

Walton intouch

Local news from your
local Conservative Councillors

Delivered by your Walton Conservative team

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February/March 2020

HOMES PROPOSED FOR HOMEBASE SITE

A developer is proposing to knock down Walton's Homebase and replace it with over 200 retirement flats.



Guild Living held public exhibitions in February to reveal plans for 218 'later living' homes, a wellness centre, restaurant, café/bar, gym, library, craft room and other facilities. There would be 113 parking spaces for its residents and visitors.

A green public space would front onto New Zealand Avenue. There would also be a pedestrian walkway through to Ashley Park

behind the site. The public parking in front of Homebase would be lost and not replaced.

As part of pre-application discussions, Elmbridge Borough Council has informed the applicants that 'We do not have a need for the Guild Living product. We have a general housing need for smaller more affordable homes and in terms of care, we have a need for C2 care homes, especially those with dementia care and affordable bed spaces'.

BOOSTING OUR TOWN CENTRE

Businesses in Walton town centre will vote next month on whether to set up a Business Improvement District (BID). A BID would bring improvements to the town centre, boosting local business and bringing benefits for residents.

A BID is a defined area in which a levy is charged on all business rate payers in addition to the business rates bill. This levy is used to develop projects which will benefit businesses in the local area.

The idea for a BID was proposed by the Walton-on-Thames Trading Alliance and Elmbridge Borough Council has provided funding and support.



By law a ballot of local businesses must be held and the result is due to be announced on 13 March. If the vote passes, a BID could raise over £850,000 in the town over the next five years. Money raised would be used for projects above and beyond what the local councils already provide. Money could fund events, promotions, extra cleaning and floral displays, a parking review, and make the town centre safer and more accessible.

STANDING TO REPRESENT YOU ...

On 7 May elections will take place for Elmbridge Borough Council. Walton is split into three wards: Central, North and South. Here are your Conservative candidates:

WALTON CENTRAL: Paul Liptrot



Walton has been home for my wife, Cathryn, and myself for 30 years and I was brought up in the borough and attended schools here. We live in Sandy Way and we are active members of the Sandy Way Residents' Association. My small business is also in Walton. This means I am well aware of the issues we face in Walton Central and I have the experience and knowledge to tackle them, working closely with Cllr Christine Richardson. Planning is one of the big issues we face here and challenging inappropriate development will be a top priority. I want to see our streets kept smart, a vibrant town centre and protection for our parks and children's play areas.

WALTON NORTH: Cllr Andrew Kelly



I have been representing Walton for ten years. During that time I have helped many residents on a variety of local issues from housing problems to overgrown bushes. I'm a staunch defender of the Playhouse, continually fighting its corner at the Council. I work closely with my ward colleagues Rachael Lake and Alan Kopitko. Together we're always campaigning for our part of town, from fighting against more HGVs on our local roads to keeping the Thamesmead car park free for all. I live in Cottimore Lane and my day job is a civil servant in London, so I'm a long suffering user of South Western Railway.

WALTON SOUTH: Kristopher Januszajtis-Neale



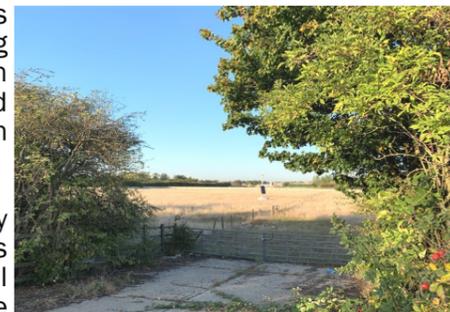
I was born and raised in Elmbridge and studied at Kingston University. For the past 19 years I've worked for some of the world's leading IT and telecommunications companies as a technical project manager. I live in Walton and I want to give back to the community that has been my home for over 30 years. I will champion the Halfway local shops and businesses. Planning is changing and I will be ruthlessly vigilant on the details of any new development. I am conscious we have a climate emergency and the Council should do all it can. We need to protect our green spaces, including the Halfway Green, and our environment.

HEATHSIDE DECISION NEARS

The planning application for the Walton Heathside secondary school will be decided by Elmbridge Council's Planning Committee on 24 March.

The school would have places for 900 pupils aged 11 to 16. It would have one large building up to three storeys high and include a main hall, sports hall, library, dance studio and specialised classrooms. It would open in September 2021.

The site proposed (right), off Terrace Road by Waterside Drive, is Green Belt which means the applicants have to prove 'very special circumstances' for the application to be approved. Although many parents want a new school, Esher High, Hinchley Wood School and the Three Rivers Academy have questioned whether one is needed. Another major consideration for councillors will be the traffic impact on local roads.



The site proposed for Walton Heathside

Elmbridge Council gave planning permission to Cobham Free School in February.



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YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATIVES WORKING FOR WALTON

YOUR LOCAL WALTON CONSERVATIVE TEAM



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NEWS IN BRIEF

- Elmbridge Borough Council has given the green light to proposals for a new **Ansell Hall** on Oakbank Avenue in Fieldcommon. The new hall will be made available for community uses and activities including public hire. The development also includes 10 flats and 25 parking spaces. The current hall (left) was closed in 2008 and Cllr Chris Cross has long campaigned for a replacement. She said "I am delighted at last Fieldcommon will be getting a community hall again. I can't wait to see it open."



- The **Elmbridge Community Lottery** launches on 28 February, raising cash for local schools, scouts and other not-for-profit organisations. The initiative, which was approved by the last Conservative Cabinet, will see players able to buy tickets via the Council's website for £1 with 60% of the proceeds going to good causes. There will be a weekly draw with a jackpot of £25,000, or players could win £2,000, £250, £25 or 3 free tickets. Local groups can register to benefit by emailing lottery@elmbridge.gov.uk.
- Surrey County Council is to **plant 1.2 million trees** by 2030, one for every resident. Leader Cllr Tim Oliver helped plant the first of the trees in October, and towns and villages will also receive them in due course. The trees, which will purify air, filter water and provide a home for wildlife, are part of the Conservative Council's 'greener future' plan.
- Walton's Conservative Councillors** hold a surgery on the first Saturday of each month at Walton Library from 10am to 12 noon.

- PA Housing have submitted a planning application to demolish the 64-flat **Thames View House** (right) and replace it with a new block of 97 flats. The new building would vary from six to nine storeys high and have parking spaces for 99 cars and 103 bicycles. The existing nursery would be re-provided on the ground floor. PA are aiming for 45 flats to be affordable rent, 30 shared ownership and 22 for market sale.



POLICE ELECTION

Surrey Conservatives have chosen Charlie Chirico as their candidate to be Surrey's next Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The PCC sets the police budget and strategic direction and holds the Chief Constable to account on behalf of residents.

Charlie is an experienced criminal lawyer who has worked for the Crown Prosecution Service and managed teams of solicitors.

Her top priority, if elected in May, will be to secure Surrey's share of the 20,000 extra police that the Prime Minister has promised, and bolster the police presence on our streets, catching more criminals and deterring crime.

Charlie said: "People tell me on the doorsteps that they rarely see a police officer. That's not good enough and it has to change. As well as recruiting more officers, I'll make sure that they all walk the beat, regardless of their rank, and that people are made aware of who their neighbourhood officers are. I want the public to feel confident about passing on information about criminal activity, knowing it will be acted on."

If elected, she will also ensure that more police are on duty at busy times, such as Saturday nights, and that burglary victims get a visit on the same day to capture vital forensic evidence. She wants to protect vulnerable young people from being groomed by drugs gangs, and work with local MPs to improve government funding for Surrey Police.

Charlie intends to hold surgeries in town centres and engage with schools. "I want to be accountable to Surrey's 1.2 million residents and visible," she says. Find out more at www.charliechirico.org.uk.



FORT HOUSE MOVE REFUSED

The Planning Inspectorate, an independent government body, has refused the local NHS's application to move the Fort House Surgery from Hershams Road to an unused ward at Walton Hospital in Rodney Road.

In a decision published in November, the Inspector found that there would be "significant parking issues" and that, in the "absence of achievable mitigation measures...the harm to the living conditions of residents through inconvenience would be considerable, permanent and long-standing".

The local NHS have stated they are committed to finding suitable premises to allow the surgery to operate from a 'modern and accessible space that meets the needs of patients'. Your Councillors support the surgery finding a suitable, new home.





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SATURDAY: 9AM TO 2PM
SUNDAY: CLOSED

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