

PUBLIC MEETING

Local MP Dominic Raab will take your questions on Heathrow, the EU and any other local or national issues, at St Lawrence School in Church Road, E Molesey on Thurs March 24th, 7.30pm.

Editor: Steve Bax | Email: MoleseySteve@gmail.com | Web: www.moleseyconservatives.com | Twitter: @MoleseySteve

Speak up to save hospital!

We urge all residents to join us in opposing the closure of Molesey's hospital

AS WE advised back in the October 2015 edition of the Molesey News, the future of Molesey Hospital is hanging by a thread. It is now vital that residents make their voices heard in the consultation process.

Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has been evaluating the future of our community hospitals. Public consultation is well advanced. It started on 28th January and ends on 5th May.

The consultation is on the four options recommended in their report in September last year. Two of the four options involve the "transfer of Molesey inpatient services to Cobham Hospital and transfer of outpatient services to suitable location(s) within East Elmbridge locality"....ie the closure of the hospital.

Your Molesey local Conservative team has been actively fighting Molesey Hospital's case.

It delivers healthcare and rehabilitation to the people of Molesey on their doorstep, whereas Cobham is not easy to get to by public transport.

Councillor, Dr Peter Szanto (whose wife is a retired doctor) has met with the Director of Clinical Services, visited the hospital and staff, attended



the consultation launch event on 2nd February at Molesey Community Centre, provided input to the consultation process and advertised details on Twitter and Facebook.

We have been fighting for the future of in and outpatient services at our hospital, but it will be an uphill battle since Cobham has more beds and is a newer facility. Hence it is vital for you to speak up in the consultation process.

We published the contact details for providing your input back in our October edition; we make no apologies for repeating them again:

You can comment by filling in the online survey at the Surrey Downs CCG website at www.surreydownsccg.nhs.uk/get-informed/our-projects/community-hospital-services/

Or email contactus.surreydownsccg@nhs.net or write to FREEPOST RTEY-LSGG-UHBE, Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group, Cedar Court, Guildford Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 9AE.

Contacting by SMS through textphone on 07912 998809 (please note this is a text only service for the deaf, or hard of hearing).

There will be a further 'drop in event' for residents to contribute to the consultation, to be held at Molesey Hospital in Approach Road, West Molesey, 12.30-2.30pm on Thursday 17th March.

For 120 years Molesey Hospital has supported and cared for residents in their time of need, now our hospital needs us. Please make your voice heard to keep the hospital open.

Pictured top: Councillors Steve Bax & Peter Szanto at Molesey Hospital.



STEVE SAYS:

Hello and welcome to the first Molesey News of 2016. I am Councillor Steve Bax and I edit this newsletter on behalf of the Molesey Conservatives.

Earlier in March I read that the Boundary Commission's proposals for Elmbridge had been approved by Parliament.

This means that the existing 22 council wards will be abolished at the 5th May elections and be replaced by 16 larger ones. The number of councillors is being cut from 60 to 48, as a pledge made by the Local Conservatives in their 2012 manifesto, to save Elmbridge taxpayers money.

Molesey's three existing wards will be reduced to two - Molesey East and Molesey West - and unusually this year you will be asked to elect all three of your councillors.

Cllr Peter Szanto and I feel privileged to represent you and will be asking your support for another term to continue our work on Molesey Hospital, parking controls, Heathrow and the many other issues we are involved in on your behalf.

Exceptional

Peter has been an outstanding councillor for Molesey since you elected him last year and I am delighted to say I have recruited another exceptional and hard working candidate this year in Dr Debi Oliver. She is a former Molesey GP, a mum and businesswoman, and has Councillor experience. See the article left for a proper introduction to Debi.

The three of us are looking forward to the campaign and meeting you on the doorsteps. Please get in touch if you have any questions for us or would like to help with our campaign.

Elsewhere in this edition you can find out how you can help in the fight to save Molesey Hospital from closure. We also have an update on how we are using an upcoming Surrey parking review to tackle all-day commuter parking in roads near Hampton Court and in the wider East Molesey ward.

Finally, please note the public meetings with Dominic Raab MP and Heathrow as detailed in the newsletter, and Debi, Peter and I hope to see you there.

Homes go ahead at Radnor site

PLANS for 50 affordable homes in Hansler Grove have cleared the first stage of the planning process.

Proposals to redevelop the site of Radnor House, Sandra House and the former Molesey Centre, were passed by Elmbridge's North Area Planning Sub Committee in February, despite 55 letters of objection.

Molesey councillor Steve Bax agreed with residents that the scheme should not go ahead in its current form due to its mass and scale and the potential to exacerbate parking problems, particularly in School Road.

The scheme was passed by 8 votes to 2 with both Molesey Residents Association councillors voting for in favour.

Steve said: "I readily acknowledge we need more affordable



homes in the borough, but we have to consider the impact of any scheme on existing residents. I think in this case the developer, Paragon, is being too ambitious."

Should the application be approved at the Full Planning Committee on March 22, the current buildings will be demolished and replaced with three blocks of two and three storeys.

There will be 51 parking spaces and the scheme will include six emergency flats for people made suddenly homeless who the Council has a statutory duty to house.

Your chance to grill Heathrow

RESIDENTS continue to tell us they are being disturbed by aircraft noise, particularly during easterly prevailing winds when Heathrow's departure traffic is routed over Molesey.

Councillor Steve Bax has been attending meetings of the Heathrow Noise Forum and working with representatives of other councils and campaign groups to keep the pressure on the aviation industry to identify and tackle the underlying causes of the noise.

In the longer term (by 2023), flight paths are changing and becoming more precise as satellite navigation technology is brought in, so we must ensure that noise is dispersed not concentrated, and residents under a flight path are provided with periods of respite.

Earlier this year Steve was appointed chairman of Elmbridge Council's Heathrow Task Group - a cross party panel of councillors



which is examining the impact of the airport to our borough.

Steve has arranged for Heathrow's external affairs director, Nigel Milton, and his team, to come to Molesey next month and take residents questions about noise, night flights, the impact of a third runway (and anything else you wish to raise).

Local MP Dominic Raab will chair the meeting which will be at St Mary's Church in Bell Road, East Molesey, on Wednesday 6th April from 7.30pm. This is a big issue in Molesey and we hope as many residents as possible will attend.

Former GP to contest May election

MOLESEY Conservatives have selected three energetic, hard-working and dedicated candidates for the upcoming Borough Council elections on 5th May.

They are Cllr Steve Bax and Cllr Dr Peter Szanto, and standing for the first time in Molesey East ward, is Dr Debi Oliver.

Debi is married to Cllr Tim Oliver, the Leader elect of the Conservative group at Elmbridge Council, and they have three children.

She previously lived in Weldon Drive, Molesey and was a GP and Partner at Glenlyn Medical Centre.

Later she set up Lily & Bow, a ladies clothes shop in Esher, and



was elected an Elmbridge Borough Councillor for Esher from 2006 to 2010. Debi is a supporter of local charities, particularly Shooting Star Chase childrens Hospice, and has run seven London marathons as well as completing the London Surrey ride 100 for the last two years.

Debi can be contacted by email to debioliver1@aol.com

Signature

café - lounge - bar

SERIOUSLY STYLISH

Exclusive wines from our own vineyards. Real ales & premium lagers. Home cooked tapas, breakfasts and lunches. Live music and food events. All complimented by classy, contemporary décor.

84 Walton Road, East Molesey, KT8 0DL

www.signaturecafe.co.uk | 020 8487 3827
info@signaturecafe.co.uk



This newsletter is sponsored by



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

Strong support for parking petitions

RESIDENTS of streets close to Hampton Court Station have registered strong support for our proposals for limited parking controls.

Molesey Conservative councillors Steve Bax and Peter Szanto (pictured, right, in Wolsey Road) were elected in 2014 and 2015 with a mandate to tackle all-day the commuter parking which results in blocked driveways and problems with safety and congestion, and which has been getting worse over several years.

From our meetings with Surrey County Council (SCC) it became clear that the best way to make progress was to feed into their Elmbridge parking review, which is being carried out area by area and will turn its attention to Molesey later this year.

Our proposal is for a morning one hour residents only parking restriction to solve the all-day commuter parking and free up spaces for residents, their visitors and for people to use the Bridge Road shops.

Cllr Szanto explained: "In addition to adversely impacting on our local shops, the rail commuter parking in these roads results in safety and access concerns, since rail commuters are often more focused on catching their trains than on safe and disciplined parking.



"SCC would only consider parking controls if they have evidence that at least 70% of households in the street are in favour.

"We have recently completed petitions in 11 roads, contacting over 430 households and received support from 350, well over 80%. Only one of the 11 roads was not strongly in favour of the proposal."

Many rail commuters from outside Molesey use Hampton Court station for their weekly commute since it is the furthest station from central London at which Oyster cards can be used and they are guaranteed a seat in the morning.

Commuter parking currently blocks spaces all day on weekdays, despite Hampton Court station car park remaining well under half full. Molesey residential streets have in effect become a free car park for railway users.

Voting for your Local Conservative candidates, Steve Bax, Debi Oliver and Peter Szanto in the election on May 5 is key to our chances of success, since the residents association political party have long been opposed to the parking changes we are putting forward.

In addition we are working with other residents, including those roads which are about to join East Molesey Ward following the recent boundary review, so that their issues are thoroughly examined in the review.

If you have a parking issue in your road and want it to be considered in the forthcoming review, you can send SCC your request online at <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/parking/parking-reviews> or by writing to: Parking Team, Rowan House, Mero Lane, Guildford GU4 7BQ.

You will need to be quick, since the review will be starting soon. Please also send details to moleseypete@gmail.com so we know about it.

COMMUNITY NEWS

PLANS are being drawn up for a new secondary free school in either Molesey or Walton.

The ElmWey Learning Trust, which operates Heathside School in Weybridge, has submitted a bid to the Department for Education for funding. If it gets the go ahead, the search would be on for a suitable school location.

The school is planned to open with its first 150 students in September 2019.

Your Molesey Conservative councillors are strongly in favour of a secondary school in Molesey and will monitor developments closely.

A HUGE solar farm could be created at a site off Molesey Road, west of Molesey Heath.

A total of 27,500 south-facing solar panels would be installed at the former Hersham Quarry to generate additional electricity, if Elmbridge Council agrees following an environmental impact assessment. If installed the solar farm would be in place for 25 years.

AN EXHIBITION in Molesey will feature over 300 works by local artists.

Members of Molesey Art Society will showcase paintings, crafts and sculptures at St Albans School, Beauchamp Road, from 31st March to 5th April, with visitors able to purchase the art. Alison Catchlove, with her 'quirky and colourful' bird sculptures, and Joel Wareing who paints the urban environment, will be featured artists.

ST LAWRENCE C of E Junior School is to be rebuilt as a two storey building.

The Department for Education is funding the project after rejecting requests for a refurbishment.

The existing school will be demolished as soon as the new building is completed.

Cllr Steve Bax, who sits on the local planning committee, argued for conditions to lessen the visual impact and disruption to neighbours in Vine Road and Parsons Mead.

SIR STEVE Redgrave CBE is to open a Community Rowing Centre at Molesey Boat Club.

The five-times Olympic gold rower will cut the ribbon at the club in Graburn Way on Sunday 3rd April, at 11.30am.

The £520,000 centre has been mainly funded by donations, and will house a state-of-the-art rowing tank and gym to be used by local schools and special needs children.

It will offer new rowers a safe place to learn and allow experienced rowers to improve.

BEST-selling authors Susi Holliday and West Molesey's own Louise Voss are to give a talk at Molesey Library about their crime thrillers and how they create 'sexy detectives'.

The event is part of the Friends of Molesey Library's popular Meet the Author series and is on Tuesday 26th April at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £5, available from the library or on the door.

Sea Scouts' rescue team-up



MOLESEY'S 1st Jaguar Sea Scouts have joined forces with Surrey Search & Rescue (SurSAR) in their efforts to establish a Waterside Activity Centre by the Thames.

Their proposed new facility would be to the east of Sadlers Ride and provide easy access to the river for local children, and, following this partnership, could serve as a training base and station for a rescue boat. It would also be an opportunity for SurSAR to offer water safety training for Sea Scouts and other local groups who may be involved in flood support.

Readers may recall from the Autumn Molesey News, that the 1st Molesey (Jaguar) Scouts have been without a riverside base since the 1990s when they were evicted by Thames Water from a site at West Molesey to make way for gravel extraction.

That has since become a designated nature reserve and the group is unable to go back.

Scout leader Liam Quinn recently told Cllr Steve Bax that a number of changes have been made to the plans, based on feedback from the community and planning officers.

The building's footprint has been reduced, it has less of a river frontage and is shorter in height (now 1.5 stories instead of two).

The ground will be used for storage and welfare facilities are in the roof space. The open terraces have been removed to allow for a more "traditional" boathouse design.

The group, which takes its name from the early 20th Century naval vessel HMS Jaguar, held a public exhibition at its premises in Walton Road in February which included details of the work it has done to explore alternative sites.

Mr Quinn said the Hurst Park site offers "safe river access, least impact to water users and consideration to visual impact to the surroundings".

More London trains from Molesey under Crossrail

COUNCILLOR Peter Szanto recently attended an open day to find out how Crossrail 2 will impact Molesey.

The proposed new service starts in 2030 and would result in more frequent services, wider access to different parts of London and ease overcrowding on commuter trains.

Trains from Hampton Court would follow the line to Wimbledon and then divert through a new Crossrail 2 tunnel to Balham or Tooting Broadway and then on the Victoria and Euston St Pancras and northwards.

Peter said: "I'm sure the additional two trains an hour and the direct service to Victoria and Euston/St Pancras will be very attractive to many residents.

"I raised concerns about the loss of the direct service to Waterloo which



our residents have always enjoyed, and we will continue to make the case in future.

"They say passengers will be able to walk across a platform at Raynes park to catch a Waterloo train or change at Surbiton (or Wimbledon or Clapham Junction)."

The process has a long way to go and there will be further consultations for residents to have a say.

You can find more details or register for project updates at www.crossrail2.co.uk, or register for alerts by emailing crossrail2@tfl.gov.uk

Council tax rises to protect services

THE Elmbridge Borough part of your council tax bill is to rise by around 8p a week this year (or by £3.93 overall).

This is in addition to larger rises from Surrey County Council and Surrey Police who make up the lion's share of your annual bill.

Borough Conservatives had hoped to be able to freeze our part of the tax for the 8th year in 10. However the group's hand was forced by the Government which slashed our Revenue Support Grant (RSG) by over £1 million for 2016-7 and eliminated it altogether for 2018-19.

Worse still, Elmbridge was one of only of 15 Councils in England and Wales that was to be subject to 'negative RSG' from 2017-18, meaning we would pay into the pot!

MPs Dominic Raab and Philip Hammond successfully lobbied on our behalf for additional funds and to take negative RSG off the table.

However, to balance the books, maintain services and to support our voluntary sector in the longer term, a modest 1.94% rise was the only responsible course. Sometimes in politics we are faced with difficult decisions to safeguard services.

Legal matter?
Talk to The Professionals



- Wills & Powers of Attorney
- Conveyancing
- Company Commercial
- Family & Matrimonial
- Disputes
- Probate
- Employment



KWW Solicitors 70 Walton Road East Molesey
020 8979 1131
www.kww.co.uk



MEZZET
LEBANESE RESTAURANT
"WE BELIEVE IN FRIENDSHIP AND TASTY FOOD"



The finest Lebanese cuisine in Molesey. Have you tried it yet?

**43 Bridge Road, East Molesey
Reservations: 020 8979 4088**

FREE glass of house wine with your meal when you show this advert.

