

Intouch

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Winter 2015/16



Change Proposed to Cobham Borough Ward Boundaries

Last year, Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) voted to reduce the number of borough Councillors from 60 to 48. The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) accepted the recommendation. This required a review of ward boundaries to create 16 wards with three members each. The key criteria for creating revised wards were: Electoral Equality; Community Identity and Effective and Convenient Local Government. The new target will be for 6,000 electors per ward.



The (LGBCE) recently announced its proposals for new Elmbridge council ward boundaries. It recommends that Cobham & Downside Ward will now expand to include: properties north of the A3 the River Mole as the

northern boundary; properties on the west side of Fairmile Lane with the A3 as the far boundary. The outcome of the consultation is expected to be announced in January. The Fairmile area will be included in a Ward to also include Oxshott and Stoke d'Abernon.

On May 5th 2016, new councillors will be elected in each of the 48 new wards: an 'all out election'. Police and Crime Commissioner elections will also take place on May 5th 2016.

Local Cobham Action

Vegetation Cutback

We ask that residents are considerate and cut back vegetation from their gardens when it overhangs footpaths. It is a hindrance to the visually impaired, parents with buggies and disability scooters or wheelchairs. Private householders in residential areas own most hedges and trees alongside the public highway. It's their responsibility to ensure they do not overhang or creep onto the road. Problems caused range from obscuring junctions to inconveniencing pedestrians. Contact SCC at www.surreycc.gov.uk and search overhanging trees or hedges.

Street and Road Repair Signs

Remove 'Abandoned' road repair signs. We are pleased that the Transport Secretary is proposing that temporary road signs must have a 'remove date' written on them. This will allow residents to call companies to demand that the signs are removed after the deadline expires.

Cobham Challenged to recycle more food waste

Cobham residents are being urged to recycle their food waste by using the dedicated food bins provided by Elmbridge Borough Council. As a reminder, stickers are being placed on general waste bins to prevent people mistakenly placing food in them. In the last two months, teams from Keep Britain Tidy have delivered leaflets about food recycling and given out free rolls of compostable caddy liners. Let's hope Cobham can rise to the challenge which is being coordinated by the Surrey Waste Partnership.

Hollyhedge Car Park Recycling

Your councillors are constantly pushing to make absolutely sure that the bins at the top of Hollyhedge car park are more regularly cleared. Don't forget there is a bin there specifically for tetra packs or juice packs which cannot be disposed of in your household waste.



News update from James Browne

Grants for local groups awarded by Elmbridge Councillors

Your local councillors receive a pot of cash each year to award to local organisations for infrastructure improvements. This money is paid by developers as a condition of being granted planning permission and is to be used to improve our local area.



o'Mutton field and an eco toilet has been funded for the Randalls Road allotments. Access will be improved for elderly residents at the Cobham Health centre and Cobham Conservation and Heritage Trust have been awarded money to upgrade local footpaths and to provide a display cabinet for the Cedar Centre in our new library building. Councillors also agreed to provide funds towards the re-surfacing of Tilt Road. At the Village Hall, the Cobham Players have been helped to buy a new costume storage facility and the Hall itself has received a major contribution towards its refurbishment project.

This year we were able to award a total of £156,055 for projects in the Cobham area. This will allow St Andrews School to build new changing rooms for its swimming pool and open it to members of the public and to lay a new footpath improving safety for pupils. A water supply will be made available for the Cobham Community Garden on Leg

Councillor James Browne, Chairman of the Local Spending Board said: "It's a real pleasure to be able to help so many deserving local organisations, which have put in such well thought-out proposals. This is a genuine example of localism in action and I hope other local groups will come forward and bid for funds in the years to come".

News Update from Mike Bennison

PLASTIC BAGS STOP BINS BEING EMPTIED

Some residents have been concerned that their recycling blue top bin is not being emptied mostly because of non-recyclable items inside, particularly plastic bags. Veolia should put a bin hanger on the bin to explain why it has not been emptied. Issues: go to - www.elmbridge.gov.uk and search recycling and waste.



COMBATTING FLY-TIPPING

The EBC environmental enforcement team work with the police and other agencies to reduce fly-tipping. The most fly-tipped road in the borough is Woodstock Lane South in Claygate, but quite a lot takes place in Cobham, particularly in the Downside area, with 41 recorded fly-tipping incidents in 2014.

Waste carriers must register with the Environment Agency and provide proof of their licence when undertaking works. Entrusting waste to an illegal waste carrier can lead householders to unwittingly commit offences themselves. Elmbridge have successfully prosecuted a local man for illegal fly-tipping and a custodial sentence was handed down.

News update from Dorothy Mitchell and Tim Grey

Shop Local

Dorothy and Tim have made a very strong team when dealing with planning concerns by residents.



As portfolio holder for Transport Dorothy works to ensure that our car parks are maintained to a high standard and all have now been granted charter status. Cobham now has an electric parking station in order to help us become more environmentally friendly.

As portfolio holder she has agreed to free parking in our car parks on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th December and also on the 12th December. Hopefully this will encourage everyone to 'Shop local'.

Cobham's premier financial planning practice. Alistair Mann is a Chartered Financial Planner, Fellow of the Personal Finance Society, qualified investment adviser and registered pension specialist.

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News from Cobham Conservatives

News from your Surrey County Councillor Mary Lewis

2015 has been a busy year so far, two highlights of which have been the beginning of exciting new services for the people of Cobham. In both cases, I have been involved in the projects both as your County Councillor and as a co-Director with local residents of not for profit companies set up to run the services.



Mary Lewis with the High Sheriff of Surrey, Mrs Elizabeth Kennedy, and some of the volunteers at the official opening of the Welcome Desk at the Cobham Cedar Centre Community Hub.



(Right) Mary Lewis with Mike Bennison, Dorothy Mitchell and Sally Marks, Chairman of SCC, outside the new Cedar Centre.

The Cedar Centre is a new Surrey County Council building housing the state of the art new Cobham Library with extended opening hours, Cobham Sure Start Children's Centre, Oasis Children's Charity, a Welcome Desk area with coffee



facilities and a multi-purpose community room. The Cedar Centre opened in May and the library has already seen a 40% increase in footfall, whilst registrations at the Children's Centre have also increased. If you haven't visited yet, it's well worth calling in for a coffee and to take out some library books or to use the computer. Did you know that you can borrow e books through Surrey Libraries too? The volunteers are doing such a wonderful job welcoming people to the Cedar Centre that I recently hosted a thank you and celebration party for them, at which the High Sheriff of Surrey was guest of honour.

Another new venture is the launch of the Chatterbus service, linking Cobham town centre with the station and providing a much needed East-West bus link from Oxshott, Stoke d'Abernon and Cobham to Weybridge and Brooklands Retail Park six days a week, and to Fetcham and Leatherhead on Saturdays. Once again, residents have worked tremendously hard in a voluntary capacity, both to initiate the service and to market and modify it in response to customer demand. The Chatterbus now calls at Cobham Sainsbury's, both as a destination and as a useful point to join the bus via the footpath from Molesworth Road. For full details go to the website www.chatterbus.org.uk.



Some of my roles on the County Council include: Cabinet Associate in the area of Children, Schools and Families; running a Members' Reference Group on innovation in the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and being part of the Communities Select Committee which scrutinised the preparation for nationally important Magna Carta 800 celebrations at Runnymede in June. Surrey County Council commissioned a new artwork in the landscape by Hew Locke, 'The Jurors', which makes a walk on the lovely Runnymede meadows even more worthwhile.



Mary Lewis with the Chief Fire Officer Russell Pearson of Surrey Fire and Rescue Service

Cobham has benefitted from extensive road resurfacing recently under Surrey County Council's county-wide Project Horizon and local programmes: from Painshill roundabout, along Between Streets to the High Street and Riverhill, all is looking smart and pothole free, whilst many residential roads have also benefitted. Work remains to be done, but this impressive investment was promised at the 2013 County Council elections and much has been delivered, in spite of budgetary pressures.

David Munro for Surrey Police Commissioner

Surrey Conservatives have chosen experienced Councillor David Munro as their candidate for next year's Police and Crime Commissioner election. David is a long standing Surrey resident and local councillor. He is heavily involved in local and county



affairs as a school governor, member of youth support groups and national charities and has recently concluded a two year spell as Chairman of Surrey County Council.

David said: 'Over the next few months I will be out and about meeting residents and I'd love to hear from you what you think we should do to make our police force the best it can be.'

david4surrey@gmail.com



Mike with Cllr Christine Elmer

Men in Sheds

Mike Bennison attended Thames Ditton day centre for some special events which included the opening of a man shed. Men in Sheds is a new initiative from Elbridge Council for over 50s who want to learn new skills or pass them on. It is run from the Thames Ditton Centre 1-3 times a week and tools are provided. Call 01372 47452 or email commservices@elmbridge.gov.uk to get involved.

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