

In Touch



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Autumn 2013

Better public toilets for Cobham

Elmbridge prides itself on the standard of its facilities, but over the past few years there has been a decline in the standard of the toilets within the Borough.

In Cobham, there is a traditional brick built facility which, despite being cleaned twice a day, is of a very poor standard, and an automatic toilet unit which is unpopular with residents. (In addition, Costa Coffee has signed up to the Community toilet scheme which entitles anyone to use their facilities without making any purchase.)



Councillor Jan Fuller, ward Councillor for Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon and Cabinet Member for Leisure and

Cultural services told In Touch, 'I am delighted to announce that, at the last full Council Meeting in July, it was agreed that over the next year £50,000 will be spent modernising our brick-built toilets. In the case of Cobham, this will mean a full refurbishment, including work to make them accessible to the disabled (DDA compliant).

A decision will be made about the automatic facilities in the Borough when the contract expires in 2018.'

Big Read at Painshill Park



Recently elected Surrey County Councillor for Cobham, Mary Lewis was delighted to attend the Big Read event organised by Surrey's Early Years and Childcare Service last month. The event brought together 800 children aged under-five, along with their parents and carers, for a trail of literacy-themed activities and story readings in the idyllic setting of Painshill's landscape gardens. A group from the Cobham Children's Centre attended the event.

'As Surrey County Council's recently appointed representative on Painshill Trust, a member of the Children and Education Select Committee and an enthusiastic exponent of parents reading to their young children, it was a pleasure for me to see one of Cobham's most beautiful open spaces being used to promote reading. As a former teacher, I know the value of strong literacy and speaking skills for helping children achieve their potential at school. Surrey's EYC officers are helping parents and carers to give children the best possible start.' Find out more at www.surreycc.gov.uk/thebigread



County Councillor Mary Lewis with 'Big Read' friend.

Cobham Councillor is Mayor of Elmbridge

Cobham's long-standing Borough Councillor Mike Bennison has been elected Mayor of Elmbridge for 2013/14.

The Mayor chairs borough council meetings and represents the council and community at formal and ceremonial occasions. Mike has selected Riding for the Disabled (RDA) as his nominated



Councillor Dorothy Mitchell and County Councillor Mary Lewis support the Mayor of Elmbridge at Cobham Heritage Day

charity for the year. RDA provides people with disabilities the chance to ride, as a form of therapy. Donations can be made by cheque, payable to 'The Mayor's Charity Fund' and sent to Mayor's Charity, Civic Centre, High Street, Esher, KT10 9SD.



Superfast Broadband in Downside

Members of the Downside and Hatchford Community Group were reassured when County Councillor Mary Lewis arranged for them to meet Superfast Surrey and BT Openreach staff in the village recently.

A date of June 2014 has been given for Superfast Broadband to arrive in Downside.



500 new apprenticeships in Surrey

Have you thought of having an apprentice in your company? If so, there is practical and financial help available from Conservative-led Surrey County Council. The Council is committed to funding 500 new apprenticeships in 2013/14. For more details, contact County Councillor Mary Lewis (Mary.Lewis@surreycc.gov.uk) who will put you in touch with the Youth Employment Commissioning team.

Winter preparations

Surrey County Councillor Mary Lewis has agreed to fund new grit bins in Lockhart Road and Lodge Close from her Member's Allocation. Brown's Corner has been added to the winter salting schedule, to improve safety and access in icy conditions.

Surrey's Highways Schemes for the Cobham area this year

Surrey County Council's new five year approach to improving the county's roads has been used as an example of excellent work by the Cabinet Office.

The government department has singled out Surrey's programme to overhaul 310 miles of roads in order to tackle the root causes of potholes as an example of how to 'strip out inefficiencies' and deliver value for money for local taxpayers.

Project Horizon: Roads to be completely resurfaced and benefit from a 10 year warranty from the contractor:
 *Stoke Road (mill area) - completed
 * Painshill roundabout - scheduled for January 2014

Roads that have been surface dressed this year: * Woodlands Lane * Ockham Lane * Coveham Crescent.

Public Memorials Appeal - Proposed Statue of Baroness Thatcher

As the UK's first woman Prime Minister and the longest serving PM of the 20th century, many people believe that Baroness Thatcher's contribution to our country deserves to be recognised by a statue in Parliament Square. There are ten statues of distinguished parliamentarians on full public view in the square, not one of them a woman. The Public Memorials Appeal is a registered charity whose website is www.ThePublicMemorialsAppeal.org

If you wish to donate to the statue fund, please send your cheque payable to The Public Memorial Appeal to Office 275, 95 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1BZ with a covering note stating that it is for Baroness Thatcher's statue.

SCC crowned 'local authority of the year'

Conservative-led Surrey County Council has been praised for its public service reviews which have unearthed savings of £279m by 2016.

News from your local Conservatives in Cobham, Stoke D'Abernon & Downside

Raising the roof at Cobham Garden Club

Cobham Garden Club has been running for over 40 years, based at the 38-plot allotment site in Old Nurseries Lane. In addition to overseeing the allotments, the club encourages all Cobham gardeners by running a small volunteer-led shop, selling garden products at reduced prices on Saturdays from 2pm to 4pm. Membership costs only £2 per year, and the benefits are both social and financial. Contact George Gunn for more details: 07850 474030.

This year the club will benefit from an overhaul to the roof of its shop building thanks to funding from the SCC Member's Allocation of local County Councillor Mary Lewis who visited the allotments recently. 'It is encouraging to hear that the club is working with local schools to encourage children to grow food and to love gardening,' she commented, 'and I am happy to support them.'



News in Brief

High Street Clean-Up

Surrey CC Officers have done an excellent job in making Cobham High Street safer, more accessible and more attractive by encouraging traders to comply with regulations on the siting of Advertisement boards. Boards were also removed from common land and verges. This work was done in response to requests by residents, supported by local Conservative Councillors, the Cobham and Downside Residents' Association and Downside Community Group.

Local Radio features Council News

In August 2013, Brooklands Radio launched a new programme: Your Elmbridge Matters. The programme is broadcast on the first Wednesday of every month at 1.00pm. Each month will feature a different member of the Cabinet from Elmbridge Borough Council talking about aspects of their Portfolio.

Drains or Gullies...

Whatever you call them, blockages in drainage systems on roads and pavements have frustrated many local residents this year. Surrey CC's new contractor, F.M. Conway, aims to clean and log the just under 18,000 gullies in Elmbridge before next summer. It would be helpful if car owners did not park over a gully as good practice, to enable this big clean-up to happen.

Planning headaches?

Councillor Elise Dunweber (Elmbridge Borough Councillor for Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon Ward) is on the East Area Planning Committee. 'Our priority is to reassure our residents that we will make the correct decision for them and for the borough as a whole. I will always make time to see through any planning issue no matter how small. Please contact me at edunweber@elmbridge.gov.uk.'

Mayor Boris sings the praises of Cobham!

London Mayor, Boris Johnson, rode through Cobham as one of 20,000 amateur cyclists taking part in the Ride London-Surrey cycling event this summer. On the television news, and in his column in the Daily Telegraph, Mr Johnson praised the people of the town for their friendly welcome and the help they gave him when he had a puncture. It was delightful hearing him tell the country what a great place Cobham is and recommending people to visit us!



Surrey County Councillor Mary Lewis watches the race in Stoke D'Abernon

A spokesman for the race organisers reassured local residents: 'Planning for all of the events across the Prudential RideLondon weekend involved close consultation with the emergency services across London and Surrey. Emergency vehicles were placed in the most appropriate locations across London and Surrey to allow any situation to be dealt with quickly and safely. In the case of an emergency response, vehicular access for an ambulance was facilitated at all times.'

County Councillor for Cobham Mary Lewis hopes that Cobham will be part of the race route next year. 'I have recently met representatives of the Cobham Chamber of Commerce to ensure that the town benefits to the full from the race, if we are part of the route next year. Through their Chairman, Alistair Mann, Councillor Jan Fuller and I have put Chamber of Commerce members in touch with the Elmbridge Borough Council Officer responsible for consultation on next year's event. I am aware that some businesses were adversely affected by the race this year, but more consultation and planning ahead will mean that all local businesses feel the benefit.'

Plan ahead: the date for next year's race is Sunday 10 August 2014

Yu Go further for less!



A new concessionary bus ticket for 16-19 year olds has proved so popular that it is being extended. The single, return or weekly tickets are half the adult price. Even better, the weekly ticket is available in a mobile format for use on a mobile 'phone. See www.abellio.co.uk/under-20-fare for more details.

In addition, a Family Explorer ticket costing £10 allows unlimited travel for 2 adults and 2 children on all Abellio Surrey services (and certain other bus operators). Over 60s are entitled to a Concessionary Pass and can travel free after 9.30am Monday to Friday, and all day on Saturday and Sunday. Disabled Pass holders travel free at any time.

So what is stopping more of us using the buses that visit Cobham High Street?

Cobham's 515 is an hourly bus service to Guildford and Kingston, seven days a week. It can be picked up opposite Waitrose. Volunteers of all ages have been trying out this service,

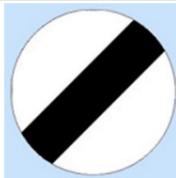
as well as the weekday 513 shoppers' service from Downside and Cobham to Kingston and the 408 service from Cobham to Epsom via Leatherhead. Their feedback will help Transition Town Cobham to raise awareness of the buses that serve the High Street and to encourage greater use of public transport.

County Councillor Mary Lewis has been working with Transition Town Cobham: 'Surrey County Council subsidises all three routes and we need to use them more if we are to keep our services. Volunteer bus travellers have reported how much they have enjoyed getting on the buses again - so why not give it a try this autumn?'

Timetables are available from Cobham Library or visit: www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/buses-and-trains/bus-timetables



Fairmile Park Road Speed



Elmbridge Local Committee, comprising Surrey and Elmbridge councillors, recently voted for a change to the speed limit in a dangerous section of Fairmile Park Road, Cobham.

When local resident Ian Bullough realised that, unlike surrounding roads marked 30 mph, Fairmile Park Road still had National Speed Limit (up to 60 mph) signs, harking back to its origins as a country lane, he and his neighbours were horrified. Many pedestrians use the road, which has a lot of bends and no path, to access Oxshott Heath and Reed's School. County Councillor Mary Lewis agreed at the meeting to fund the change through her Member's Allocation for next year. Mr Bullough commented: 'Mary took the time to visit me at my home, see the road in question and offer excellent, knowledgeable advice on how to go about seeking the change.'

The Local Committee decision now goes to the SCC Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment for ratification.

YOUR CONSERVATIVE TEAM

Your Elmbridge Councillors for Cobham & Downside and Cobham Fairmile



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Your Surrey County Councillor for Cobham



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If you would like to be involved in the social or political aspects of Esher and Walton Conservative Association, delivering leaflets, attending events or campaigning in elections, please contact the association office: 020 8546 2934