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Local News From Your Conservative Team in Oatlands Park ward

March 2017

Tony Samuels to stand again as your County Councillor

My wife Lorraine and I have lived and worked in Surrey for over 30 years and I was first elected to Surrey County Council in 1993 whilst pursuing a successful career in business, property and the law. I have been your hardworking representative for the Walton South and Oatlands division since 2010,

I am the Cabinet Member for Property and Cabinet Lead for the Built Estate.

I became a Conservative councillor to serve, protect and make a positive difference to the lives of all my constituents. From protecting key services through to resolving parking issues; from preserving a war memorial to dealing with complicated planning issues and building applications, I have represented your concerns and am proud of my record to date and your positive feedback. In my legal and business careers my hallmark was an adherence to professionalism, responsiveness and service, qualities I continue to strive for as a councillor.



We have a duty of care, both legal and moral, towards children, adults with physical and learning disabilities and elderly people. Demand for key services for these people is increasing each year but now we are constrained by central government's £170m reduction Surrey's annual grant. We are at a crunch point; our ability to meet demand for services is being compromised by the reduction in our ability to supply them. We have been left with no other option but to set a five per cent increase in Council Tax, an increase that matches most other councils in the UK. I am on record as supporting this essential rise and as your councillor I will continue to fight hard to ensure the government provides Surrey County Council with fairer funding.

If you want a councillor that gets local issues sorted and you share my commitment to protecting services while ensuring your Council Tax is spent on resources that matter, please re-elect me on 4 May 2017.



Philip Hammond MP

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Chancellor of the Exchequer

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Heathrow Expansion (continued from page 2)

He went on to say "... then there's the traffic. Anyone who drives regularly between junction 10 and 16 of the M25, knows how appallingly clogged up this main arterial route can be on a routine basis. It is not just the confluence of three motorways and the A3 with the main London ring-road, Heathrow's very location contributes massively to the congestion."

The leader of the Residents Association and Liberal Democrat coalition which runs the council, had opened the debate by voicing frustration at "how impervious Heathrow seems to be" to pressure over aircraft noise, and declared: "We must find a way to bring teeth to these arguments to put Heathrow really on the rack because they are just not listening to residents."

The Council adopted the position that it will favour the fairer policy of dispersal of aircraft noise (over a wide area) rather than concentration over fewer homes. There was also a call on the government to implement a proposal in the Davies Report (into airport expansion) for an independent noise regulator – a position supported by Esher and Walton MP Dominic Raab – and for the airport to give assurances it will meet EU air quality targets in full.



Heathrow Expansion

Elmbridge Council has come out against the expansion of Heathrow Airport amid concerns over air quality and noise disturbance. At a meeting of the full council the borough's representatives heard from the leader of a task group looking into the local impact of the airport's expansion. The obvious issue is noise across the whole borough, while claims are made that planes are becoming quieter through technological advances Heathrow does not yet know the flight paths that would be used with any precision. There is plenty of airport capacity outside of the south-east, e.g. Manchester is the only other airport in the UK to have 2 runways and currently carries 20 million passengers but has capacity for 50 million. Expansion here would tie in well with the Northern Powerhouse theme.

Deputy leader of the Conservative group, Cllr James Browne said Gatwick offers a better choice for expansion. He said: "When the prevailing winds are westerly it means the planes coming in to land overfly the City causing air and noise pollution for hundreds of thousands, maybe millions of residents. There is a knock on effect on neighbouring areas such as ours." (continued on page 4).

Social Events

Wine Tasting and Fun quiz supper

Saturday March 18th, 7.30pm

at Parish Hall, Church of Christ The Prince of Peace,
Portmore Way, Weybridge KT13 8JD
Tickets £20

Summer Lunch

Sunday June 18th, Oxshott,

at the home of City Cllr and Mrs Tony Samuels.
Tickets £17.50

The Annual Oatlands Autumn Lunch

Friday October 13th at Burhill Golf Club.

Guest speaker to be confirmed, likely to be an MP
or well known political commentator.
Tickets £30

Tickets from Tim Simpson 01932 852309
or tandjsimpson@btinternet.com

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Not how it should be done

The new Residents Association and Liberal Democrat coalition, in charge of Elmbridge since last May, have voted themselves an outrageous pay rise of over 12%, despite Conservative efforts to stop them.

This will add £30,193 to the annual allowances bill and wipe out much of the £50,000 per annum savings that the last Conservative administration achieved by reducing the number of councillors. This is particularly unacceptable at a time of increased charges for vital services such as local meals on wheels. One Liberal Democrat councillor even justified the decision by saying the increase should be considered 'back pay' for the previous years of Conservative led allowance freezes. After a decade of the Conservatives restoring responsible finance to Elmbridge, it is disheartening to find the RA/Lib Dem coalition returning to their previous form of questionable spending that places further financial burden on Elmbridge residents.

Given my strong opposition to the rise in allowances, my personal position is that it would be wrong to accept money taken out of taxpayer's pockets and put into my own. That's why I have decided to donate any extra allowance I receive this year to Alzheimer's Research UK, of which former Prime Minister David Cameron has just become President. I have spoken to several other Conservative councillors who will also be donating their raise to charity. Elmbridge Conservatives will be working hard over the next few years to regain control of the council and prevent this new coalition's financial largesse from further damaging our Borough.

From Cllr Lewis Brown.



Planning and Housing in Oatlands

Over the last few months there have been a number of planning decisions affecting our area. Oatlands Court on St Mary's Road is no more and work has started on the new development as it has on the highly controversial garage site on Queens Road. The Council has also received an application to redevelop the Oatlands Working Men's Club site in St Mary's Road and officers are currently assessing this application.



Many readers will be aware of the recent consultation on the Council's Green Belt Policy. Elmbridge, in common with many other councils, is having to try and find land for more housing and this has resulted in renewed pressure to release areas of Green Belt. The prospect of this happening has angered many residents across the Borough.

To add to the controversy, the Government's recent Housing White Paper has not been totally clear on Green Belt Issues. Although it states that there will be no relaxation in the relevant policy, they are not reducing the number of new homes they expect Elmbridge to build. A catch 22 situation? Time will tell.

The Government are going to allow local authorities to increase planning fees by 20 percent from July 2017 if the council agrees to invest the additional income in their planning departments. The Government will also be considering allowing a further 20 percent increase for those councils delivering a given level of house building.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that councils need new powers and access to funding to enable them to return to their role as major builders of affordable homes and to be able to keep 100 percent of the proceeds from "Right to Buy" which would be reinvested in more affordable and social housing.

From Cllr Barry Cheyne

Conservative supporter?

We are always pleased to welcome new members to Oatlands Conservatives but would also appreciate help from anyone who may not wish to become a member. We have a team of Oatlands residents who deliver this In Touch and election material at intervals through the year.

If you can spare an hour or so, a few times a year, to help the Conservative cause by delivering in and around Oatlands then we would be very keen to hear from you.

Please contact Richard Bradley on randmbradley1@virginmedia.com



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