



STOP POLLUTING OUR RIVERS!

Local community groups protested along the Thames against dumping sewage in our rivers

Residents gathered in October next to Walton Bridge in a peaceful protest organised by Cllr Judy Sarsby against the dumping of raw sewage into our rivers.

Following the Government and local MP Ben Spencer's failure to support an amendment that would stop water companies pumping raw sewage into the UK's waterways, local people, including members of swimming, rowing, skiffing, kayaking and sailing groups decided they'd had enough and joined with the Liberal Democrats in protesting.

Raw sewage poured into our rivers and sea more than 400,000 times and for 3 million hours last year.

Liberal Democrats are championing the clean-up of our rivers. If you want to see the end of sewage in our rivers,

please sign our petition here:

action.elmbridgelibdems.org.uk/stop-sewage-dumping

Trees of Remembrance

On Sunday 14 November, five alders were planted in memory of individuals or groups of our local residents who died as a direct or indirect result of the Covid pandemic. One of the trees was dedicated to our late colleague, Andrew Davis.

Funding for these trees came from public donations collected by local community activist, Liani Mannfield, in the aftermath of the chainsaw felling of a number of trees along the Thames and elsewhere in Weybridge over the summer.

Elmbridge Borough Council Greenspaces team helped with selection and planting of the trees and the Mayor of Elmbridge and local councillors attended the event. Our thanks go to Liani, James East of Weybridge Litter Pickers and your local Lib Dem councillor Judy Sarsby, who organised the event. Weybridge church leaders gave their support and helped identify families of those lost, while Weybridge Male Voice Choir sung as each of the families and groups planted the five trees. One of the alders was dedicated to the seven choir members from around Surrey and another by local care home workers in memory of those they nursed but who sadly died.

You will find these trees at the public green space near the Canoe Clubhouse, just off the Thames towpath. Do take a moment to appreciate them when next you are out for a Thameside walk.



Alison Roche tending the tree planted in memory of her husband, Andrew Davis

Residents Parking

Your local Lib Dem Councillor, Vicki Macleod, will be lobbying Elmbridge to take an imaginative approach to the use of its car parks to help ease the problems of parking stress in Weybridge Riverside residential areas.

The suggestion is to introduce residents parking permits for twilight and morning parking in our town's car parks for those residents who do not have an off-street parking space. The proposal would allow residents to park overnight if they arrive after 5.00 and leave by 10.00.

What do you think? Is this a crazy idea or might it improve things for town centre residents. We are keen to hear if this might be of interest to you.

Anyone who lives in Weybridge Riverside will be acutely aware of the competition for on street parking spaces for people living in flats and houses with no off-street parking space. And this just gets worse. Every time there is a new development or a floor is added to an existing development, the demand for parking spaces becomes more acute.

Councillors consistently refuse permission for developments where there is inadequate parking provided but these decisions are often overturned by national planning inspectors. This is because central government has introduced even more freedoms for developers. So we have a problem which is only going to get worse, as more flatted developments are built.

Fill in our survey:

www.elmbridgelibdems.org.uk/weybridgesurvey



The Mayor's Charity

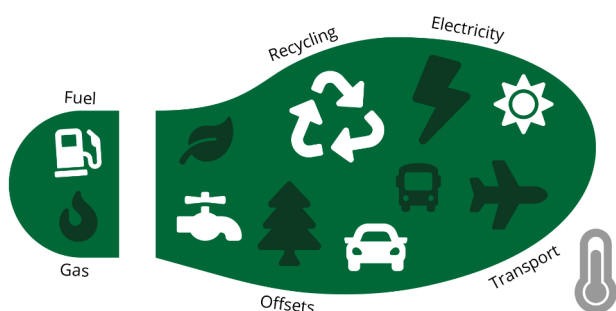
supporting young people's mental health



Elmbridge Mayor Tony Popham's chosen charity this year provided many Weybridge sports clubs with the opportunity to show support and solidarity for young people struggling with depression and mental health problems, following the two lockdowns.

Over a hundred local athletes, including members of rowing, kayaking, rugby, netball, cricket, tennis and running clubs, worked together in the sponsored "Row, Paddle, Run" event. It was attended by Graham & Hope Dear, the father and daughter who founded the charity after Grace tragically took her own life, after a long struggle with mental health in 2017.

The event, which raised over £6000, has already enabled the running of two mental health first aid workshops to help educate coaches and welfare officers of local sports and social clubs. More are planned in 2022. These aim to aid recognition of the signs and symptoms of mental health illness, how to approach those struggling and provide them with support while encouraging young people to understand "It's OK to not be OK".



Elmbridge aims at carbon neutrality

The Liberal Democrats are committed to creating a Green Society and Green Economy. This includes commitments on renewable energy, electric cars, cycling, recycling, public transport, energy efficiency and the protection of our environment including the Green Belt.

The Liberal Democrat/Residents' administration in Elmbridge has declared a Climate Emergency and pledged to take local action to contribute to national targets towards carbon neutrality and set Elmbridge Borough Council on the road to net carbon neutrality by 2030.

Lib Dem Cllr Ashley Tilling, Environment Portfolio, explains: "To meet the climate challenge we need to work at every level – national, county and borough, as well as individually. A 'bottom up' approach, where local communities undertake measures toward carbon neutrality and the protection of our green spaces is at the centre of our climate policy."

GREEN BELT PROTECTED IN LOCAL PLAN

In a significant move, which was supported across the Council, the draft Local Plan is to be revised to reflect better the views and aspirations of our community.

Lib Dem leader in Elmbridge Council and Cabinet Member Bruce McDonald said: "We want to put the community vision back into our Local Plan and that means rejecting the Conservative government's imposition of unrealistic housing targets on Elmbridge, which would trample over our green spaces and damage the character of our towns."

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Would a kerbside EV charging point tip you closer towards a decision to buy an electric vehicle, saving you money on fuel costs and helping to reduce carbon and toxic emissions?

If so, you can help Surrey County Council to decide where to install them by indicating your preference on their website: tinyurl.com/ebc-electric

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Email us at weybridge@elmbridgelibdems.org.uk to subscribe to our regular e-newsletters which give more frequent updates on developments in Weybridge and Elmbridge.

MEET US AT CAFE ONE

Come and talk with your Lib Dem councillors and the Focus team. We meet on the first Sunday of every month at Cafe One, Baker Street, 11am to 12 noon.

Get in touch with us

Email: weybridge@elmbridgelibdems.org.uk

Web: www.elmbridgelibdems.org.uk

Can you help our local team?

Name:

House name or number:

Post Code:

Email:

Telephone:

Send this back to: 2a Oatlands Avenue, Weybridge KT13 9TN

Can we keep you updated on our campaigns and activities?

Yes No Maybe

I want to donate to the Lib Dems

Yes No Maybe

I can help deliver leaflets

Yes No Maybe

I want to join the Lib Dems

Yes No Maybe