

Editor: Steve Bax | Email: MoleseySteve@gmail.com | Website: www.facebook.com/MoleseyNews | Twitter: @MoleseySteve



### STEVE SAYS:

HELLO and welcome to the Autumn Molesey News, your regular newsletter from the Molesey Conservatives, keeping you posted on developments in and around Molesey.

With global warming looming large on the national agenda, we're also seeing pressure on Councils to do more to reduce their carbon footprint.

Elmbridge has followed Surrey County Council in declaring a climate emergency (see our main article) and it is apparent that environmental concerns will increasingly dominate Council activities and thinking as we go forwards.

The Council is drawing up its Local Plan, setting out how up to 9,345 homes might be accommodated in Elmbridge.

Local Conservatives will resist moves to build on our Green Belt - we need these vital green lungs now more than ever!

As well as representing Molesey up at the Council, I intervened in October to have the three-way traffic lights removed that were causing traffic gridlock at the old Police Station in Molesey. It turned out, these had been put in place without Surrey Highways approval!

I've met with McCarthy & Stone, who want to build a retirement home in Molesey, and with Molesey FC to hear about their revised plans for homes around the ground.

My thanks to our advertisers and to our MP, Dominic Raab, who found time to pen a column for the Molesey News, despite his busy workload as Foreign Secretary (and for his continued support of our efforts to protect Molesey from the impact of additional air traffic), and to you for reading.  
- Councillor Steve Bax

## Climate emergency in Elmbridge!

**ELMBRIDGE Borough Council has declared a 'climate emergency' and pledged to become carbon neutral within 11 years.**

At July's meeting of the Full Council, a motion was carried with cross-party support, committing the local authority to eliminate carbon emissions from all of its activities by 2030. A report setting out the ways this will be achieved will be put to the Council in February and will build on existing initiatives.

The declaration was a triumph for local campaigners, many of whom were in the public gallery, and Molesey resident Christine Crispin (pictured here with Councillor Steve Bax) who had been sitting outside the council offices in Esher every week to highlight the urgent need for tackling global warming.

She told *The Molesey News*: "I went to hear Greta Thunberg at Easter and started thinking about what more I could do. The idea to sit outside the council offices came to me like a thunderbolt! People



have been so supportive. I am not doing this for me but because I care about the world we are leaving to our children and grandchildren."

The motion stated that Elmbridge Borough Council believes all levels of government (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of climate change and "should not wait for national

governments to change policies".

Elmbridge already suffers from flooding problems, and a significant proportion of our population lives on low or flood plain areas which would be severely impacted by more frequent and extreme rainfall.

The motion also stated that 'bold local climate action' could deliver economic and social benefits in

terms of new green jobs, reducing fuel poverty and energy bills, encouraging healthy, active travel and improving green spaces and access to nature.

Cllr Bax said: "I recently met with Christine to congratulate her on her campaigning, and discuss further steps the Council can take, for example providing electric car charging points and promoting new builds to the 'Passive House' ultra low emissions standard - which means they are better insulated and address fuel poverty as well as their carbon footprint."

Cllr Bax is also on the Council's Energy and Sustainability Working Group which is scrutinising plans to eliminate Single Use Plastics from the Council and through its procurement process, as well as promoting community schemes such as reusable 'Boomerang Bags' and water refills at businesses.

Advice on home energy efficiency is available at - [www.elmbridge.gov.uk/housing/home-energy-efficiency/heatloss/](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/housing/home-energy-efficiency/heatloss/)

## Council must deliver thousands of homes

**ELMBRIDGE Council is drafting a new 'Local Plan' to set out how the Borough will meet its housing need until 2035.**

In August and September it consulted residents on five possible options for achieving Government housing targets of around 623 new homes per year, of mostly one and two-bedrooms (9,345 in total!).

Elmbridge Conservatives are backing Option 4, which would push back on the quota (which we think is too high) and deliver about 5,300 homes in existing built areas, making use of brownfield sites.

Crucially it includes NO BUILDING ON THE GREEN BELT. This is the option the Conservatives instructed officers to develop when we controlled the Council last year. It is vital that we protect our borough's green lungs if we are to meet our climate obligations.

Conservative Leader, James Browne, told *The Molesey News*: "We believe Option 4 plans for the future, by providing a large number



of new homes, of which 99% would be three-bedrooms or fewer, and nearly 70% of those homes must be at affordable or social rent levels in order to provide homes for the less well-off, first time buyers and key workers such as schoolteachers, police officers and firefighters.

"It protects our Green Belt which stops the London sprawl taking over our borough and, whilst all local areas will see more housing, it

will not destroy local character."

Cllr Browne raised the issue with Boris Johnson over the summer and was reassured that the Prime Minister opposes "arbitrary quotas imposed by diktat". Boris also told the Surrey Advertiser: "We should not be imposing targets on councils that they are simply finding impossible to meet without building on the Green Belt."

Residents Association and Liberal Democrat councillors, while running the Council in coalition in 2016/17, selected the release of three major pieces of Green Belt in Long Ditton, Cobham and Oxshott/Stoke d'Abernon, as the Council's preferred option, prompting thousands of complaints during the consultation.

Cllr Browne added: "We can have some confidence that the new Government will actively support local authorities who want to defend their green belt. We must do everything possible to ensure that Option 4 is taken forward to the next stage."

## Majestic Wine to be retirement flats?



**MAJESTIC Wine in Walton Road could be demolished and replaced with a four-storey block of 35 retirement flats.**

McCarthy & Stone is to seek planning permission for a red herringbone brick building, with the roof set back (pictured).

There would be communal facilities, a garden and parking for 26 cars. These would be sold to over 60s looking to downsize.

According to the developer, 85% of people who buy these types of apartments live within five miles, so there is the potential for freeing up family homes locally, though the existing rented flats behind Majestic will be lost, should planning permission be granted.

Elmbridge Council's Strategic Housing Market Assessment suggests the number of residents aged 75 and over will increase by 50% by 2030, with a 74% rise in residents in their eighties.

McCarthy & Stone claim that residential schemes allow older people to maintain independent lives while having the security of a house manager on hand during daytime hours.

A planning application could be submitted by the end of October, with the apartments ready by 2022, also giving existing tenants three years to find alternatives.

## Good causes cash!

**HURST Park School was the big winner when Molesey councillors met in September to distribute Community Infrastructure Levy money, paid to the Council by local developers.**

The primary school's request for £12,500, for a 'sun sail' shelter for its playground, was granted in full and will provide relief for pupils from the sun and rain.

Councillors also awarded £1,320 for repairs to three outside clocks in Molesey, £4,000 to St Pauls Church for repairs to their 160 year old perimeter wall, and



£1,680 for a defibrillator at the Vine Medical Centre. More than £40,000 remains in the pot.

In addition, Citizens Advice Bureau, Surrey Police, Walton Hospital, Walton Playhouse, Esher College and three Borough schools also enjoyed a share of £688,000 from the main Strategic CIL pot.

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## An update from Dominic Raab MP

UP AT WESTMINSTER, the Conservative government is determined to get the country moving forwards, on Brexit and all the other issues voters want us to focus on.



Locally, we're increasing schools funding, guaranteeing all Elmbridge schools £3,750 per primary school pupil

or £5,000 per secondary school pupil. I am working hard with local groups and the Department for Education to get two new secondary schools (Heathside Walton and Cobham Free School) into permanent sites for 2021 – great news for children in Molesey and Walton. All our secondary schools are now outstanding or good. The government is increasing NHS investment by £33.9 billion (by 2023). I am working with our local Commissioning Group and Molesey Hospital to expand GP opening hours, increase services provided,

and improve mental health services for young people.

The Government has committed to an extra 20,000 police officers over three years. Whilst local crime is low, I am working with Surrey Police to make sure this delivers extra officers in Elmbridge – because we are a target for criminals from outside of the Borough.

Elmbridge Council is consulting on a new Local Plan for housing development. I'm working with the Conservative group to make sure we build the homes we need in the right places. We must stop a repeat

of previous proposals – backed by the last Residents Association/Lib-Dem coalition – for large developments on our precious Green Belt.

Finally, with plans for a third runway at Heathrow and proposals to change to flight routes, I am pressing Heathrow and the Civil Aviation Authority to nail down guarantees to prevent an increase in flights over Molesey, and legally binding and enforceable checks on levels of noise and air quality. In particular, I want to see Elmbridge represented on the body that will enforce those limits.

## Coalition at war over hall's refurb



THE first public cracks have appeared between the Residents Association parties and the Liberal Democrats, who are running Elmbridge Council as an eight-group coalition.

Tensions boiled over at October's Full Council where the Lib-Dems opposed plans, supported by the RAs and Conservatives, to refurbish Hershams Village Hall.

LibDems argued that the hall should be demolished and replaced at a later date with a modern, more environmentally friendly building with housing on the site and called for a deferral.

However, when residents were consulted by the last Conservative administration, the result was a resounding instruction to repair and reopen it as soon as possible.

Elmbridge Conservative Leader, Cllr James Browne, told the meeting: "It is ironic the Liberal Democrats are saying we ought to revoke or delay the decision of the people in a mini-referendum! We've been told what to do and we need to get on with this."

# County Council 'raising the bar'

By Dr. Peter Szanto, County Councillor for East Molesey & Esher

RECENT years have been a time of challenge, upheaval and difficult decisions for Surrey County Council, but with a programme of reform underway, I am confident that we can look to the future with renewed optimism.

Under the leadership of Tim Oliver, a former Elmbridge Council leader, the Conservative Group at Surrey is taking steps to improve the performance of key council services and we are raising the bar.

Children's Services have shown genuine improvements and I am hopeful that 'inadequate' ratings will be a thing of the past when we are re-inspected by Ofsted next year. The Cabinet has also approved plans to modernise the Surrey Fire and Rescue service to make it fit for the future, including recruiting more firefighters and increasing prevention work.

Surrey is determined to lead by example on the climate emergency and announcements about new initiatives are coming, thanks to the work of the Environment Commission we established.

We are keeping all of our recycling centres open and looking to expand the services they provide - and we are planting 1.2 million more trees, one for every Surrey resident. As Cllr Oliver said recently



"The future of the planet is everybody's collective responsibility and we must all do more".

Even with constrained funding, Surrey has carried out more than 50,000 road repairs this year and I will be pushing for more investment in our roads.

The Council is setting up a £50m community grant fund to improve our High Streets and providing surplus space in Surrey County Council buildings for free use by voluntary and charitable organisations. We are considering converting surplus council-owned land to public allotments.

It's important to remember that the majority of the council tax you

pay goes on protecting and supporting our most vulnerable residents, through Adult Social Care, Looked After Children and those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. To give you an idea of the sums involved, Surrey spends over £1 million every single day looking after our adult residents who need our support and half a million each day on our children's services.

The government's proposed 2% precept on council tax for Adult Social Care will go some way to helping meet those ever-increasing costs, however it is a tiny fraction of the costs involved.

There is still a lot to do, but we are making swift and effective progress towards providing better services, supporting those who need our help the most and delivering value for money for the taxpayer.

■ As your County Councillor, I have £5,000 funding for this year to help residents, voluntary and community organisations deliver activities that benefit local people in their neighbourhoods.

This funding, known as Members' Community Allocation, can be used for inexpensive one-off activities, or as a contribution towards projects that cost more.

So far this year, I have helped three groups with funding, but still have £3,000 left in the pot. If your organisation has a need please get in touch at [peter.szanto@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:peter.szanto@surreycc.gov.uk)

## Second chance for Syria refugees



THREE families who fled the devastating civil war in Syria are rebuilding their lives in Molesey with help from a local charity.

Sixty people have been resettled in our Borough so far by Elmbridge CAN, a small volunteer-run charity started three-years-ago by Molesey-resident Jeannie Tweedie and her friend Becky Hill.

It works alongside Elmbridge Borough Council to find private accommodation for refugee families, and assists them in finding work and getting their children into local schools - as well as supporting a number of other refugees and asylum seekers in the Borough.

Molesey Councillor Steve Bax met with Jeannie and fellow trustee

Steve Wells in August, and was introduced to Khaleel whose father and six-year-old sister were killed in the bombing. He had been a pharmaceutical manager before the war and had ended up in a camp in Jordan with his wife and children.

Steve said: "It was incredibly moving to hear what Khaleel and his family have been through, and made me even more appreciative of the safety and opportunities we take for granted in Surrey. It was pleasing to hear how Khaleel is settling into Molesey life, tending an allotment, learning the language and his children are flourishing."

The charity needs volunteers, donations and homes. Find out more at [www.elmbridgecan.org.uk](http://www.elmbridgecan.org.uk).

## COMMUNITY NEWS

MOLESEY Youth Club is now open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday from 3.30pm, thanks to St Peter's Church funding. Young people in school years 7 to 12 can play PS4, table tennis, pool, indoor sports and more, for free at the club in Ray Road, West Molesey. A Halloween costume party is planned for 31 October from 7-9pm.

PLANS for a new secondary school for Walton and Molesey children have been formally submitted to Elmbridge Council by the Department for Education. Walton Heathside free school would be built on land next to the Xcel Sports Hub at Walton, catering for 900 pupils. If permitted, the earliest opening date would be September 2021. Comment on the plans at [elmbridge.gov.uk/planning](http://elmbridge.gov.uk/planning), search application 2019/2157.

THIS year's Magical Molesey will take place on Thursday 28 November, 5pm - 7pm at the Walton Road shops. There will be Christmas lights, carols, stalls and shops open until late. This year there will be a no plastic theme, with an opportunity to take home a 'Boomerang Bag' to carry your festive gifts and treats.

MOLESEY Library will welcome journalist and author Kate Thompson on Tuesday 19 November, 7.30pm, for a talk. She wrote about formidable women in war time London in her debut novel and has a local connection as her parents live in Molesey. Tickets are £5 with proceeds to the Friends of Molesey Library.

DON'T miss Molesey Art Society's Autumn Fair at St Alban's Primary School in Beauchamp Road, on the weekend of 9-10 November. From 10am to 5pm, visitors can browse the latest work of group members and pick up some art at affordable prices for your home. Find out more at [moleseyartsociety.co.uk](http://moleseyartsociety.co.uk)

NO decisions have been made about removing sluice gates at the River Mole, the Environment Agency has said. In a letter to residents, it confirmed that the current flood management will be maintained for at least the next few years. EA officials will be gathering information on fish and invertebrates and using boats with sonar equipment over the next few weeks. It might be necessary to lower water levels to inspect assets, but only on a temporary basis, the EA said.

PA HOUSING held a public exhibition at Esher Rugby Club in September to showcase their plans for 75 affordable homes in West Molesey. These would be built on the current site of Britannia House and Columbia House, industrial buildings in Pool Road. 80 parking spaces would be provided.

DENNIS Road in East Molesey was added to Surrey County Council's repair list after residents petitioned councillors. However, the meeting was warned that the budget is tight.

## THE LAW AND YOU with KWW Solicitors of East Molesey

### Mental capacity and making a Will

With conditions such as dementia and Alzheimer's on the rise, the question of whether or not a person has mental capacity to make a Will frequently arises.

Solicitor Alvin David (pictured) at KWW says mental capacity, in the context of making a Will, broadly relates to whether a person is capable of:

- Understanding what making a Will means and its effect
- Appreciating the extent of his or her assets; and
- Considering potential beneficiaries in a fair and objective way, unaffected by any condition that might affect his or her judgement.

If you are unsure over a person's mental capacity, or there is any chance questions might arise over this after their death, you

should obtain a medical certificate of capacity. If a person has already lost mental capacity, an application to the Court of Protection may be necessary for a statutory Will to be prepared on their behalf. If you suspect

your loved one may be beginning to lose mental capacity, or they are in the early stages of an illness such as dementia, call us urgently to start the process of making a Will. You should also consider creating a Lasting Power of Attorney, which gives a friend or relative power to look after your loved one's affairs when they no longer have mental capacity to do so themselves.

For a confidential discussion about Wills and mental capacity issues, please contact Alvin on 0208 979 1131 or via [www.kww.co.uk](http://www.kww.co.uk)



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