



The Hersham News

Edited by John O'Reilly | www.esherwalton.com | Local issues, local action, local Conservatives

Fewer bumps in the road



SINCE the last edition of The Hersham News, several more of our local roads have now been fully resurfaced.

These include Queens Road from the Westcar Lane roundabout right through to the village green, Garrick Close, Kenwood Drive, The Herony, Clarence Road and Close, and Belgrave Close. And Southdown Road in the Longmore Estate will be restored later in October.

Hot off the press is that the Queens Road (from the Seven Hills roundabout past Haines Bridge in Weybridge) is currently being fully resurfaced. Since May 2017, that will be a total of 12 roads which have been brought back to new!

Hersham's County Councillor, John O'Reilly comments, "I'm pleased at the progress over the last two years. But more needs doing. Perhaps in 2020 the focus should be more on Hersham's pavements, many of which are in extremely poor condition? What do you think? Please let Mary, Ruth and me know your views".



It's now looking very positive. At its meeting on 2 October the Full Council voted overwhelmingly to agree the recommendations from the Reference Group (which consists of the three Hersham Councillors and key Elmbridge Cabinet Members), to accept the design/specification work commissioned by the former Conservative administration.

£650,000 has been made available for this project after Hersham residents made their views crystal clear: they want to reopen the Hall as soon as possible.

In addition to meeting health and safety standards the Hall will have some upgrading to include new toilets, carpets, tiling and decorating.

All Conservative Councillors and a majority of Residents Association councillors backed this decision rejecting a proposal from the Liberal Democrats to defer a decision. If all goes to plan, our Hall will indeed be reopening next Spring.

Speaking to *The Hersham News*, Cllrs Ruth Mitchell and Mary Sheldon said "We have been campaigning vigorously on behalf of Hersham residents to get our Hall



back in use for the community and we are delighted at the news that this should be happening early next year."

Now that the Hersham Village Hall will definitely be refurbished and opening again next year, we mustn't forget our wonderful Hersham Centre for the Community ('next door') which itself has recently been upgraded.

Speaking to *The Hersham News*

– as both Hersham Councillor and Mayor of Elmbridge, Councillor Mary Sheldon remarks, "Do you know that anyone can go into the Centre for coffee, a snack, meet friends for lunch etc – all in attractive surroundings and looking out onto the attractive village green?"



"For those with a little more time to spare there are monthly film shows, ipad training, art and craft classes, hairdressing, organised trips, exercise classes and a very friendly tea bar with a selection of cakes and sandwiches – there's a lot on offer there so do pop in and see for yourself!"

Mary adds, "And should you be thinking of volunteering, then look no further than here – there are many opportunities in Hersham, where your help would be really appreciated.

"An hour or two, either on a regular basis or from time to time, would be most welcomed and if you would like to know more, then just mention it to the staff there.

"I'll also add Hersham in Bloom as another opportunity - this is something I'm involved with and we are always looking for a spare pair of hands to help us every now and then!"

■ **There is now a defibrillator outside the Hersham Centre for the Community – fixed to the wall and accessible 24/7.**

Mary is Mayor of Elmbridge!

IN MAY, Mary Sheldon was re-elected to begin her fifth term as a Hersham Councillor with a majority of over 400 votes. And she has also been appointed as Mayor of Elmbridge.

She tells *The Hersham News* "I would like thank all those who supported me at the election and assure everyone that I will do my very best to serve all Hersham residents and to represent their views.

"I was immensely honoured to also be elected as Mayor of Elmbridge, and during the summer months my husband John, my Consort, and I have been to a large number of events meeting many of the Borough's residents and volunteers who help to make Elmbridge such a special place. Looking at the Mayor's programme, it is certainly going to be a busy year! "If there is any event that you



would like me to visit or support, then do email themayor@elmburgh.gov.uk or call 01372 474383 to speak to Mrs Derrin Gill, the Mayor's Secretary.

"It is customary for the Mayor to sponsor one or more charities dur-

ing their year of office, and mine is Elmbridge Mencap.

"Being Mayor doesn't mean I pay less attention to requests for help from residents but very occasionally it may take an extra day or so for me to respond."

Action to address plastic footprint

MORE people are now taking action to reduce their plastic footprint.

Elmbridge Borough Council held a Single Use Plastic Town Centre Forum in July, and since then here in Hersham two residents, Lara Hughes and Olivia Palmer, have started a group to address this issue, with a view to joining up all of the local small groups and individuals who work independently on environmental projects.

It is a non-political group, and Councillor Mary Sheldon went to the first well-attended meeting in September. Mary's contribution will be to continue to sign up as many local businesses as possible to the 'Refill' scheme to keep people hydrated, and to prevent plastic pollution.

If you see the Refill sticker on the windows of Hersham's shops you can have your water carrier refilled with fresh water. Find out more at www.elmbridge.gov.uk/news/single-use-plastics-forum/

New loos open at Hersham Rec

SINCE the summer Hersham Recreation Ground has splendid new loos which are free to use while the park is open and are ideal for the many residents who visit for a walk or kids using the splash pool.

They are a wooden chalet style and have proved popular. Cllr Ruth Mitchell tells *The Hersham News*, "I am pleased that our strong representations for these toilets have been successful, particularly



following the removal of the facility by the Barley Mow roundabout".

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Never forget, your Hersham Conservative Team of Ruth, Mary and John is always here for you.
Please contact us if you have any problems or concerns relating to Hersham, particularly
regarding Elmbridge Borough and Surrey County Councils - we'll do our best to help.
And don't forget to take our Residents Survey when it arrives.



CONTACT US: John O'Reilly, 01932 253090; Mary Sheldon, 01372 467812; Ruth Mitchell, 01932 220557
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COMMUNITY NEWS



RESIDENTS have asked why the bus shelter has been removed from outside the Hersham Centre facing the Green.

The answer is that last month it was struck by a vehicle, became unsafe and had to be removed.

We've urged the bus company to put a new shelter there quickly as it's very well used, particularly by residents from Whiteley Village.

The good news is that it will be replaced but unfortunately not until the spring.

In the meantime, as winter draws near, many thanks to Costa and the Emperor Restaurant who have confirmed that they're happy for passengers waiting for a bus to use their seats and cover until the new shelter arrives.

WILL you be in it to win it?
Elmbridge Council will soon be launching a regular lottery to benefit our local charities who will receive all the profits after the prize money. This funding will be in addition to that they already receive from the Council. The legal requirements are being addressed but not long to wait. We will keep you informed.

YOUR Conservative councillors recognised that many of our High Streets and Village Centres are going through tough times. We argued for a Councillor led Working Group to be created to work with local Business Groups and other Stakeholders.

The Group will investigate the issues and provide help and support where possible. The proposal was approved at Full Council and the inaugural meeting held last week. We shall keep you updated.

Conservatives backing Green Belt

Elmbridge Council is consulting residents on five options designed to meet the housing needs of the Borough for the next 15 years.

Its Local Plan consultation ran from August to September and will help determine how, and where, up to 623 mainly one and two-bedroom homes per year, or 9,345 over the plan period, will be built across our area.

Your Elmbridge Conservative Councillors strongly back option 4, which would deliver about 5,300 new homes in existing built areas while pushing back on government quotas. Crucially it includes NO BUILDING ON THE GREEN BELT whatsoever.

This is the option we instructed officers to come up with during the year to May 2019 that we formed the council administration. Our

message to residents is simple: if you want to protect the Elmbridge Green Belt from development, vote for a party who has been consistent in defending our Green Belt. That party is the Conservatives.

The previous consultation, in the winter of 2016/17, generated tens of thousands of responses from local residents, the overwhelming majority of whom were horrified that the Council's preferred option, selected by the Residents Association and Liberal Democrat administration, would result in three major pieces of Green Belt land being removed from green belt designation and thus made vulnerable to applications for development.

When the Conservatives took control of Elmbridge in May 2018, we instructed the officers to pause the local plan preparation and to work

up a further option, which did not involve any Green Belt release and did not result in unacceptable intensification of the existing urban area. The Conservative Group believes that Option 4 best meets the concerns expressed by residents during the last consultation.

Cllrs Mary Sheldon and Ruth Mitchell, told *The Hersham News*, "There has been a very good response to the consultation and we do hope many Hersham residents took part to give their views.

"During the next three months your councillors will work with officers to consider all the options and we will ensure that Hersham is properly represented. By mid-2020 a more detailed draft plan should be available for us all to consider."

Out and about

RESIDENTS have been bombarding us councillors – quite rightly – about the flouting of the no entry from Molesey Road to Pleasant Place by the Centre.

The reason is that the signage is hopelessly inadequate. Ruth, Mary and John have been working on this for some time and proper No Entry sign will be installed. But it takes sooooo long for things to get done. We truly share your frustration!!

The five new Vehicle Activated Signs in Burwood Road seem to be having a positive effect in slowing down traffic and improving safety. Following a request from a local resident, the Belisha beacon on the zebra crossing in Burwood Road will be upgraded to the flashing variety (as used on the Hersham Road by Three Rivers Academy).

Finally – at long last – all the double yellow lines and other changes from the 2017 Parking Review have now been implemented!



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. We are being held back by Labour and the Liberal Democrats – who are trying to block Brexit from happening at all.

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, which will ease pressure on all local schools. 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 GP practices and local Commissioning Groups to expand GP opening hours, increase services provided at community hospitals and surgeries, and improve mental health services for young people.

The government has committed to an extra 20,000 police officers over 3 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 local 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 Liberal Democrats – for large developments on our precious Green Belt.

Finally, with plans for a third runway at Heathrow and proposed changes to flight paths, I am pressing Heathrow and the Civil Aviation Authority to nail down guarantees to prevent an increase in flights locally, and legally binding and enforceable checks on levels of noise and air quality.

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A thriving future for our Library

OUR Hersham Library is right at the centre of our community for young and old (and in-between!). And it's much more than simply a library; it's a veritable hub of activities and projects with a dedicated team of staff and friends.

And after intense behind-the-scenes lobbying by Hersham's County Councillor, John O'Reilly with wholehearted support from the three Borough Councillors, the possible threat of closure under the current review, has been averted. This is excellent



news. However, the challenge for all of us is to secure our Library's long-term future. That means reversing the unfortunate decline – for many reasons - in recent years of the number of users and books borrowed.

John, Mary and Ruth told *The Hersham News* "As a first step, let's increase the membership by joining our Library. It's so easy. Then become a regular even if you actually reserve on-line".