

In Touch: Hersham



News from your local Hersham Conservatives

Autumn 2013

POLICE MEETING
The next Neighbourhood Panel Meeting, at which the policing priorities for Hersham will be decided, will take place as usual at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 13th November 2013 at St Peters Church Hall, Burwood Road.

Local issues, local action, local Conservatives | Visit our website: www.esherwalton.com

Say 'no way' to Weylands!

Campaigners say local roads are inadequate for waste lorry traffic

THE proposal to locate an anaerobic digestion centre on the former sewage farm site next to Hersham railway station has generated much concern and alarm from local residents in both Hersham and Walton.

And with very good reason with safety and traffic considerations uppermost as sources of great anxiety.

It comes from Surrey County Council, but Elmbridge Council is an important consultee. The scheme was debated by members of the North Area Planning Sub-Committee on 9 September, at which Hersham Cllr Mary Sheldon spoke strongly against the idea, pointing out that of the many sites under consideration by SCC, this is the only one within a residential area.



Speaking after the meeting, Mary commented "All five Hersham Conservative Borough Councillors are profoundly worried that this proposal, while ecologically sound, will require the import of material for processing and export of proc-



essed product by road, requiring hundreds of lorries passing through minor roads in the surrounding built up areas of Hersham and Walton and other parts of the Borough. It's the impact on highway safety and disruption to local residents that is unacceptable".

Along with Conservative Walton Councillors, Mary's objections were shared unanimously by

the 10 members of the Sub-Committee and this has been communicated to Surrey County Council. Their decision on the proposal will probably take place at their Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday 11th December at County Hall, Kingston (but date not confirmed). If you are able, we would encourage you to attend to show the strength of feeling of many local residents.

It's official - Your money is well used

HERSHAM South councillor Ruth Mitchell chairs the council's Audit and Standards Committee, and earlier this month reported that once again the independent audit of the council's accounts was an unqualified success, both in accuracy and value for money.

Ruth told In Touch: "We run a very tight ship in Elmbridge and the professionalism of our Finance team is second to none. Our residents demand nothing less and we have delivered. Compare that to the EU whose accounts haven't been signed off for 18 years!"

Hersham policing

Hersham's PCSO, Ian Lowe has moved to Weybridge and their gain is our loss.

Ian has done a fantastic job since joining in 2010, and together with PC Neil Bourn, he has exercised a real police presence on our streets, just like the old days.

With an outpost in Whiteley Village, the officers quickly became known to all and respond to concerns through friendly contacts and panel meetings.

Hersham's new PC is Louise Robertson, who many will remember as a reporter for the Elmbridge Guardian local newspaper. Louise decided on a change of career, completed police training, and is looking forward to renewing her acquaintance with Hersham.

Old House will be homes

WORK is continuing apace for the new housing development on the site of the Old House at Home pub by Hersham station.

Many residents were disappointed with the Appeal Inspector's decision to permit, after two previous applications had been refused by the local area planning committee.



The first phase of the scheme (which in total comprises 33 units, together with six 3 bedroom houses) is scheduled for occupation in March 2014.

Cllr Mary Sheldon's proposal that Greenwood Place be the development's address has been accepted. The name is intended as a tribute to the late George Greenwood, who was a much respected and admired County and Borough councillor for Hersham, and a local historian well known for his book Hersham in Surrey.

To acquaint the new occupants with this background, a copy of the book will be made available to each residential unit.

Something brewing in Hersham



NOT long now to wait for that hot mug of something tasty! You will be pleased to learn that COSTA's COFFEE will very shortly be opening in Hersham

- probably before Christmas - following some minor refurbishments to the shop facing the Green (formerly Hersham Hardware).

Tough times in '14

Elmbridge Council has to find almost £1 million in savings for next year - making a total of £8 million since 2006, plus the loss of 40% of central government grant. But Hersham South councillor and council leader John O'Reilly is cautiously confident that there will be no impact on the provision of services or financial support to the Borough's flourishing community and voluntary groups.

John said: "In Hersham and across the Borough, the message loud and clear is that our residents want us to preserve our almost unique range of public services and that by continuing to press down on costs, maximizing efficiencies, and creating additional sources of income, we hope to be able to meet that ambition again for 2014/15."

Doing the business

Anyone setting up a business or already running one can get ahead at Enterprise Elmbridge. There will be information stands, networking opportunities and a 'Question Time' where the audience can quiz an expert panel about the UK economy. The event is at Velocity, Brooklands Drive, Weybridge KT13 0SL on Thursday 21 November, 5pm-9pm. Register online at <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/8563931951/eivtefrnd>.

GORGEOUS

ACADEMY
HAIR & BEAUTY

Hersham 01932 252464
Cobham 01932 864929
Claygate 01372 462724

Quote: ITH10 when booking for **£10 off** hair services*

www.academysalons.com

*Terms apply. See website.

A Hersham welcome

Have you noticed the new Hersham signage at the 5 "gateways" to the village? A number of the borough boundary welcome signs were updated as part of the celebrations for the 2012 Olympics and those for Hersham were included. What is so pleasing is that any secondary signs e.g. advertising Hersham in Bloom under the main one can be changed from time to time.





Elmbridge Councillors for Hersham North

Elmbridge Councillors for Hersham South

Conservatives
Caring for Hersham

Cllr Ian Donaldson

Elmbridge Borough Council
Civic Centre, High Street,
Esher, Surrey,
KT10 9SD

Tel: 07981 827941

Email: iandonaldson@elmbridge.gov.uk

Cllr Mary Sheldon

69 Esher Road
Hersham, Surrey
KT12 4LW

Tel: 01372 467812

Email: msheldon@elmbridge.gov.uk

County Cllr Margaret Hicks

73 Westcar Lane
Hersham,
KT12 5ES

Tel: 01932 248864

Email: margaret.hicks@surreycc.gov.uk

Cllr Ruth Mitchell

72 Onslow Road
Hersham
KT12 5AY

Tel: 01932 220557

Email: rmitchell@elmbridge.gov.uk

Cllr John O'Reilly

28 Garrick Close
Hersham, Surrey
KT12 5PA

Tel: 01932 253090

Email: joreilly@elmbridge.gov.uk

Cllr John Sheldon

69 Esher Road
Hersham, Surrey
KT12 4LW

Tel: 01372 810088

Email: jsheldon@elmbridge.gov.uk

Boosting social housing: Much achieved, more to do

MANY Hersham residents are tenants of Elmbridge Housing Trust which provides socially rented accommodation across the Borough.

Hersham South Councillor Ruth Mitchell has recently been appointed to its Board and she outlines some recent achievements, including:



Helping 18 residents downsize to smaller properties since April 2013 with financial help from the Council's Perfect Fit scheme.

Having an excellent Resident Scrutiny Scheme. Over the last

year the team made over 20 recommendations to the Trust and 75% of these have been implemented or are being so.

Winning the UK Housing award In April, for their "Wise Money" scheme. We have worked very closely with residents, particularly about the Government's welfare changes. They have identified contacted and assisted every single tenant affected.

In addition, Elmbridge Council has been working to bring empty properties back into use, with very positive results. This has now been extended with a partnership with other Surrey local authorities and housing associations by successfully winning a bid for funding from the Homes and Communities Agency.

Ruth added, "The Council, along with Housing Associations and many voluntary agencies across the borough are working together to mitigate the effects of the current economic situation on the most vulnerable members of our community, including here in Hersham".



Protecting Coronation Rec

EARLIER in the summer you may have noticed an incursion of traveller family caravans in the car park of Coronation Recreation Ground.

Together with their associated vehicles they remained for a couple of weeks until finally moved on by a Court Order.

Cllr Mary Sheldon, with

the wholehearted support of Hersham councillors, urgently requested measures to prevent further such invasions of our recreational land.

As a result a height barrier was installed without delay: hopefully this will do the trick and prevent any more similar unwelcome intrusions.

News round-up: Memorial Gardens gets a spruce up



WAITROSE recently celebrated its 75th alliance with John Lewis by donating and planting trees in the Hersham Memorial Gardens.

They joined with Hersham in Bloom and Elmbridge Council to clear overgrown bushes and create a wide bed for planting with subjects specially chosen for their suitability. Refreshments were provided by Waitrose.

In August the Mayor of Elmbridge, unveiled a wooden plaque to commemorate the newly planted area. It is hard to think of a better example of partners working for the good of its local community. Three hearty cheers to everyone involved!

Councillor John Sheldon had no hesitation in choosing Sam Beare Weybridge Hospice as his Mayor of Elmbridge's Charity in 2011/2012. Receiving little of its funding from the NHS, it relies for the bulk on donations, raised largely by volunteers.

John has been asked to put out an urgent call for bric-a-brac, bags and shoes, desperately needed by the Charity Shop in Walton High Street. As parking is tricky, it's worth noting that there's a rear entrance where goods may be taken at any time (entrance back of Aldi).

A blocked sewer in Hersham Road in April caused toilets to back up, to residents' consternation.

Due to the delay in clearing the problem, Thames Water were asked to attend the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an explanation, when they also offered an apology. The blockage was caused by a "mountain of fat", something increasingly common due to unsuitable objects being flushed down our loos.

We are pleased to pass on the plea not to dispose of anything in this way except human waste and toilet paper. **BIN IT DON'T BLOCK IT!**

Your Hersham councillors were recently told about a large load of building rubbish that had

A word from Margaret

Hersham's county councillor Margaret Hicks surveys the Surrey scene:



May I thank Hersham residents for re-electing me in May. It is an enormous honour to be your representative and I shall do my utmost to work hard for all you and Hersham for the next four years.

The long awaited feasibility study in response to a petition for a 20mph limit and other traffic calming measures in Burwood Road will be presented to the Local Committee at 4pm on Monday November 18th at the Civic Centre in Esher.

Along with the petitioners and five Hersham Conservative Councillors I support 20mph speed limits and would like to see them in the vicinity of all Surrey schools as well as Hersham.

Street Smart

The Borough's Street Smart team has been a conspicuous success in maintaining Elmbridge as a clean and pleasant place to live. Their application and quick response has been recognised by all of the Elmbridge County Councillors in agreeing to hire the team for one and a half days per week of County tasks, with a funding contribution of £40,000.

Our contractor, Conway, is about to start gully clearance and repair in Elmbridge continuing until March 2014. Please help us to help you by not parking cars over any gully. If there is any street in Hersham that residents would like to have considered double yellow lines at junctions where visibility is difficult, then please do contact me as I am preparing the lists for consideration in next year's budget.

been 'fly tipped' in Burhill Road, completely blocking it. They contacted council officers who promptly cleared it up.

Our local police are following up significant leads on this incident and Hersham South Councillor, Ruth Mitchell urged: "Please be vigilant when you are out and about and don't hesitate to report any suspicious activity to the police by calling 101".

Hersham Residents Association is organising an event focused on the tree planted by Hersham North Councillor Ian Donaldson.

Branches will be decorated by Burhill School children, and other schools will compete for designing the figure at the top. The lights, donated by Squires Garden Centre, will be switched on by the Mayor on Saturday 14 December at 5pm.

7 Molesey Road
Hersham
KT12 4RJ

01932 254 291
www.wa-limited.com
info@wa-limited.com

Mon to Fri 9am - 6pm
Sat 9am - 5pm
Sun 10am - 4am



WRECKLESS ABANDON
CYCLE SHOP
OUR WAY OF LIFE

We are a small independent
Cycle Shop located in
Hersham Village and we are
here to service the local
community

Service and Repair
Centre
All makes and Models
Welcome
Please enquire in store
or give us a call