

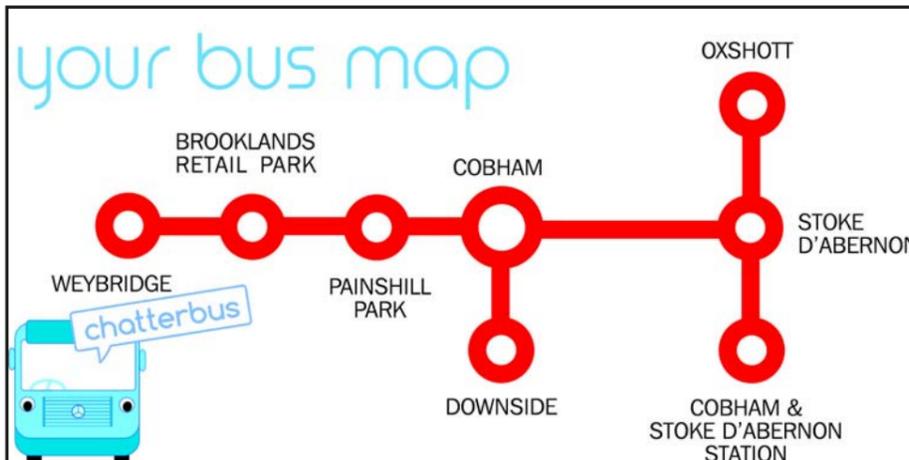


A NEW Bus Service for Cobham

All aboard the Chatterbus, connecting Cobham with Brooklands Retail Park and Weybridge!

Your Surrey and Elmbridge councillors have been pleased to support a local initiative to improve public transport in and around Cobham. The new 'Chatterbus' is planned to start in April 2015, connecting Cobham residents to shopping outlets at Brooklands Retail Park and facilities such as the local Job-centre in Weybridge. There are opportunities at Brooklands for onward travel to Woking and Staines.

The Chatterbus will also provide opportunities for children to travel by bus to local primary schools and will mean additional, well-timed buses linking town and station for key commuter services, alongside the existing routes.



The bus, which will be a small/medium size 16-20 seater, will operate six days per week. The standard fare will be £2 per journey but bus passes will be accepted. It will be operated by a

reputable bus company with a licenced driver. A Community Interest Company has been set up to oversee the bus, focusing on quality and reliability. Surrey and Elmbridge councillors from the Cobham area will be on its board.

Cobham's Elmbridge Borough Councillors were strongly supportive of the bus, awarding £20,000 of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) to the project. Surrey County Council has matched this funding after your Surrey County Councillor brought County Officers to Cobham to hear first-hand accounts from local residents about the difficulties they face with the current services.

This is a community initiative which is also being generously supported by Chelsea Football Club and Cargill PLC. The future of the service will rely on local people promoting and using it. If you have any comments or suggestions about the proposed new service, please let the Cobham Community Bus Group know on info@chatterbus.org.uk.

Thank you from Cllr Tim Grey

Perhaps I shouldn't have been surprised when I was elected in May that I would have to hit the ground running. With the Transition Cobham bus programme, "the Chatterbus," planning applications left, right and centre, and crossover issues with my colleagues at Surrey County Council, it has been a full Summer and Autumn.

What has stood out for me more than anything, so far, has been the support and enthusiasm of my fellow Cobham Councillors, the dedication of those in our voluntary sector locally, and the real love and affection we all have for our community.

During the election period I was contacted by a lady living behind

the fire station off the Portsmouth Road. She had suffered in recent times with ill-health and found standing for long periods impossible. Her only way to Cobham centre was the bus, and the bus stop in front of the fire station had no shelter or bench. This made me cross. How is it right that someone should be prevented from catching a bus because they are unable to stand for long periods?

You may think that getting a bus shelter is an easy thing. Think again! After weeks of debate and continued



difficulties due to contractual issues between the bus shelter providers and various other agencies, it became abundantly clear that a shelter was at least 3 years away. Not good enough...I suggested a bench and was told that was a year away. Not good enough...

4 months later we have our bench!

Small though the victory may be, it's made a big difference to the life of at least one person in our community. That is what local politics is about, and people who want to make that positive difference is what makes Cobham a great place.

My satisfaction when I saw the bench for the first time is down to you. You have given me the chance to serve our community and improve people's lives. I thank you all for giving me the opportunity to represent you. It is an honour and a privilege.

Stoke Road 30 mph at last!

With the support of your Cobham Conservative councillors, the speed limit on Stoke Road is set to change from 40 mph to 30 mph.

**NEW 30 MPH
SPEED LIMIT
IN FORCE**

The Surrey County Council Local Committee for Elmbridge has agreed that the section of Stoke Road from the Chelsea training ground, right along to the Tilt, will have its speed limit reduced on a trial basis, joining up with the existing 30 mph speed limit at Leigh Hill Road. Stoke Road is crossed daily by commuters, school-children and other pedestrians who will benefit from reduced speeds, as will householders exiting their properties and side roads. It is up to local drivers to obey the new limit themselves to ensure that average speeds come down.

Cobham residents including the Stoke Road Speed Group, which initiated a petition in 2009, have campaigned for the change to be made, but it has taken a new Surrey County Council Speed Policy to make this possible. Stoke Road is the first road in the county where the new policy has been successfully applied and the speed limit reduced at the behest of residents. There is a provision in the policy for new average speed tests to be done after a year and, if these have increased, the road will revert to 40 mph.

Surrey County Councillor for Cobham Mary Lewis has worked with the Stoke Road Speed Group, bringing the Surrey Cabinet Member for Highways and the

Local Committee Chairman to the area, along with council officers, to see the situation for themselves and to keep up pressure for the change. 'I am delighted that everyone's efforts have paid off,' said Mary Lewis. 'I was grateful for the support of my local councillor colleagues to achieve this, especially Councillor Dorothy Mitchell of Cobham Downside Ward, who spoke in support at the recent SCC Local Committee meeting. This decision enables a 30 mph trial and it is up to residents to ensure that this new speed limit becomes permanent.'

Word of mouth reinforcement of the new speed limit among neighbours and friends is essential: if local residents are caught out by the new limit, it will quickly become unpopular. Road associations and neighbourhood groups are all asked to publicise 'Stoke Road 30 mph' and there will be new signage.

The Police have agreed to this speed limit change but are looking for local volunteers to help enforce it. If you are willing to help with a Community Speed Watch set up by the Police, please contact Stoke Road Speed Group on elbourne@lineone.net



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News from Cobham Conservatives

New affordable housing for Cobham

Paragon Community Housing Group (PCHG) is re-developing three sites in Cobham which previously housed garage blocks. The sites (on Gavell Road, Hamilton Avenue and Wyndham Avenue) will together provide a total of 11 new homes for affordable rent, comprising a mix of one, two and four-bedroom



dwelling. They will be let through SEARCH Moves, with priority given to applicants with a local connection to Elmbridge, and are expected to

be completed in late 2014 / early 2015. James Browne, Cobham Fairmile ward councillor and Cabinet member for Housing on Elmbridge Borough Council, said: "We desperately need more high quality affordable housing in Cobham so that our schoolteachers, police officers, fire fighters and other key staff can live in the areas which they serve. I'm delighted to see that this exciting new development is nearly ready for occupation."

New Village Sign Unveiled

Cllr Mike Bennison, Cllr Mary Lewis and our MP Dominic Raab were at the unveiling of the new Downside Village sign. The sign was masterminded by the Downside and Hatchford Community Group in collaboration with Cobham Conservation and Heritage Trust .



Local residents threatened by another mobile phone mast application.



An application by Vodafone has been received by Elmbridge Borough Council for permission to erect a 12.5 metre phone mast at the junction of Miles Lane and Ashcroft Park. This is the third such application which local residents have faced in the last 8 years and once again they are actively campaigning for permission to be refused. Cobham Fairmile councillor James Browne said: "Local residents tell me they are feeling persecuted by these mobile phone operators who persistently make applications to erect phone masts in this unsuitable location. I can see no material difference between this application and the two which preceded it and which were refused. I have now twice advised the phone companies to look at other sites on the local commons but it seems that they treat consultations with local councillors as a box-ticking exercise. I will be urging the planning sub-committee to refuse this application and am now looking to see if anything can be done to prevent a repeat application being entertained in the future."

Mike Bennison Hands over the Mayor's Ceremonial Robes

Mike has now successfully completed his term in office as the Worshipful Mayor of Elmbridge 2013/14. During his year Mike and the Lady Mayoress, Mary Bennison, attended hundreds of official engagements meeting many people. Just a few of the many highlights for Mike included placing a document in the time capsule at the opening of the Walton Bridge to be opened in 50 years time; presenting an Arctic Convoy Medal; and viewing the football that was kicked across no-man's land in World War I. Mike collected more



Mike accepting the cheque for his nominated charity

In Brief:

■ Cobham Village Hall has just received £19,000 from Surrey County Council's Community Improvement Fund for the replacement of the boiler and remedial acoustics works. This completes the work started with money given from the County Councillor's Member's Allocation for investigation into the problems with the acoustics. It is satisfying to see that the project can now be completed, which should lead to increased bookings for the Village Hall, an important Cobham asset.

■ Esher Citizens Advice Bureau has launched a new website to help people research advice on debt, welfare benefits, employment and housing issues www.eshercab.org.uk.

■ County Councillor Mary Lewis was pleased to join the celebrations with Superfast Surrey, a partnership between Surrey County Council (SCC) and BT to launch the 500th Superfast Surrey fibre broadband cabinet in the county located in Sandy Lane, Cobham. The SCC investment of £20 million in Superfast Surrey has ensured that, to date, an additional 75,500 premises outside the commercially viable area for fibre broadband deployment are now covered by the new technology. This includes several hundred homes and businesses on the Cobham area. Should you wish to upgrade your broadband, then you should contact your preferred Internet Service Provider (ISP) who will advise you what services are available as well as how to change or subscribe to a service .



Mary Lewis with David Cooke of FEDORA

than £25,500 for his nominated charity Riding for the Disabled Leatherhead, Horsley & Bookham Groups.

Mike is now able to take up his political role on the council again and is actively monitoring various contentious Planning issues in Cobham. These include the impact of the proposed development of 2,300 houses at the Wisley Airfield site and the conversion of the former White Lion coaching inn.

YOUR CONSERVATIVE TEAM

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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