



The Hershams News

USEFUL NUMBERS:
 Elmbridge Council's out of hours emergency number is 01372 466114. Surrey County Council Social Care out of hours emergency number is 01483 517898.

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

New school entrance

AFTER exclusively serving the residents of Paul Vanson Court since it was built in 1987, Elmbridge owned New Berry Lane now accommodates new entrances to Burhill School.

Designed to relieve traffic congestion around the main entrance in Pleasant Place, the use of a private road has not been without difficulties, of which lack of a proper footpath has been a main concern. Hershams South Councillor John Sheldon (pictured with Dorothy Clark, Chairman of the Governors of Burhill) comments: "We have worked with the School in seeking a solution and have recently secured agreement that Elmbridge would tarmac the grassy strip bordering the School fence".



Plastic bags stop bin being emptied

SOME residents have been concerned to find that their recycling blue top bin had not been emptied.

In most cases this was because there were non-recyclable items inside, and in particular plastic bags. Please please – don't put plastic bags of any sort in the blue top bins!

Veolia should put a bin hanger on the blue top bin to explain why it has not been emptied - if you have any queries about what can and can't be put into your recycling bin do check on the Elmbridge Council website.



More CIL money

COMMUNITY Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a tax on development for local improvements, administered by Local Spending Boards made up of locally elected wards councillors.

So far the 1st Hershams Scouts have been awarded £6,000 to refurbish their hut in Burwood Close. This year more than £36,000 will be available, so if you have a project you think would benefit Hershams, make a bid for funding, via elmbridge.gov.uk/planning.

The proposal must relate to infrastructure, or demands placed on our locality by development.

Conservatives freeze Council tax again

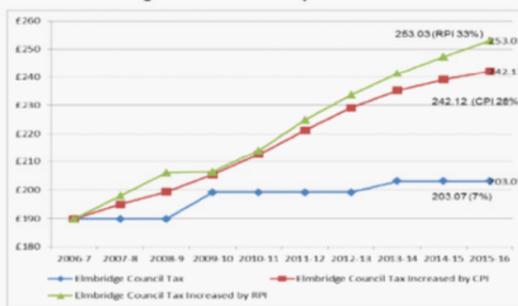
FOR the seventh year out of nine, your Conservative controlled Elmbridge Borough Council will freeze its share of the Council Tax.

As the graph shows, that means that since 2006-7, while overall inflation has risen by 33% RPI (or 28% CPI), for Elmbridge the rise has been limited to 7%.

And the good news doesn't stop there. Despite having to make around £1.5 million in savings for 2015-16, large cuts in central government grant, all our services, so valued and used by residents will be fully protected: there will no reductions whatever. Furthermore, the Council will give an above inflation 2% increase in grants to all eleven of its core-funded voluntary organizations, which include the two Citizen's Advice Bureaux, Voluntary Action Elmbridge and Rentstart.

Hershams Councillors John Sheldon and Ian Donaldson told the News, "This is a budget that

Elmbridge Council Tax Compared to Inflation Increases



should benefit everyone in our community. The freeze in Council Tax is most welcome and we are particularly delighted with the increase in support for the voluntary sector which is thriving right across Hershams. It is a vote of confidence in the magnificent work they do day after day".

Lidl on the Riverdene Estate



A planning application for a new Lidl foodstore at ground floor level with 38 flats above has now been submitted to Elmbridge Borough Council.

Many residents attended the consultation in November when company representatives outlined their plans and received comments. Several amend-

ments, including more parking spaces for the residential flats, have been made.

For more details go to <http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/planning/online.htm> and search for planning application 2014/5061.

Your Hershams Councillors would also like to hear from residents.

Memorial Gardens get WWI centenary honour

AS PART of the World War One Centenary our Hershams Memorial Gardens have been awarded the status of Centenary Field, a branch of Fields in Trust.

This is a national charity in partnership with the Royal British Legion ensuring the space will be preserved in perpetuity.

Councillor John Sheldon (pictured) said: "It is a tribute to our careful nurture of Hershams Memorial Garden that it has deservedly won this honour to be a permanent memorial to those who fought in the Great War." The garden's community facility



has been promoted by Hershams councillors, drawing in clearance and new planting in a sponsorship from Waitrose, and a musical event with local talent that is set to be an annual. A special plaque will be placed in the Gardens during 2015.

Anger at flytipping in Hershams

YOUR Hershams councillors share residents' anger at the menace of fly-tipping around the village recently.

Burhill Road was hit again late last year when a lorry load of builders rubble was dumped, blocking the entire road. Thanks go to the neighbours who managed to clear a temporary path through before the council removed it all.

Regrettably, further incidents in Hershams have occurred this year. Fly-tipping is illegal and dangerous and signs have now been placed in the vicinity

warning of the severe penalties on conviction. There is a reward scheme of up to £500 for each successful prosecution.

Illegally dumped waste is costing Elmbridge over £100,000 per year to clear up and dispose of safely.

For more information on this please visit elmbridge.gov.uk/environment.

If you witness any fly-tipping please call Surrey Police on 101 or contact Elmbridge Borough Council on 01372 474 474 and report the location so that it can be cleared speedily.

Hedge problems

ELMBRIDGE Council is ready to help if Hershams residents have concerns about overgrown hedges.

Private householders in residential areas own the majority of hedges alongside the public highway and it's their responsibility to ensure that trees or hedges are not overhanging or creeping onto the road.

These can cause many problems ranging from obscuring visibility at junctions to inconveniencing pedestrians walking along pavements and footpaths.

If you have encountered a similar problem contact EBC or check on their website elmbridge.gov.uk and search for overhanging trees/hedges.

Community spirit

FESTIVE celebrations in Hershams on December 13 raised £230 for the Mayor of Elmbridge's charities and showed that Hershams's community spirit was alive and well.

Organised by councillors, local people, and Hershams Residents Association, the programme included a childrens' shop spotting competition, carols and a charity raffle.

Many joined the Mayor at the Waterman's Arms where the landlord Tony Blenkinsop extended his now customary warm welcome with mulled wine for all. Only 10 months to go until we meet again under the Village Green Christmas Tree!

Police meetings

At the time of writing, we don't have a date for the next meeting and we understand that these may not continue in their current form. Apparently this will be a matter for local discretion and our preference is that the current format to continue. Check <http://goo.gl/fc2W91> for updates.

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Surrey Matters

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



FOLLOWING the campaign by local residents to improve safety and reduce traffic speeds, the pedestrian crossing in the Burwood Road is now operational.

Engineers will be installing further railings outside the Church Hall and manage the surface water that now collects at this point.

But this is only the first phase in traffic improvements in the Village Green area. Working with Hersham's Borough Councillors the aim is to consider safety and traffic movements around Burwood Road and Pleasant Place to which I will allocate the £55,000 allowance County Councillors receive for highways improvements.

So we should be able to make a big impact for the benefit of residents. We also need a safer crossing on the junction between Molesey Road and Thrupps Lane.

Road surfacing is a priority for Surrey. In the first two years of the Project Horizon project some £6 million was spent on improvements and this year the amount will be £1.8 million.

Charlton Avenue is now boasting nine new rowan trees, whose roots cause less damage to adjacent pavements that have replace the rotting flowering cherries.

Good news for residents of Primrose Road and Rydens Grove – I have arranged for both to be resurfaced within this year's budget.



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About your councillors

YOUR five Conservative Borough Councillors for Hersham work as a team (with Margaret Hicks as our County Councillor) so please approach any of us with problems or concerns – we'll do our utmost to work with the Council officers to ensure a successful outcome.

Ian Donaldson.... chairs the Borough's Licensing Committee that includes taxis and pub issues

Ruth Mitchell.... has specific responsibility for the Council's corporate development and improvement. Ruth is also a Board member of Paragon Housing.

John O'Reilly...is Leader of Elmbridge Borough Council (the buck stops with him!) and serves on the North Area and Full Planning Committees

Mary Sheldon....has responsibility for all the Borough's Leisure and Culture activities and is also a member of the North Area and Full Planning Committees

John Sheldon....serves on the key Scrutiny Committee that oversees the Council's work. He is a Council representative on both the Older Peoples' Advisory Body and the Hersham Youth Trust

Margaret Hicks...takes the lead on all matters relating to Surrey County Council.

Make a note in your diary...



Hersham North councillor Mary Sheldon is Elmbridge's Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture. Here's her round-up of upcoming things in Hersham and nearby.

Museum Fun Days take place on the first Saturday of the month from 2pm-4.30pm at Hersham Village Hall. No booking is necessary - creative activities offered in sessions designed to involve all members of the family making a fun afternoon. A Small charge of £1.50 per child applies. Why not pay a visit and see for yourself?

The long awaited Splash Park will be open soon in Hersham Recreation Ground. As soon as the weather is warmer those jets of water will be flowing and the children will be getting soaked and loving every minute of it!

I've volunteered to try it out on completion of the work (but not if it's still freezing).

The Royston Pike Lecture Series is in its 40th Anniversary Year and comprises 10 lectures on a range of subjects held during winter months.

Lectures start at 7.30pm and cost £3 per ticket and there's no need to book. The last of the present series will be on Wednesday 11 March and the subject will be Magna Carta, and Wednesday 25 March.

Both talks will be held at the Cecil Hepworth Playhouse, Walton.

Meanwhile our wonderful team of volunteers are busy preparing for this year's Hersham in Bloom.

There will be a community planting day at the end of May when all the barrels and troughs will be filled for another floral extravaganza! Please come and help if you are free. Notices will be put up when the date is confirmed.

We are indebted to Tim Spearman of Squires Garden Centre for his advice and help each year, and to Squires and the many local businesses who sponsor us.

Last year's inaugural Elmbridge Food Festival was a huge success and drew over 9,000 visitors.

This year's event at Painshill Park, Cobham, on the weekend of 26-27 September will be even better. With double the stalls, live music, cookery demonstrations and great family entertainment. There will be something for everyone.

To take part or enquire about hiring a stall, email business@elmbridge.gov.uk, or contact the council on 01372 474176. The Food Festival is organised by Elmbridge Borough Council as part of its commitment to supporting local food retailers and producers. Put the date in your diary now and don't forget there is free parking.

Residents will have Rydens say



RES gained outline planning permission in December for their new school on the site behind Bell Farm Primary School together with access and the principle of 296 houses/flats on the site of the existing school. Bewley Homes plc will be responsible for building the new homes and we understand they will be consulting with resi-

dents as soon as they have more detailed designs.

Hersham North Councillor Ian Donaldson said: "This will be one of Hersham's most important developments for many years and residents need to be informed and consulted as these plans progress.

"We will let you know as soon as we learn more".

Dominic Raab MP:

After the worst recession and inheriting the biggest budget deficit since the war, the government can now point to the fastest economic growth of any major advanced country – and 1.85million more jobs compared to 2010.

The evidence is everywhere, including in Hersham. Across the borough, the number of new businesses and people in work has risen. And, because we took difficult decisions with the public finances, we've been able to cut your income tax, freeze fuel duty, and cut stamp duty for 80% of homes in Elmbridge.

I also fought hard to ensure a doubling of the 'capital' funding for our local schools, and an extra £212 'per pupil' funding per year. That's why we can afford school expansions, like the ones at Burhill

Primary School and Rydens Enterprise School. The quality of teaching is also improving as we focus on standards and core learning – to equip our children for life after school.

We have protected NHS investment, and are delivering more services in the community than ever before. And despite having to cut policing budgets, crime in Elmbridge has fallen by 25% since 2010 – with particularly steep falls in local robberies, public disorder and motoring offences.

For my part, I am regularly in touch with Hersham businesses, schools and councillors. I welcomed Hersham scouts to Parliament in 2013 - and checked out the beer at Hersham Festival last summer. Above all, my focus both in Hersham and Westminster has been to deliver common sense changes that help improve our quality of life.



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Notice boards

COUNCILLOR John Sheldon writes: "We are fortunate to have three Council noticeboards in Hersham in excellent locations and anyone can ask for flyers to be put into them so long as they are not for profit making events or commercial advertising.

They are opposite Walton Station, opposite Hersham Library and inside the Hersham Centre by Costas.

The noticeboards are updated by your local Hersham Councillors.

Email communications@elmbridge.gov.uk or call 01372 474387 if you wish to have information displayed about an event.