

## 'Jolly Boatman' decision delayed

**A** SPECIAL Planning Meeting to decide if land around Hampton Court Station should be redeveloped, was scrapped by Elmbridge Council in January.

The 'Jolly Boatman' application - for 97 flats, an 84-bedroom hotel, underground parking and public realm - was put on ice after the Environment Agency (EA) objected to the applicant, Alexpo, outdated data to show its flood mitigation.

The resident-led Hampton Court Rescue Campaign (HCRC), who oppose the development, told *The Molesey News*: "This is not the EA being difficult. Had Alexpo used up-to-date flood data from February 2018, when it made its application in November 2018 then it wouldn't be in this position now."

Campaigners argue the buildings would breach the maximum heights allowed in proximity of Hampton Court by a 1913 Act of Parliament. The applicants dispute where this measurement should be taken from.

Parking is another bone of



Cllr Steve Bax (right) with prospective councillor Xingang Wang

contention, as the scheme will provide 207 spaces (only three more than the current car park) despite adding to the usage.

Objectors also fear the scheme will make the air pollution on Hampton Court Way worse, and only nine affordable housing units are proposed. The previous scheme in 2008 offered seven affordable homes plus a care home.

Cllr Steve Bax (Molesey East) said: "Delays are frustrating, as all sides want to know where they stand, but this is a major application in Molesey and decision makers must have the correct information."

Meanwhile, East Molesey's County Councillor, Peter Szanto, and Steve, are taking steps to protect nearby residential streets from any parking overspill from the

development, should it go ahead.

They have persuaded Surrey Highways to propose a one hour weekday morning Controlled Parking Zone, which will also create spaces for anyone visiting the shops and businesses in Bridge Road, helping the local economy.

The proposed changes will be advertised and residents and shops will be invited to provide feedback before implementation.

Restrictions of the kind proposed are common near rail commuter stations all over London and in most other stations in our Borough.

These proposals follow many years of campaigning and petitions showing strong support: over 80% of residents and 88% of retailers.

It will free up spaces currently blocked by rail commuters all day for their customers, while the station car park remains less than half full. The proposed parking restriction will only be for one hour in the morning, so it's not going to reduce spaces for cars for 23 hours a day, it would increase them.



### STEVE SAYS:

*HELLO I'm Councillor Steve Bax and I edit this newsletter on behalf of the Molesey Conservatives. Welcome to our first Molesey News of the new decade!*

*Since our Autumn edition the country has been to the polls. I hope the government's decisive win leads to a period of stability and promises of investment (see our police article overleaf) come to fruition soon.*

*Local government could use some extra money, particularly for adult social care and children's services!*

*With Dominic Raab re-elected locally, I am looking forward to continuing to work closely with him on Molesey issues. One of them, Heathrow's impact, features in this newsletter.*

### LOCAL ISSUES

*Day to day, I continue to help residents with local issues and to speak up for Molesey on various Council committees.*

*I recently had a chance to question the local NHS on the progress (lack of it) with rebuilding Molesey Hospital, and raised the need for decent public transport between Molesey and Walton if the new secondary school goes ahead (see the Heathside article).*

*The roads by the reservoirs are treacherous for children walking or cycling and a bus service has been suggested and must be firmed up.*

*As part of the Future High Streets Working Group, I have been learning about the difficulties our shops face in competing with online retailers, and I am attending a task group which is looking at ways to reduce Elmbridge Council's carbon footprint - we have to lead by example.*

*With my 'Shadow Cabinet Member for Transport' hat on, I've taken the RA/Lib Dem administration to task over its new parking policy (see the article left), and County Cllr Szanto and I are progressing plans for one hour weekday morning parking controls in residential streets close to Hampton Court.*

*This will free up spaces for our local shops, and prevent residential streets being used as a replacement station car park.*

*We will of course keep a close watch on the impacts of any proposed changes to mitigate any displacement. I hope you enjoy the newsletter.*

### Decision due on new school



HEATHSIDE Walton, a new state secondary school for North Walton and Molesey, is on track to welcome the first of its 900 pupils in September 2021.

Councillors were updated in January by the Department of Education (the applicants) and told a predicted shortage of school places justified the 'special circumstances' required to build on Green Belt land next to the Xcel Leisure Centre.

It would be a sister school to Heathside Weybridge, which is in the top 10% of Surrey secondaries, but lack of public transport to the school is a concern.

## Car park changes 'blow hole' in budget

**COUNCILLORS** clashed at their meeting in December over car park changes which will make Elmbridge's finances even worse.

Residents Association and Liberal Democrat Councillors, who run the Borough in a Coalition, scrapped modest ticket increases for 2020/21 that had been agreed by the last Conservative administration.

In doing so, they ignored warnings from the Council's finance director and created a £126,000 hole in the budget, which is in addition to an existing £1.2 million shortfall that needed to be tackled.

Molesey's Cllr Steve Bax, who is transport spokesman for the Tory group at Elmbridge, said: "It seems inevitable that the administration will have to draw down the council's reserves further to plug the gap. As any householder knows, using your savings to pay the bills is not sustainable in the longer term."

Steve raised concerns about the new policy of linking ticket prices



to occupancy levels, which means the cost automatically rises when a Borough car park is 80% full.

This could lead to confusion, or residents receiving fines if they buy a ticket and the price changes.

Electric car users will be given free parking to encourage their use. However, in a pilot scheme in Cob-

ham, they'll also get free electric charging too. Steve pointed out the high cost of electric vehicles (with some retailing at well over £60k) and said the policy would result in council taxpayers who currently can't afford an electric vehicle, subsidising the better off who can.

At the same meeting, RA/Lib Dem Councillors refused to back a Conservative motion to honour the result of the Council's Local Plan consultation where 85% of residents said they did not want new housing to be built on Green Belt.

The Coalition argued our motion would 'unlawfully predetermine' the Council's position, despite a senior legal officer confirming this would not be the case. They introduced their own watered-down motion, which was carried.

Conservative Leader, Cllr James Browne said: "The message is clear. The present administration are not serious about fiscal responsibility or about protecting our Green Belt."

### Council should help 'regulate' Heathrow

**LOCAL MP Dominic Raab** is calling for overflow communities like Molesey to have a voice on the regulating body which will hold Heathrow to account for air and noise pollution.

This body, the Independent Scrutiny Panel (ISP), will have the power to require Heathrow to modify its behaviour if it breaches its noise, air quality and traffic limits.

It gives "teeth to the compliance arrangements", in

the event of Heathrow expansion, Dominic told *The Molesey News*.

He added: "Residents should have the reassurance of knowing that their local authority has a direct role in the monitoring and enforcement of Heathrow's environmental limits".

Following his representations, Elmbridge Council has formally applied for a role on the ISP.

Residents can raise concerns about current noise with County Cllr Peter Szanto, who attends Heathrow Community Noise Forum. (*MoleseyPete@gmail.com*).





## MEZZET

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## The View from County Hall



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

**LAST year was certainly a time of political upheaval nationally, and - whatever your view of the General Election - we hope a period of greater stability will follow.**

Surrey County Council has steadfastly continued to deliver for residents. The Conservative administration under Tim Oliver has delivered a large part of our transformation programme.

We are on track to becoming a forward looking, innovative and financially stable organisation. Around half a million pounds every working day has been saved through greater efficiency and financial management, over the last two years.

Our greatest area of day-to-day spending by far continues to be supporting our most vulnerable residents – the elderly, those with special educational needs or disabilities, and children in care. We spend over £1m every single day on Adult Social Care and around half a million pounds every day on children.

These are services that many Surrey residents may never have any direct experience of, and whilst it is our statutory responsibility it is also our moral and civic duty to support those people with greatest need.

We are looking to invest hundreds of millions of pounds in projects that will deliver real benefits for residents but also deliver year-on-year efficiencies and long term resilience.

That includes an extra £92 million on improving our 3,000 miles of roads and pavements. £84 million on projects to tackle the Climate Emergency, including a Solar Farm, Ultra Low Emission vehicles and electrification of transport services including buses.

£270m to protect over 30,000 homes and businesses from flooding, £100m to regenerate high streets and £31m to provide 883 additional places for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, including a new SEND school.

We're spending £70m to provide additional school places and improve school facilities, and £7m in the first phase of a programme to deliver 725 specially adapted homes for elderly residents, to increase independence and hopefully reduce hospital admittance.

This, alongside already identified capital investment, takes the total capital spend over the next five years to £1.4bn, and signals our absolute intent to deliver a better Surrey for residents.

I really do believe we are making good progress in delivering the transformation needed to ensure that our children are safe, the elderly and vulnerable are supported, that residents feel a part of a this fantastic county.

# Putting police back on our streets

**CHARLIE Chirico is our Conservative candidate to be Surrey's next Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).**

She is an experienced criminal lawyer who has managed teams of solicitors, including at Kingston Crown Court.

Her top priority, if elected in May, will be to secure Surrey's share of the 20,000 extra police that Boris Johnson has promised.

Charlie said: "People tell me on the doorsteps that they rarely see a police officer. That 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."

The PCC role is similar to a local Home Secretary. They set the police budget and strategic direction for Surrey Police - and they hold the Chief Constable to account on behalf of residents.

Charlie is originally from Melton



Mowbray, "a market town with a strong community feel". She speaks two foreign languages and has previously worked for the Red Cross, as well as served as an elected councillor in Merton Borough.

In her legal role she has visited defendants in prison, providing her with a good insight into the impact of drugs and poor mental health as triggers for criminal behaviour.

If elected, she will also ensure that more police are on duty on

Saturday nights and that burglary victims get a same day visit.

She is keen to focus resources on tackling drugs gangs who operate cross borders and target vulnerable young people. And she will hold regular surgeries to find out people's concerns. "I want to be visible and accountable to Surrey's 1.2 million residents," she said.

Follow Charlie's campaign at [www.charliechirico.org.uk](http://www.charliechirico.org.uk)

## Looking forward to meeting you

**ELECTIONS to Elmbridge Borough Council will take place on 7 May and candidates are getting ready to make their pitches.**

In Molesey East ward, Xingang Wang, who came a strong second last year, is hoping to go one better this time. He is a former transport planner and bank director, who is married with three children, and volunteers as a magistrate.

He said: "Last year was tough for the Conservatives due to the government's difficulties on Brexit.

"I am confident the campaign this May will be much more focused on Molesey issues, as it should be. I'm looking forward to meeting residents and discussing how I can be of help."

Agnes Fuchs will be representing the Conservatives in West



Molesey, where she lives with her husband and two children. She is originally from Budapest and has been working in a children's nursery in Hampton since moving to the UK.

She said: "I love living in West Molesey. For me it is calm and green, with welcoming people. I

want to improve local amenities for young people and widen the appeal of the Molesey Centre."

Molesey councillor Steve Bax said: "We've got two great candidates this year, and I can't wait to work with them if they are elected. Both are smart, hard working and eager to serve."



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## Make 2020 the Year of Decision

**H**ow are those New Year resolutions going? If one of them was 'I'm going to sort out my Will' then what are you waiting for?

Our team of Wills specialists is just around the corner and ready to put your mind at ease.

We'll admit that making a Will is not exactly a barrel of laughs, but we can't emphasise strongly enough how vital it is for the sake of your family, especially if your circumstances have changed in recent times.

KWW's highly experienced solicitors can guide you expertly through the process to ensure your wishes are captured accurately and without fear of compromise.

If you've taken the trouble to tackle your Will then you might also consider at the same time

arranging Lasting Powers of Attorney.

These legal documents are, in many ways, even more important than making a Will as they come into force while you are still alive.

LPA's cover vital concerns such as financial and property matters as well as your health and well-being in the event you lose mental capacity and have to rely on someone else – a friend or a relative – to care for you.

So let's make 2020 the Year of Decision on Wills and LPA's. And as a further incentive, we will donate £30 to a local charity or one of your choice for every one we complete (£40 if it's 'mirror' Wills). Just quote 'Molesey News article' when you speak to us.

Contact our Private Client team on 0208 979 1131 or via [www.kww.co.uk](http://www.kww.co.uk)



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## Slow progress on Molesey Hospital

THREE and a half years after Molesey Hospital was saved from possible closure, residents are still waiting for news of the much-anticipated rebuild.

Molesey's Cllr Steve Bax tackled Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) director, Colin Thompson, over the delays at the Council recently.

Mr Thompson said the CCG is continuing to scope an appropriate 'model of care' for the Molesey area before it can prepare its business case for funding the project.

This will be done in the first quarter of 2020, he said.

A new provision on the existing hospital site in West Molesey would almost certainly see the Molesey Clinic relocating there for its current home in Walton Road, and potentially also Molesey's two existing GP surgeries. We will keep you posted as news emerges.

The difficulty booking appointments at Glenlyn Medical Centre in Molesey was also raised. An error was discovered in the practice's phone system where some patients were kept on a loop.

This has been fixed and Glenlyn has employed the equivalent of two additional full-time GPs to support better continuity of patient care.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**ELMBRIDGE Council's Community Lottery launches on 28 February, raising cash for local schools, scouts and other non-profit organisations.**

The initiative, approved by the Borough's last Conservative Cabinet, will allow players to win a jackpot of up to £25,000 if they buy a £1 ticket from [www.elmbridgelottery.co.uk](http://www.elmbridgelottery.co.uk), with 60p from every sale going to good causes.

TRUE crimes writer Monica Weller is giving a talk at Molesey Library on Tuesday 25 February, 7pm, entitled 'Solving the Murder of Dr Helen Davidson'.

It is the story of how she unravelled the 50-year-old unsolved murder of a popular physician who met a grisly end in Buckinghamshire woodland.

Tickets are £5 on the door or in advance from the Library.

**RESIDENTS will be asked to comment on the third phase of Elmbridge Council's 'Local Plan'. Earlier stages centred on where and how to meet future housing needs.**

Now the Council is seeking feedback on policy objectives, such as reducing CO2 emissions, flooding mitigation and waste management. There are also questions on health and wellbeing and the local economy. Have your say at [elmbridge.gov.uk/localplan2020](http://elmbridge.gov.uk/localplan2020)

LOCAL children's author Adam Searle, who lives in Avern Road, has penned his fourth book, 'The Big And The Little Monster Go On A Picnic'. It's described as 'an amusing tale with a moral about the environment and the damage of litter'. Pick up a copy at Waterstones, Amazon and online from [adamdsearle-author.com](http://adamdsearle-author.com).

**MOLESEY Football Club together with Rushmon Homes and PA Housing has won planning permission to build 50 flats, a new clubhouse and a nursery on land around its ground in Walton Road.**

However, the same planning meeting refused an application from the Royal Cambridge Home to redevelop its site in East Molesey, after councillors decided the large building proposed would harm the character of the area.

ELMBRIDGE'S Future High Streets working group has heard from Mark Middleton, General Manager of The Heart in Walton about the impact of the internet.

19% of sales are now online, increasing to 35% by 2025, he said. Even restaurants are being affected as customers stay home to 'binge on boxsets'. Councillors heard that locating gyms, dentists and GP surgeries in centres could drive extra footfall.

**■ SURREY County Council is to plant 1.2 million trees by 2030 - one for every resident.**

Leader Cllr Tim Oliver helped plant the first batch in Surrey Hills Wood, Cranleigh in October, with other areas to get them in due course. These will purify air, filter water and provide a home for wildlife, as part of Surrey's 'greener future' plan.