



The Molesey News

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Two councillors, one year of action

Hello and welcome once again to The Molesey News. I am Councillor Steve Bax and I edit this newsletter on behalf of the Molesey Conservative Residents political group.

On behalf of candidates of all parties who took part in the May local elections, and including our re-elected MP Dominic Raab, we would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who voted.

In Molesey East ward we were delighted to secure the election of Dr Peter Szanto.

I predicted in the campaign that he would be a great asset for Molesey and he has not disappointed. Within days of his election Pete had got stuck in helping residents of a Molesey care home threatened with closure and raising their concerns with the management (see the article overleaf).

Pete and I promised at the election to be very busy on your behalf and to tackle the big issues in Molesey. With this in mind we met the new owners of the Jolly Boatman site to discuss the possibility of a new plan for that important site, and we also held a meeting

with Glenlyn Medical Centre to discuss patients' concerns and the practice's ambitious plans for the future.

Peter would like to tell residents that he is "deeply grateful" for the confidence you have shown in him and he will do all he can to represent ALL the residents of East Molesey on Elmbridge Council.

Pete is putting his extensive business and financial background to use as a member of the council's audit and standards committee,

and also has a seat on the youth task group, affordable housing member panel, energy and sustainability group, and the Elmbridge Local Com-

mittee deciding on local highways matters.

I am on the planning and licensing committees, the Molesey Library Friends group and am the Elmbridge representative at the Heathrow Noise Forum, feeding back residents concerns over aircraft noise and acting as your eyes and ears as the airport's airspace modernisation programme evolves.

Both Pete and I also serve on the overview and scrutiny committee and the local spending board,

"Peter and I will be very busy on your behalf"



allocating money collected from development in Molesey local infrastructure and good causes.

Between the two of us we are well placed to be a strong and united voice for Molesey at the council as well as an influence for this area within the Conservative majority group.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you can read about the latest proposals from the Boundary Commission to reduce the numbers of councillors

from 60 to 48 - a change called for by the Conservatives and opposed by most residents councillors, which will save around £40k each year. The Commission would like your views on the new Molesey wards it is proposing.

We hope you find the newsletter informative. Please contact us if we can be of any assistance. Steve's email is MoleseySteve@gmail.com and for Peter email moleseypete@gmail.com.

ELECTION RESULTS

MOLESEY EAST

Peter Szanto, Molesey Conservative Residents: 1,644 (elected)
Elizabeth Cooper, Molesey Residents Association: 1,396
Marc Doran, Labour: 275
Ann Beauchamp, Liberal Democrat: 244
Trevor Marshall, UKIP: 153
Turnout: 73.9%

MOLESEY NORTH

Ivan Regan, Molesey Residents Association: 1,925 (elected)
Paul Liptrot, Molesey Conservative Residents: 613
Paul Wheatley, UKIP: 329
Ray Kelly, Labour: 292
Alastair Sturgis, Liberal Democrat: 138
Turnout: 68.3%

MOLESEY SOUTH

Mike Axton, Molesey Residents Association: 1,724 (elected)
Graham West, Molesey Conservative Residents: 618
Jamal Ajjane, Labour: 396
Anita Wooldridge, UKIP: 388
Paul Nagle, Liberal Democrat: 148
Turnout: 62.1%

Molesey Hospital rent threat

AN OUTRAGEOUS rent demand is threatening to swallow up half of Molesey Hospital's £1.5million budget.

Surrey Downs Clinical Commission Group (SDCCG), which funds our community hospital, is being asked to stump up £763,000 per annum for the use of the Molesey site.

Cllr Steve Bax was alerted by Molesey Hospital's League of Friends and asked our area's Conservative MP, Dominic Raab, to raise the matter with the Department of Health.

The Friends told Steve that the hospital was not previously required to pay rent while it was owned by the old NHS Surrey primary care trust.

But recently ownership of community hospitals was transferred to estate management company Propco, formerly NHS Prop-



erty Services, which is levying a rental charge.

Steve said: "This is a very worrying situation. If Propco can get away with charging these preposterous rents then it follows that less money will be available for local patient care. We will do everything we can to fight this."

New hope for Jolly Boatman?

AT THE election your Molesey Conservative councillors promised to do all we can to achieve a positive outcome at the Jolly Boatman site.

With this in mind Steve Bax and Peter Szanto recently attended a meeting with the new developer of the Boatman site and other interested local parties.

We are pleased to report that it was a very productive meeting and we found the new developer to be open, frank and willing to engage with the community's concerns.

They were aware of the strength of feeling in Molesey against a hotel on the Jolly Boatman as it would be unsightly and obscure the stunning views of the Palace from the East Molesey side of the river.

The developer has planning permission for a hotel on the site but is willing to explore the viability of an alternative plan that removes the hotel and instead the Jolly Boatman



land would become a public open space connected to Cigarette Island Park.

We discussed the pedestrian safety issues in Cigarette Island Lane and the developer promised to take these into account when putting forward

the new plans.

There is still a long way to go on this and we will try to keep East Molesey residents up to date on developments.

Steve Bax said: "We had a very constructive meeting and left with grounds for optimism. However it is still early days and the danger that the existing planning permission could be implemented has not abated, so we have to proceed with caution and continue to engage the new developer."

"Peter and I, together with other stakeholders, will make every effort to bring a new plan to fruition."

Pictured above: Campaigners hope these unsightly hoardings around the Jolly Boatman can be replaced with a green open space.

Heathrow reassurance over new air trial

YOUR Conservative councillors have been given assurances that a new Heathrow trial starting in September will not affect Molesey.

The airport is trialing steeper approaches for arriving flights from September 17th until next March as part of efforts to reduce noise.

Aircraft arriving at Heathrow

typically descend using a 3 degree glideslope, or by 275 feet per mile, and this will increase to 3.2 degrees during the trial.

Cllr Steve Bax, Elmbridge's Noise Forum representative, was promised it will "only affect aircraft on the final approach" about 10 miles from touchdown and "won't be noticeable in Molesey".



Henrietta
A Molesey playgroup for 2 to 4 year olds now has spaces.
Call 020 8487 0061

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Dish, 3 Bridge Road, East Molesey, KT8 9EU. Tel: 020 8941 1095.
We are open from 6am Monday to Sunday so join us for breakfast

Glenlyn merger to 'improve service'

RESIDENTS have voiced concerns to us about the difficulties they have had obtaining appointments at Glenlyn Medical Centre and the turnover of staff.

Councillors Szanto (pictured right at Glenlyn) and Bax requested a meeting with the practice manager Caroline Self, and were invited to see her at the Giggs Hill Surgery in Thames Ditton.

At that meeting, with two other Molesey councillors, she informed us that Glenlyn in East Molesey and the Giggs Hill practice had merged on April 1st.

Both will retain their identities but joining together allows them to realise economies of scale, share resources and improve their viability, while hopefully also improving their offering to residents.

Caroline acknowledged it had been a difficult few years for both practices, with funding cuts as the main pressure.



From July 6th they have introduced urgent care clinics. The idea is that a patient calls their usual surgery and if the matter is urgent they are directed to Giggs Hill, which is based at the Emberbrook Medical Centre in Raphael Drive, Thames Ditton, for treatment by Advanced Nurse

Practitioners (ANPs).

The urgent care clinic is also being provided for four hours on Saturdays and Sundays, we understand, which should reduce the burden on A&Es.

Routine GP appointments, long term or complex conditions, referrals and reviews, will be at Glenlyn, and they say the new system will allow 100 additional appointments a day than currently.

More doctors and ANPs are being recruited, we understand.

Clearly some will be unhappy about having to travel further in some cases but the practice(s) hope this will be balanced by the improved service.

We will continue to monitor these changes and will have a follow up meeting with the practice manager.

COMMUNITY NEWS

POLICE are hunting burglars who stole luxury shampoos worth thousands from Sakura Hair and Body in East Molesey.

The Walton Road salon was raided in the early hours of June 24th by two men who were caught on CCTV.

One was of large build and bald, and the other was tall and slim with glasses. Call police on Call 101 with any information.

KWW Solicitors are the new sponsor of East Molesey Cricket Club's First XI.

The Surrey Championship First Division side has enjoyed a great start to the season and is pushing hard for promotion to the Premier League.

First XI team captain Sam Burge said: "We're thrilled to have the support of such a well-known and respected local name behind us."

WATES developers are hoping to build '80 to 100' homes on the industrial estate in Orchard Lane, East Molesey.

They say 40% of the new builds will be affordable and they will assist the remaining firms at the site to relocate.

A planning application could be submitted in late Autumn.

ELMBRIDGE Council's social housing partner Paragon has gone back to the drawing board over Radnor House and Sandra House in East Molesey. It plans to demolish the two buildings in Hansler Grove and build 25 shared ownership properties and 26 rented.

Acting on public feedback it plans to reduce the mass of the blocks. However the narrow School Lane site access will remain.

CLLR Bax recently questioned Elmbridge's senior environmental enforcement officer on her work to tackle fly-tipping.

Laura Dowsett said there were 280 major incidents last year which amounted to a £55,000 bill for the taxpayer.

Her team is working closely with police and increasingly using CCTV but residents are asked to report suspicious activity such as vans carrying waste outside of normal working hours. Jot down the license, time and description and you could get a £500 reward if there is a successful prosecution.

A MAN was arrested on suspicion of drink-driving after two cars crashed into Subway in East Molesey.

The accident in Walton Road on July 25 night saw a black car smash into the entrance and a silver car crash into the shop wall in Manor Road.

A woman suffered minor injuries and the fire service was called out from Esher to deal with a fuel spill.

LANGLEY Records will remain open after Elmbridge councillors refused landlord and neighbour Royal Mail's plans to redevelop the shop into a new customer service point and staff toilets.

Over 2,350 people signed a petition to keep the shop which has been in West Molesey for 43 years, and which Geoff Langley described as "far and away the best" of its kind in Surrey.



Would you like to receive news about Molesey more often? The Molesey News is launching an e-newsletter direct to your inbox. Sign up for free at <http://eepurl.com/bvip09>

Cash for Molesey good causes



ST MARY'S Church was the big winner at the July meeting of the East & West Molesey Spending Board.

The board, made up of Molesey's nine councillors, met to allocate up to £62,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts collected from developers.

Rev. Richard Lloyd and his associates told us that the interior of St Mary's, which is now 150 years old, was in poor condition.

Some £177,000 is needed to fix its rotting floor, install retractable pews, a new sound system and disabled access so that the church facilities can be used for meetings and by community groups.

We were impressed by the plans and the amount of fund

raising that had taken place, and contributed £38,000 to the project.

The 2nd Molesey Scouts were given £5,500 to replace the kitchen at their hut in Vine Road, and £2,329 was awarded to Chandlers Field School to create a wildflower meadow at its West Molesey site.

Plans to complete the circular footpath at Hurst Meadows were offered £10,000 subject to additional funds being made available by the council's main CIL board.

We gave £6,000 to Paragon Community Housing Group to set up community allotments in Island Farm Road.

Email Steve Bax or Peter Szanto for details of how to apply for CIL funds for local infrastructure or projects.

Free School gets two year use of old Hurst Park site

HURST Park School's recently vacated site in West Molesey is to be occupied by Cobham Free School (CFS) for the next two years.

Readers may be aware that Hurst Park is moving to bigger custom-built premises on the former John Nightingale site further up Hurst Road from its present site.

The Molesey Conservatives hear the vacated school had been earmarked to become housing but the situation has changed after CFS was refused planning permission by Elmbridge for temporary classrooms at its site in Cobham, which is a converted police station.

Governors warned Surrey County Council, the education authority, that the planning refusal left it unable to provide classrooms for its soon to be Year 7 and Year 8 pupils and threatened the viability of the school.

As a result CFS has been thrown a "lifeline" by Surrey to relocate its secondary pupils to West Molesey on a two year basis, while it secures a new site in Cobham.

Molesey Conservative councillor Steve Bax got in touch with Howard

Morris, Chairman of the Governors at CFS to discuss the implications.

Mr Morris told Steve that a refurbishment of the toilets, kitchen and other facilities will be taking place over the summer to accommodate three classes of 12 and 13 year olds

come September (72 pupils).

Steve raised concerns about parking in the streets surrounding the school, which have long been an issue, and was assured that as these will be older children, many will come by bus but in any case the school will be providing

a school bus service from and to Cobham.

The school day will begin at 8.30am and end at 4.30pm.

Its admission criteria will continue to be determined by proximity to the main school in Cobham, however Mr Morris confirmed there are currently 15-20 spaces available and Molesey families will be welcome to apply.

"Once you're in the school, you're in all the way through, beyond the two years," he said.



Molesey care home closure

COUNCILLOR Peter Szanto recently met with the owners of Willowmead, a 12-bed care home in East Molesey, to raise concerns about its impending closure.

In mid May, just days after his election, Pete was contacted by the family of a resident at the home in Summer Road, who had been told they had just '4 to 6 weeks' to make alternative living arrangements for their relative.

Pete arranged an urgent meeting with Mark Goodman, chief executive of Cobham-based Montreaux Living, who own the home.

The CEO explained that Willowmead, was no longer fit for purpose, but admitted the communication had been mishandled. He said he had not wished to cause alarm, but simply to give a sense of urgency



to the process of families finding alternatives, including other homes owned by Montreaux.

Mr Goodman agreed to extend the notice period and promised one-to-one consultations with families.

Cllr Szanto said: "Although the initial communication was poorly handled, subsequent actions were sensitively and professionally implemented." The owners are exploring opportunities to provide other services which are in their portfolio of activities such as a learning disability care home at the site.

Boundary review latest

MOLESEY looks likely to be divided into two large 'East' and 'West' council wards for future Elmbridge borough elections.

Readers may recall the Boundary Commission is carrying out an electoral review and has decided to cut the number of councillors by 20%, from 60 to 48. In July it published details of the 16 new ward configurations and is seeking feedback.

The new Molesey East ward will begin at Hampton Court Station, encompass the Bridge Road shops, Wolsey, Palace and Arnison roads, and include Hurst Park, with New Road, Avern Road, and the Wilderness as borders.

Everything to the west will become the new Molesey West, with Pool Road and the reservoirs as its

furthestmost points.

However the Commission proposes to place the Bridge Road, Bridge Gardens, Cedar Road and Close, Esher Road and all of its off-shoots into an enlarged Thames Ditton ward.

As Steve Bax explains: "Molesey has too many electors to fit two wards and too few for three, so we are seeing some streets joined to neighbouring wards.

"This is disappointing and frustrating, although overall the Molesey Conservatives think the new East-West arrangement is an improvement on previous plans."

See the full proposals at www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/surrey/elmbridge and email your views by August 24th, to reviews@lgbce.org.uk.