dr. Peter Szanto  
Esher's Surrey County Councillor

**S**ince being elected in May 2017, it has become increasingly apparent to me that Local Government has borne a disproportionately large share of the public spending reductions.

Over the past seven years Surrey County Council (SCC) has 'saved' £540m and although it has coped reasonably well, it continues to face severe financial challenges. There have been two consistent trends:

1) A shift from Central Government funding of services to funding through local taxation. 2) An internal reallocation of resources towards Adult and Children's Services and away from central, back office and universal services.

Surrey has been using reserves to balance the budget in each of the last five financial years and this is clearly not sustainable.

Our Public Health funding from Central Government is amongst the lowest in the country, our Highways funding is £11m less than it should equitably be and we continue to have to fund £4.5m costs relating to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, which is a national issue for which the burden falls locally.

It is critical that Surrey tackles its financial challenges and develops sustainable plans. The new Chief



Executive appointed six months ago, together with her leadership team and the Conservative administration, have embarked on a massive transformation programme.

Between June and September SCC consulted on its 2030 vision and is using this feedback to shape future plans for services.

Surrey's energy and efforts will need to be focused on our priorities and tough decisions lie ahead.

■ In recent months we have endured multiple roadworks on key routes in and out of Esher, causing massive inconvenience for all.

I took this up with Surrey's Streetworks team at a meeting recently. They deal with over 70,000 requests for permits in a typical year across Surrey. Of these, nearly 80% are from utility companies (like Thames Water, BT etc).

ACC is required by law to give access to the utility companies to

carry out work within a 'reasonable period'. I stressed the misery that long road closures are causing residents and in particular when residents spend long periods queuing, only to see no road work taking place. I asked the officers to be much tougher on reducing the time given to utility companies to carry out the work and to delay permits for some roads if others are already congested due to ongoing works.

With our share of the additional £20m SCC has allocated to highways repairs following last winter's damage, we have made good progress in repairing potholes and resurfacing the Scilly Isles, parts of Douglas Road and some of the parking area parallel to Esher High Street. The detailed design is complete for raised road tables at the two pedestrian crossings at Esher Green as the first phase in making this notoriously dangerous junction safer. Construction should take place in the coming months.

The feasibility study for the Scilly Isles and Café Rouge junctions is nearing completion and will include recommended improvements to the signs on the approaches and the road markings.

I will be attending a workshop to agree the scope of the Esher traffic optimisation scheme and to agree priorities for movement of road users at different times of the day and on different days of the week.

## COMMUNITY NEWS IN BRIEF

**POLICE called in a military bomb disposal unit after a suspected World War II bomb was dug up in Esher. The discovery, on 24 September, led to the temporary closure of the road network between Milbourne Lane and Copsem Lane. But on inspection the object was found to be part of an old lamppost.**

THE Albert Arms pub in High Street has reopened after two years, with a new look and theme. Its décor pays homage to Sandown Park Racecourse. Six bedrooms, housed in a separate cottage opposite, are all named after legendary racehorses.

**IN LATE September, Esher firefighters went to the rescue when a horse called Ziggy collapsed in her yard. She had to be sedated and moved to a nearby field, where rescuers spent five hours getting her back on her feet.**

COUNCILLORS refused a request for a new accessway across Littleworth Common.

David Archer successfully argued that a new track and a bridge over the River Rythe - to enable two additional dwellings in the grounds of Couchmore House - would lead to loss of common land.

**CONSERVATIVES have been vocal on the need for increased funding for Surrey's roads. We are pleased to report that an additional £20m has now been earmarked for repairs and resurfacing. Works are well underway. If you see a pothole, or any carriageway issue, please report it via <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/do-it-online/report-it-online>**

TENNIS court hire charges are being reviewed by the new Elmbridge Administration.

These were introduced by the Liberal Democrats and Residents Associations when they ran the council from 2016-18. Charges were suspended by the Conservatives during the school summer holidays. We are looking into scrapping them for good. In the meantime tennis courts can be reserved online, at <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/>

**ESHER Councillors Tim Oliver, David Archer and Simon Waugh have been re-elected as Trustees of King George's Hall. They will be working to ensure its long-term future.**

**The large and small halls are available to hire by calling People for Places on 01932 254750 or go to [www.elmbridge.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/halls-for-hire/](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/halls-for-hire/)**



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### Changing a Will after someone has died

Sometimes the generosity of a friend or relative leaving you a gift in their Will can backfire if it turns out your estate will need to pay tax on it or if there's a chance it could be swallowed up in future care costs or in satisfying some other type of claim.

It may also be the case that a Will prepared many years ago does not take advantage of new tax allowances on death, such as that which now applies when you leave a share of your home to your children or other descendants.

To cater for these sorts of situations it may be possible for the provisions of a will to be varied to better suit your needs or to ensure tax efficiency where possible. Karen Starkey, Wills and probate lawyer at KWW, says: "If you have been left a gift in someone's Will and you are worried that as a result the

value of your own assets when you die may be pushed above the rate at which inheritance tax becomes payable, you could talk to a solicitor about the possibility of varying the will to divert your inheritance to someone else.

"It is also an idea to seek advice if you are starting a new relationship and are anxious to protect your inheritance in case things break down, or if you and others named in the Will are keen to make provision for people not currently provided for, such as grandchildren of the deceased who were born after the Will was prepared."

If you stand to inherit under the intestacy rules because your relative failed to make a Will, you could still make a deed of variation to give away some or all of your inheritance to someone else.



Call Karen Starkey to discuss Wills and powers of attorney



**BROOKLANDS Museum brought its world famous Napier Railton racing car to Esher Civic Centre in October.**

Built in 1933, the car set the all-time speed record for the Brooklands track at Weybridge and is very much a key part of Elmbridge and motor racing history.

Tamalie Newbery, the new chief executive at the Museum addressed councillors, with the desire of deep-

**METAL gas mains are being dug up and replaced with plastic pipe at Ember Lane between Embercourt Road and Chestnut Avenue. The work started on 22 October and will take around 11 weeks. Temporary traffic lights will be in place.**

ening the partnership between the Museum and the Council.

She explained that the Napier Railton embodies what is fantastic about Brooklands Museum, as a place where history is kept alive, with awesome machines, engineering and the fantastic people who design, build and run them.

We encourage all to visit Brooklands in Weybridge, to learn about the motor racing and aviation history in our borough.

■ Sticking with the racing theme, Phil Holt will give a talk at Esher Civic Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7 November, about Donald Campbell - the only man in history to hold both the world land and water speed records in the same year - and who was born five miles from Esher. Tickets are £3 on the door.