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## Simon is ready to serve Esher

**ESHER Conservatives are delighted to announce that Simon Waugh has been selected as our candidate for next May's Elmbridge Borough elections.**

Simon has strong local links. He has lived in Esher for 14 years with his wife Heather and two sons, who attended Esher Church School and Esher High. A Chartered Surveyor, he enjoyed a 30 year career as a Partner with a major surveying practice and now runs his own company based in Esher.

He said: "If elected next year I am keen to see Esher High Street improved, to look into the

continuing traffic problems in the town and to use my property background to ensure local planning is fair and the green belt and our open spaces are properly protected."

Simon was twice elected an Esher councillor (in 2010 and 2014) and served on planning and licensing committees as well as chairing the Audit and Standards Committee.

He is a Trustee of the Henry Smith Charity, which funds projects that address social inequality, a Court Member of the Chartered Surveyors Livery Company and a member of Esher Rugby Club.

Welcoming his selection, Cllr Tim

Oliver, Leader of the Conservative Group on the Council said: "Esher needs strong representation now that the Conservatives are no longer in control of the Council.

"We have seen the total shambles this Residents/Liberal coalition has made of the bin contract which was entirely avoidable. With three Conservative councillors, Esher will have a much stronger voice in improving our local environment and further enhancing our resident experience."

If you have a question for Simon or would like help in his campaign call him on 07818 012425.

## Murray's mum slams 'tennis tax'



**ELMBRIDGE Council's decision to charge residents for using the public tennis courts has been criticised by the mum of two-times Wimbledon champion Sir Andy Murray.**

Judy Murray tweeted her support for a petition which called for the charges to be scrapped.

She wrote: "Public tennis courts should be free to access. We don't pay to use swings or feed ducks or picnic on the grass. Don't tax tennis."

A dozen courts have been fitted with a keypad entry system. Players must now register online and pay £5 per hour or £36 for a season ticket.

The RA/Lib Dem coalition running the council has received £25k from the Lawn Tennis Association to help pay for the keypad system, and they defend the scheme on the grounds that it is expected to raise around £26k per year for the maintenance of the courts. It is interesting to note that this is close to the £30k that the RA/Lib Dems added to the annual council bill when they put up by their own allowances by 12.4% last year.

Charging was imposed despite a council survey which had found that 68% of respondents would not play tennis if the courts were not free. Now they are mostly deserted. This is yet another policy disaster by this administration and Conservatives have called for a rethink.

**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.

## **BINS FIASCO:** After a summer of missed collections the Environment cabinet member in the Elmbridge RA/Lib Dem coalition still insists: 'I'm not accountable'. We say:

# 'What a load of rubbish!'

**TIM Oliver has called for the ineffective Elmbridge cabinet member, who presided over months of missed bin collections, to do the decent thing and resign.**

Liberal Democrat Barry Fairbank is Portfolio Holder for the Environment in the chaotic eight-party coalition which is responsible for running the borough council.

It was his job to ensure the smooth transition to a new waste contractor, Amey, in June. But the switchover proved a disaster, with hundreds of residents bombarding the council with complaints following thousands of missed refuse, recycling, food and garden waste collections.

At a meeting of the full council in July, Cllr Fairbank was challenged by the Conservative opposition, over his failure to get a grip of the situation. Rather than apologise, Cllr Fairbank tried repeatedly to shift the blame on to the contractor and to Joint Waste Solutions (a group representing Elmbridge and three other councils on the joint contract) and insisted "I'm not accountable".

He also admitted he had not taken the trouble to meet with the contractor at the height of the crisis, despite hundreds of residents flooding Elmbridge Council's switchboard with complaints.

At September's council meeting Esher councillor Tim Oliver, who leads the Conservative group, tabled a motion of no confidence in the portfolio holder.

Tim said: "This gives me no satisfaction on a personal or political level. This is about the failure to deliver a service and the principles of responsibility and accountability."

He contrasted our experience with that of Woking, where Amey achieved its 99.9% service target on the first week of its contract there.

Tim added: "If another local authority doing exactly the same thing can get an effective service on day one why can't we? It's easy to point the finger and blame someone else but we're here to de-



■ Cllr Fairbank (above, left) faced calls for his resignation from Cllr Tim Oliver (above, right).

liver the services residents pay for and deserve and to accept a share of responsibility when these things go wrong. He should show some humility and offer his resignation."

Conservative deputy leader, Cllr James Browne, seconded the motion saying: "Cllr Fairbank told us he was not responsible in any way.

I'm afraid if you want the position and the money that goes with the job, then you're accountable!"

Cllr Fairbank remained on petulant form at the meeting and was defended by Cllr Stuart Selleck, leader of RA/Lib Dem coalition, who insisted the blame lay with the contractor, not his cabinet member.

He added, however, that the council's reputation had been damaged.

Cllr Fairbank is belatedly having weekly meetings with the contractor to get the service back on track. He narrowly survived the no confidence vote by 24 to 22, with three of his own side voting against him.

## Centre needs new Trustees

**LOWER Green Community Centre urgently needs to find new trustees if it is to reopen.**

The centre was temporarily closed earlier this year to allow Elmbridge Council to address concerns about the governance and condition of the building.

At a Special General Meeting of the Lower Green Community Association (LGCA) in May it was agreed that the LGCA should close as a charity due to lack of trustees. Since then the Council has been working with advisors from Surrey Community Action to engage the community and

try to find new trustees, prepared to take over the management of the building.

A Council spokesperson said: "We held two community meetings in April and at the end of May, and further engagement with residents through the school holidays. No one has as yet followed up initial interest to complete the training required."

Esher county councillor Peter Szanto said: "I very much hope trustees can be found to work with Elmbridge Council and bring the community centre back into use - please contact your councillors if you can help."



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# Esher's new champion at County Hall

**PETER SZANTO** was elected in May as the county councillor for East Molesey and Esher - the first Conservative to hold the post in eight years. He reports here for the Esher News on some of the issues he has been tackling.

**L**ET me start by saying a huge thank you to everyone who voted for me. It is a great privilege to represent East Molesey and Esher and I will do my very best for all residents over the next four years.

Since I am not a career politician, I have had a lot to learn about the workings of the Council and I have been impressed by the comprehensive training. I have been appointed Deputy Chair of the Elmbridge Local Committee and a member of the Audit and Governance and the Children and Education Select Committees. I am keen to support our local businesses and am the County's representative on the Elmbridge Network.

As an Esher resident for 24 years, I have seen the build-up of daily traffic jams in Esher and many residents raised their concerns on the doorstep during the election. One of my first actions was to meet with the Surrey's Highways officers to review the Esher traffic study underway since earlier this year.

The study was presented at the Elmbridge Local Committee meeting in September and confirmed that over 80% of Esher traffic is through traffic. The next phase of the study



■ Peter signs the Declaration of Acceptance as a new county councillor in May, with Surrey's legal, democratic and cultural director Ann Charlton.

will be to evaluate options to improve the situation. You can read the full report at <https://tinyurl.com/y8ud7m4r>

The recommendations of the Esher Parking review have been out for consultation during September and I have met with numerous residents to discuss their views. I will do my best to represent them, but in many cases local residents have different views on how best to safely use our scarce parking resources.

Over the next four years I want to see improved roads, more outstanding school places, better care for the vulnerable in our community and a vibrant business and com-

mercial sector. Above all, taxpayers' money must be carefully managed and spent wisely.

Of Surrey's £1,672m total spend this fiscal year, more than 80% is in three key areas: £641m on schools and learning, £626m on Social Care and Health and £75m on transport. Surrey's central government funding has declined by £110m since 2010, and our efficiencies and savings of £462m have been almost entirely offset by increased demand for services. We need to save another £104m this year, so every opportunity to save money will need to be vigorously pursued.

I have been struck by the unfairness of the funding formula, where Surrey gets only

13% of its funds from Central Government compared to 44% in London and Metropolitan Areas.

As a simple example, funding for road and highway repairs is allocated purely on the miles of road in our county and does not consider traffic density.

Since Surrey's roads have the highest traffic density outside London and the requirement for road repairs is related to traffic, Surrey's highways budget funding is insufficient to meet the needs of our residents.

I have added my voice to those of the Conservative administration fighting for fairer funding from central government and better outcomes for our residents.

I am delighted that Surrey County Councillors voted on 10 October that total allowances should be reduced by over £70,000 and that Cabinet Members will refuse the 8% increase proposed by an independent panel. This was absolutely the right thing to do. If only the RA/Lib Dem coalition at Elmbridge had done the same last year.

If you have an issue with Surrey County Council's services in Esher, please email me at [peter.szanto@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:peter.szanto@surreycc.gov.uk)

■ Peter has a £6,000 worthy causes fund for projects which local residents wish to implement that promote the social, economic and environmental well-being of East Molesey and Esher. Please email him if you have a suitable project.

## Memorial is moving

**DAVID Archer** is close to achieving his 18-year campaign to make one of Esher (and Surrey's) most dangerous junctions safer.

He was informed in early October that Elmbridge planning officers had granted permission for the War Memorial to be moved further into Esher Green.

This will not only improve safety at busy Remembrance events but also clears the way for 'soft remodelling' (no big roundabouts) and decluttering the junction - a renowned accident blackspot.

Cllr Archer said: "This is fantastic news and it will make a huge difference to public safety in the area. I am enormously grateful to Keltbray Civil Engineering which is generously funding the moving of the war memorial."

He added: "This issue has been around a long time - in fact it got me into local politics 18 years ago, when I was chairman of Esher Place Residents and one of my residents was injured there. We got the pelican crossing put in - that was a result and made it safer for children and the schools."

Cllr Archer secured the agreement of the several stakeholders to move the War Memorial, namely



THE junction at Esher Green between Lammas Lane, Esher Park Avenue, Church Street and More Lane is officially the most dangerous in Surrey.

There have been six serious and 30 slight injuries recorded in accidents at this busy intersection between 2011 and 2016.

Surrey County Council has conducted a comprehensive review of historic changes and proposals and prepared a feasibility report on options to improve the safety

of the junction. Esher county councillor Peter Szanto said: "The recommendations were recently reviewed by borough councillors David Archer, Tim Oliver and myself and presented to the Local Committee in September.

"We support the recommendation of a phased approach of reviewing and improving the signage and implementing raised road tables for the two pedestrian crossings. We can then assess the impact on collisions."

the British Legion, War Memorials Trust, Surrey County Council and Christchurch, Esher. Work is due to begin in the Spring.

■ Pictured above: Tim Oliver, David Archer and Simon Waugh

**IN OTHER news we understand The Albert Arms pub in Esher High Street will reopen in the Spring. New owners Fullers are applying for planning permission and intend to retain a traditional pub feel.**

## Surrey cabinet role for Tim

**ESHER'S Tim Oliver** is using his business skills and experience to help cash-strapped Surrey County Council generate new income.

The Conservative (pictured right with Weybridge MP and Chancellor Philip Hammond) was elected a county councillor in May and swiftly elevated to the Surrey cabinet as the Portfolio Holder for Property and Business.

Tim founded his own multi-million pound legal services firm and was once Chief Executive of Shooting Star Chase Hospice. He will be tasked with using his skills to generate savings and income for the council in these challenging economic times.

Tim is responsible for the back office functions at County Hall, such as Human Resources, IT and procurement. He will also oversee the refurbishment of redundant council buildings, bringing them back into use as housing to meet the demand for homes and provide a welcome rental income for SCC, which must find an additional £107m savings this year.

He said: "It's a huge honour to be asked to take on a Cabinet position and assist in tackling the big challenges facing Surrey.

"There are significant restrictions



on what Local Government can do - we can't use capital to subsidise revenue so a solution is to invest in good quality buildings to provide long term income. Without these strategic investments we will not be able to continue to deliver services."

Like Peter Szanto (see article above) Tim is concerned by the unfair funding formula which hugely disadvantages Surrey. As our residents are living longer, the cost of adult social care is rising by around £24m each year - yet grants from Whitehall have declined by £170m since 2010 and continue to fall.

### 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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Planning Committee  
Esher & Hersham Spending Board



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