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Your local Conservative councillors are here for you. For Elmbridge Borough Council matters contact **Cllr Steve Bax** on 0797 7171138 or email [MoleseySteve@gmail.com](mailto:MoleseySteve@gmail.com). For Surrey County Council call **Cllr Peter Szanto** on 07712 587831. Email [MoleseyPete@gmail.com](mailto:MoleseyPete@gmail.com)

Local news, local action, local Conservatives | Editor: Steve Bax | Website: [www.facebook.com/MoleseyNews](http://www.facebook.com/MoleseyNews)

## Elections with added Xing!

**MOLESEY** Conservatives have selected **Xingang Wang** and **John Gould** as our candidates for next May's Elmbridge Borough Council elections.

Both are eager to get started. They are spending the coming months getting to grips with residents' concerns and taking up issues on your behalf as part of our hardworking local team.

Xingang hopes to join Cllr Steve Bax as one of your Molesey East ward councillors. He is 38 and married, with three daughters.

He grew up in a small town of northern China renowned for its harsh winters and famous ice sculptures and moved to the UK



in 2001 to study for a Masters degree.

Xingang worked on engineering and regeneration projects on behalf of the Department of Transport, before moving into

banking. He is currently an accounting director for an international bank, as well as a Magistrate in Staines.



I want to ensure the council helps residents and delivers excellent services."

John Gould (pictured, left) aims to become a councillor for the Molesey West ward.

He lives in Cherry Orchard Road with his

wife and they enjoy walking their two dogs daily across Hurst Park or on Molesey Heath.

John has considerable business and leadership experience to bring to the Council, having enjoyed a career at the top flight of the international logistics industry.

He started in a warehouse stacking shelves and worked his way up to become managing director but is currently taking a career break to study for an MBA.

John said: "After 10 years abroad I love living in West Molesey. I am focussed on preserving our beautiful green spaces, and on ensuring the council provides cost-effective, well-run services."

Xingang and John can be contacted at [xingang.wang@esherwalton.com](mailto:xingang.wang@esherwalton.com) and [john.gould@esherwalton.com](mailto:john.gould@esherwalton.com)

## RA fury as Tories scrap 'tennis tax'



**ELMBRIDGE** Conservatives are to scrap the tennis court hire charges introduced by Resident Association and Lib Dem councillors last year.

Tory Cabinet Member for Leisure, Malcolm Howard, said entry pad gates and online booking will be retained, in order to track usage and keep vandals out, but fees will shortly be scrapped.

RA councillor Janet Turner fumed: "What next, will we give the swimming pools for free?" She said she was "more than a little disappointed" and predicted that court hires would drop off.

Conservative Cllr Andrew Kelly hit back saying: "Cllr Mrs Turner says the public should not get anything for free. They don't. They pay their council tax."

Ending the charges - dubbed the 'tennis tax' by critics - delivers on a promise we made in Molesey Conservatives May manifesto.

## Crackdown on illegal camps

■ High Court ruling will protect Elmbridge parks and car parks for 3 years

**R**ESIDENTS demanded action to tackle the spate of unauthorised camps and fly-tipping in the Borough, and Elmbridge's Conservative Council has delivered.

At the Administration's direction, officers applied for, and secured, a temporary High Court Injunction in the summer which protected 150 of our local parks, open spaces and car parks. However, with the order set to expire this month, we returned to court to make the case for a three year extension, which was granted.

The Council's injunction prevents any individual from occupying land for residential purposes, including caravans, mobile homes and vehicles or depositing waste.

It also means rule breakers can be rapidly moved on, under threat of arrest, fines or seizure of assets, without Elmbridge having to obtain court orders which would usually take several days.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Tim Oliver said: "I am delighted that the protective injunction has been extended for three years. This will bring relief to our residents and businesses who have been impacted by the disruption throughout the summer."



The Council provided evidence to the court of large-scale fly-tipping and the cost of clearing it, damage to gates and barriers, lost parking income and the significant impact camps, such as the one we experienced at West Molesey Recreation Ground last year, have on communities, resulting in loss of communal facilities.

The issue has been growing with convoys of up to 60 vehicles flocking to the Borough.

Cllr Oliver added: "We will review the security of all of our open sites so that our communities can enjoy their surroundings, whilst

continuing to closely monitor any illegal activity across the Borough."

In the long term Surrey County Council and the boroughs are working together to establish transit sites for travellers. These are likely to be in the East and West of the county and provide places for traveller communities to stay for a short time, hopefully removing a cause of unauthorised camps.

If you spot any weakened security fence posts, railings etc. that protect public land, please report these so the council can make repairs.

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



### STEVE SAYS:

**HELLO** and welcome to *The Molesey News* – your community newsletter written, produced and delivered by the Molesey Conservatives.

Away from the convulsions at Westminster, the local Tory party in Elmbridge remains united, in good spirits and hard at work delivering for residents.

You can read about our progress in tackling unauthorised encampments, scrapping tennis court hire charges, and more, in this edition, as well as meeting our new candidates.

### Remembrance

I was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the Mayor at the East Molesey War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, and inspired by the magnificent turnout at the West Molesey service.

Marking 100 years since the Armistice, it was always going to be a moving occasion, and did not disappoint. Once again Molesey did itself proud. My congratulations to all involved.

That community spirit is also needed in support of our town centre traders. They are the lifeblood of Molesey and it has been distressing to see long established shops disappearing in recent months.

Peter Szanto, Xingang Wang and I visited our traders recently to ask how we can help. We will do all we can at the council level and I urge you to make a conscious effort to use our shops and keep them alive.

My best wishes to you for a Happy Christmas and New Year.

## Also in our sights: Molesey 'slum boats'

**THE** Environment Agency (EA) took action in October to remove a number of abandoned and sunken wrecks from the Thames at West Molesey.

These 'eyesore' boats off Cherry Orchard Gardens were served with formal notices before being lifted off by a barge-mounted crane, crushed and removed to a depot at Sunbury.

Molesey Conservatives welcomed this action but are frustrated by the EA's lack of progress in removing the illegally moored hotel boats at East Molesey, which are causing great distress.



At our urging, MP Dominic Raab wrote to the Environment Secretary to seek a review of EA powers. Cllrs Steve Bax and Peter Szanto and our local Chairman, are also in regular contact with the EA, keeping the pressure on.

We are committed to resolving this issue for our residents.



## MEZZET

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## Molesey Hospital to be 'health hub'?



**MOLESEY Hospital could become a community health hub with both Glenlyn and The Vine GP surgeries under one roof.**

This is one of four options being considered by Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the local NHS, following their decision last year to retain hospital facilities in Molesey.

At the time they noted our 1930s hospital in Approach Road was much loved and needed locally, but in need of major investment.

The CCG's options are 1) a minimal refurbish and extension, 2) redevelopment on site, 3) rent or build offsite, 4) create a £16m multi-facility health hub incorporating the Molesey's local GP surgeries.

In all scenarios the Molesey Clinic in Walton Road would be closed and its services moved over to the hospital.

The CCG's Head of Estates, Jules Wilmshurst-Smith, told *The Molesey News* that an outline business case is being prepared as a first step to securing funding. If this is agreed then work could begin by next Autumn.

Molesey councillor Steve Bax said: "Our local hospital is much loved by residents and is a vital lifeline for many families. Whatever happens next must reflect what local people need."

"Though I have concerns about co-locating GP surgeries rather than opening new ones, I am optimistic that we will get great new facilities at the end of this process. We'll be keeping a close eye on proposals as they emerge."

# Jolly Boatman parking fears

**MOLESEY'S** already burdened residential streets must not be used as an overspill car park for the proposed major development around Hampton Court Station.

This is the message that your Conservative councillors, Steve Bax and Peter Szanto, have been telling the owner of the 'Jolly Boatman' site in our meetings.

Alexpo are poised to submit a planning application for 97 flats, an 84-bed hotel, retail units and underground parking on the land.

They have responded to safety concerns raised by the Hampton Court Rescue Campaign and ourselves, by moving the access road and have come up with ideas for improving the traffic flow and safety on Hampton Court Way, which should benefit the area.

But sticking points remain around the height of the buildings, the general density of the scheme and, what we regard to be, an under-provision of parking spaces.

County Cllr Szanto said: "Alexpo maintain that the 207 spaces they are providing - which is only an



increase of two spaces on the existing station car park - will be adequate. But it will need to accommodate existing and future railway commuters, new residents, hotel guests, shoppers and staff."

Alexpo's argument is based on the under-utilisation of the current station car park. Peter and Steve have pointed out that this is because of a lack of parking controls in nearby residential streets.

This is something we are working with Surrey County Council to address for the benefit of residents and shoppers, despite being previ-

ously thwarted by Molesey Residents Association councillors.

We have successfully persuaded Alexpo to conduct a survey of commuters at Hampton Court Station to determine where they currently park. We feel this will create a truer picture of the level of parking spaces required.

Cllr Bax added: "This is an incredibly important planning application for Molesey in a highly sensitive location. The effects will be felt long after the developer has move on. We will keep fighting for our residents' interests."

## Defending greenbelt

**HOUSING, crime and council finances were among the topics at a public meeting in Molesey on 15 November hosted by the Leader of Elmbridge Council.**

Cllr Tim Oliver (pictured) gave an update on the new Conservative administration's priorities, including preparing a 'Local Plan' which sets out where future housing could be built in the borough.

This plan will go out to public consultation next summer, he said, and will have protection for the greenbelt at its heart.

Tim also explained how the Council is investing in local property to generate extra income and offset cuts in government grants.



## 'Hurst Pool rebuild should be a priority'

**ELMBRIDGE Council has been urged to make the rebuild or refurbishment of Hurst Pool in Dunstall Way a key priority.**

Consultants carried out a strategic review of leisure assets and halls on behalf of the Council, and submitted their findings in September. They said the plant and infrastructure needed significant investment.

The Council's Cabinet will meet in January to decide whether to spend money on repairs or to invest in improved facilities that could generate extra revenue.

Xingang Wang (pictured), Conservative candidate for East Molesey, said: "The report recommends extra swimming lanes, an enlarged learner pool, gym and



fitness studios, perhaps even a library space. I am excited by the prospect of significant investment in Molesey's leisure facilities."

The report also recommends that the Council should stop paying contractors to manage local leisure centres and instead charge them for the privilege. First, they must improve their profitability. *More in our next newsletter.*

## 'Severe financial challenges'

**By Dr. Peter Szanto**  
Surrey County Councillor for East Molesey

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

Surrey County Council (SCC) is facing huge financial pressures. The number of residents needing support - whether it is for learning disabilities or elderly care - is rising. But our core government grant has been cut by more than £200m since 2010.

The council has made £540m of savings in areas that have the least impact on residents, but the challenge is getting harder. Surrey already has more than 93,000 residents aged over 65 who can't manage a domestic task on their own and this will rise by 36 per cent by 2030.

Surrey's Public Health funding from Central Government is amongst the lowest in the country, our Highways funding is £11m less than it should equitably be. We spend £4.5m on 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 team and the Conservative administration, have embarked on a major transformation programme.

Between June and early September, SCC consulted on its 2030 vision and has used this feedback to develop a shared vision that will shape future plans for services.

The County Council needs to make further savings of £85m in the next year and has launched a series of consultations on five service areas: children's centres; concessionary bus fares; special educational needs and disability (SEND); libraries and cultural services; and community recycling centres.

Please have your say by Friday 4 January 2019, at:

<https://bit.ly/2D22gSH>

Tough decisions lie ahead to maintain our key services to the most needy and vulnerable in our community and achieve a sustainable financial position.



## THE LAW AND YOU

with KWW Solicitors of East Molesey

## 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

70 Walton Road, East Molesey | 0208 979 1131 | [www.kww.co.uk](http://www.kww.co.uk)

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**FORMER EastEnders and Hollyoaks actress Gemma Bissix will switch on the Christmas lights at this year's Magical Molesey on Thursday 29 November, 5pm to 7pm, at the Walton Road shops. The festive fun continues a week later (6 December) at the 'Winter Wander' in Bridge Road.**

PLANS for 50 flats on land at Molesey FC and in neighbouring Grange Close have been rejected by councillors as an 'overdevelopment'. The club argued its joint application with Rushmon Homes and PA Housing was necessary to create a new clubhouse and clear its remaining debts.

**SOUTH Western Railways are to install a manned gate at Hampton Court Station to prevent fare dodging. Once completed it will be staffed from 6am until midnight 'improving security and staff visibility', say the train operator.**

ELMBRIDGE'S Cabinet has approved the resettlement of 15 Syrian refugee families in the borough. Five families (22 people) have been settled since August 2017 using private accommodation made available for this purpose, and with Home Office funding. Suitable cases are identified and security checked by the United Nations from its caseload of registered refugees.

**MOLESEY'S first eco-shop, Born From Necessity, has opened at the former chemist site in Buckingham Avenue. It sells fair trade, organic food and toiletries and cuts down on waste by asking shoppers to bring their own containers and buy products by weight.**

EAST Molesey county councillor Peter Szanto has allocated £1,000 from his member's fund to St Mary's Church to enable the cafe to reach out to a greater proportion of our community.

He also allocated £1,344 to Molesey Business Association for artificial Christmas trees and lights for this year's Magical Molesey, and 2nd Molesey Scout Group has completed the graphics on their minibus, paid for in part by a grant from Peter last year.

**HEATHROW will consult residents in the new year on the impact of a third runway on airspace and future operations. Molesey Conservatives have again requested an exhibition at Imber Court. We continue to work with our MP to secure independently enforced tight noise and air targets and respite for Molesey.**

THE Royal Cambridge Home in Hurst Road has been providing care for the elderly and ex-service widows at Hurst Road since 1944.

Now change is afoot. Trustees hope to replace the existing buildings with two new blocks to accommodate 32 flats for their residents and 60 for the Sheppard Trust, a similar charity.

They held an open day in November and are expected to submit a planning application soon.

**DON'T forget you can park for free at Elmbridge Council car parks as part of Small Business Saturday, on 1 December.**