

The Weybridge News



Tim Oliver



Manjit K. Gill MBE



David Harvey

Green light for May elections

WHEYBRIDGE residents will go to the polls on **Thursday 6 May** to elect our next borough and county councillors, and a **Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner**.

Tim Oliver is seeking re-election as Weybridge's County Councillor. Since you elected him in 2017, Tim has become leader of the County Council and has repaired its finances and transformed its services.

As Weybridge's local representative, he has been heavily involved with local groups in planning the rebuilding of the medical facilities and redeveloping the library site into a com-

munity hub. Plans are progressing well and Tim hopes they will be shared with the community in the Summer. He says: "This is a fantastic opportunity to create a campus of outstanding community buildings and activities whilst embracing the town's long heritage. I very much hope to continue this work with your support."

Tim is married to a former GP Debi who is currently working as a vaccinator at one of the mass vaccination centres. He has two adult children following the death of his younger daughter Emily in 2019.

Both he and his wife are actively involved in a

number of organisations including Shooting Star Children's Hospice and the Brain Tumour Charity.

Manjit K. Gill MBE is seeking to represent Weybridge Riverside at Elmbridge Borough Council. She has a background in international business development and founded a charity advocating female equality.

If elected, Manjit will press for the Weybridge health centre to be rebuilt and provide strong representation on the Council, aiming to preserve and enhance our area as part of a locally-fo-

cused Conservative team.

David Harvey is your Conservative candidate for Weybridge St George's Hill, where he lives with his wife El and twin sons.

He is passionate about Weybridge and wants to help regenerate the high street and protect our Green Belt and the character of our town.

Lisa Townsend (pictured) is your Police & Crime Commissioner candidate. She is campaigning for more visible policing delivering protection for residents and businesses, a tougher stance on traveller incursions.



SURREY Conservatives are introducing a new policy of charging utility companies a lane rental fee when they dig up busy roads during peak hours. The idea is to incentivise road crews to complete works in a timely fashion and minimise inconvenience to residents. This should end instances of lanes being closed without work being done.

Concerns over Borough finances

ELMBRIDGE Council's finances are in a dreadful state after years of mismanagement by the eight party Residents Association and Liberal Democrat coalition running the council.

They claim it's all due to Covid-19, but they were using reserves to balance the books the year before the pandemic. They just can't be

trusted with taxpayers' money. Yet again, Conservatives will have to restore the Borough's finances after the election in May.

Unlike Conservative-led Surrey County Council which has transformed its services, and was better prepared to weather Covid, the Borough had a funding gap of around £5M even before the crisis.

Conservatives will carry out a root and branch review of operations and spending and deliver services to residents more efficiently and at lower cost. At February's Full Council, the RA/LibDem administration voted down a Conservative Group motion to implement the recommendations of the Council's own chief finance officer.

Surrey: a council transformed

SURREY County Council under the leadership of Weybridge's Cllr Tim Oliver is a Council transformed.

Tim had a successful year running Elmbridge Borough Council (in 2018-19) where he introduced protections for the Green Belt and secured a High Court injunction against Traveller incursions.

Since taking charge of Surrey he has led reforms to almost every area of Council - making £250m of savings while improving services for residents - a fantastic achievement!

He says: "Thanks to our hard work to transform the Council, we have been able to provide financial security and certainty in guiding Surrey through the Covid pandemic."

Over the past year, Surrey has funded PPE for the front-lines, and given financial support to the care and voluntary sectors and looked after the welfare of vulnerable residents. In the next five years it will invest almost £2BN on improving infrastructure, tackling the climate emergency and growing Surrey's economy, providing jobs, reducing inequality and improving the lives of all residents.

Surrey County Council spends more than £1M on



Adult Social Care and more than £500,000 on Children's Services EVERY DAY.

These are staggering sums, but it is Surrey's duty to look after the most vulnerable. A Conservative Council will continue to do that, while pressing Government for more sustainable funding.

Tim has four key priorities if his Administration continues in power after the elections.

These are: 1) Growing a sustainable economy; 2) Tackling health inequality - accelerating health and social care integration; 3) Enabling a greener future - measures include planting 1.2M trees, investing in ultra low emission buses, promoting walking and

cycling and replacing street lights with energy efficient bulbs; and 4) Making it easier for residents to participate in shaping decisions outside elections.

Tim said: "We must continually demonstrate to residents that we are spending their council tax wisely and delivering the best value.

"So we will continue to drive greater efficiencies wherever we can and look to pass on that benefit to residents. I know that we have a brighter future ahead of us. We will overcome Covid, rise to the challenge of recovery and continue to make Surrey the best place to live, work and to grow a business."

NEWS IN BRIEF

WE ARE saddened by the death of Weybridge councillor Andrew Davis earlier this year. He was a man of principle who served our town with distinction for eight years. Our condolences go to his family.

ELMBRIDGE Council invited food sellers to bid for eight new catering pitches around the borough. Big B's was chosen for Brooklands recreation ground and started operating from 1st March.

NEW litter bins will start to appear around the borough from April. The new bins will have increased capacity and will mostly be dual use for dog waste and litter. They are fox and bird proof. The Council is also investing in a small number of high-capacity solar bins.

TETRA pak cartons can be recycled in Elmbridge again via banks that are in place at the car park at Weybridge train station.



ON THE last weekend of February, travellers moved on to the business park on Locke King Road and then to South Heath car park. They were given notice to leave by Surrey Police and moved on Wednesday 3rd March. The Environment Agency has cleared the site.

SURREY County Council has purchased office space in Elmbridge for use by its own staff, as part of its move back into the county, following the sale of County Hall in Kingston. This is good news for jobs in Weybridge!

Dr Ben Spencer, MP for Runnymede & Weybridge

'AS I write this message Surrey Heartlands Clinical Commissioning Group is about to start inviting people over 50 in Weybridge for their vaccine.

All of these vaccines are saving lives and getting us closer to the end of pandemic. Building on the success of our local and national roll-out we are on track to have offered the entire adult population a vaccine by the 31st of July this year!

Crucially, all elderly and care home residents and their staff have been offered the jab and mobile units have been delivering to house-bound residents. I have been working with our local NHS



leaders to help residents with queries about their vaccination and ensure everyone has access to the protection the vaccines afford. I am also working to support the NHS so that we have the capacity both to recover services and prepare for next winter.

The scale and speed of the vaccine rollout is only matched by the community response in supporting it, with local residents volunteering to help at our vaccination hubs. This pandemic has shown us just how important community support and volunteering is.

Your Conservative Councillors and candidates have been out supporting and leading the pandemic response in Weybridge and I thank them for their commitment and dedication to our community.

As always, if you need my help or advice please contact me at ben.spencer.mp@parliament.uk