

Your local Liberal Democrat

# HELGI JOENSEN

standing up for residents in  
**Weybridge**

**YOUR LOCAL CHAMPION**



Helgi and his family have lived in Weybridge since 1990. Like many long-term residents of Weybridge, they have seen many changes to our town.

He says "Weybridge is a still good place to live. I want to ensure this continues to be true, as Weybridge evolves and improves". Helgi will work with fellow local councillors to protect the best of the character of Weybridge. He will also lobby on our behalf on issues which are not the direct responsibility of Elmbridge.

Take for example traffic, which has increased dramatically over the 30 years Helgi has been in Weybridge. Much of this traffic goes through the centre of the town, impacting our experience of the heart of Weybridge. Helgi will campaign to reduce the impact of cars on our town and work to make the centre more attractive for people who wish to walk and cycle in Weybridge.

"If the town centre becomes a more pleasant place to be, more people will be drawn there and will stay there longer, making it better for businesses catering to local needs."

The importance of our town centre to the quality of our lives, has been underlined by the recent shift from commuting to working from home, brought about by the pandemic. Helgi used to commute to London, only being able to enjoy Weybridge in the evenings and at weekends. Like many Weybridge residents, Helgi now spends more weekday time working from home. With more people spending more time in their local area, Helgi believes it is important that Weybridge is a vibrant town that provides more and different services and inspires people.

Helgi loves the wealth of open green space in the centre of town and along the town's rivers and canals. He is particularly concerned that these should be accessible to all and that the water in our local rivers should be clean. He has campaigned and will continue to work with councillors and local people to put pressure on government to ensure that our waterways are free from sewage outflows so that all river users can enjoy this wonderful amenity in safety. He knows that when it is done well, people and nature can work in harmony.

Helgi is also keen to highlight the heritage of Weybridge, which has been home to writers and

musicians as well as to motoring and aviation pioneers - as can be seen at Brooklands Museum. He would love to see our town flourish with more cultural and live entertainment.

Helgi says: "I love Weybridge and want to protect all that is great about the town. I'll work hard to bring in much-needed improvements to make it even better."



Your Weybridge LibDem Team

## Helgi Joensen's **priorities** if elected on May 5th



### 1 Protecting green spaces and character of Weybridge

Helgi understands the need to balance the provision of affordable housing with protecting the character of Weybridge and our green spaces. He will resist over-development, which puts a strain on local infrastructure. "We want to maintain and enhance the character of our town and to have appropriate housing for key workers and those young people who wish to remain in Weybridge."



### 2 Supporting local businesses

Local businesses have survived the pandemic and there are new businesses opening. Now is a particularly vital time to do everything we can to help our local businesses thrive. Helgi will work alongside Elmbridge Economic Development services and Weybridge businesses to ensure they are able to thrive, providing the services that will help keep Weybridge a desirable place to live.



### 3 Traffic volume and speeds - and pavements

Our recent Resident Survey shows that people are very concerned about the volume and speed of traffic passing through Weybridge and the condition of our pavements, especially along the High Street. Helgi will put pressure on Surrey to do a better job on highways and pavements, as well as facilitate resident discussions on how best to manage traffic speeds and flow in the town centre.



# Why we're backing Helgi Joensen for Weybridge



Although not politically affiliated, I will however be voting for Helgi because I believe he is passionate, principled and socially minded. Helgi will work hard to keep and maintain the green spaces and the river so that they can be enjoyed by all of us. It is important to focus on the environment and keep the sewage out of the river.

Holly Ross



I wholeheartedly support Helgi as the candidate for Weybridge Riverside. Helgi believes in maintaining the historical character of Weybridge, sympathetic development and improving the town centre. I know Helgi through his campaigning on local issues and I am confident that he will do what is best for the ward and Elmbridge.

Noel Milligan



People are disillusioned with politics because they are fed up with promises being made and then broken. More than anything else, I want to trust the people I vote for. In the years I have known him, Helgi has always done what he said he would do. That's important in my book and that's why he is going to get my vote.

Charles Lauber

## Get in touch with Helgi

✉ [weybridge@elmbridgelibdems.org.uk](mailto:weybridge@elmbridgelibdems.org.uk)

➔ [www.weybridgelibdems.org.uk](http://www.weybridgelibdems.org.uk)

## Working for you

### The environment portfolio

Elmbridge is to slash the carbon footprint of big CO2 emitter Xcel Leisure Centre as part of its commitment to fight climate change.

In July 2019 the Lib Dems on Elmbridge Council initiated a local focus on the Climate Emergency which was approved by full council and, following an audit, the council adopted its first Carbon Management and Reduction Plan in 2020.

In May this year I had the privilege of taking on responsibility for the Environment Portfolio and was keen to make speedier progress on implementing proposals in this plan. This year, working closely with officers and with the cross-party Climate Change Panel, we have secured sufficient money within the council budget to take forward a number of carbon reduction measures. With nearly a million pounds allocated in the February budget, we are now in a position to move forward with projects including: installing solar panels on the Civic Centre and Community Centres; additional insulation at Community Centres and installing electric vehicle charging points at these locations. Further EV charging points will be installed at Churchfields car park over the next few weeks.



Significantly, we shall also be installing solar panels on the roof of the Xcel Leisure Centre - the Council's biggest emitter of CO2. We expect this will give an annual saving of around £50,000 and 77 tonnes of CO2 and expect to recoup the cost of

the installation within six years.

With fuel prices going up, we are reassured that we have made sound decisions for both climate reduction and future cost savings.

Ashley Tilling

### My first year as a councillor

It has certainly been a busy year. In June I joined Vicki in organising the first Weybridge Community Fair. The weather was kind, crowds attended, and I saw there was more we could do. So I'm doing it again. This year the "Weybridge Jubilee Fair and Arts Festival" plus a dog show will fill Churchfields park on June 25th. It will be a day of music, fun and community!



Organising further events in support of young people's mental health and planting trees in memory of those lost to Covid certainly felt worthwhile.

However, frustration strikes when addressing planning issues particularly when residents are faced with rogue builders. Working on the licensing committee has also been interesting, but annoying when much needed decisions are blocked and become a focus for party political point scoring. A case in point was blocking a fee increase that would enable taxi licences to be processed faster. Planning and licensing are important ways in which councillors can protect local residents from some developers and businesses who have little regard for the misery they can cause. One recent hard fought licensing decision has protected residents from noisy concerts, unsociable behaviour and has improved safety.

Driving change for the better always feels good, but it is exhausting! I hope the next few years will allow me to do more. I will certainly miss my mentor and friend Vicki Macleod who has taught me so much. However, it will be a pleasure to add Helgi's positive attitude and energy to our Riverside team of councillors.

Judy Sarsby

### Four years in office

My four year term of office as councillor for Weybridge Riverside draws to a close this May, so I want to take this opportunity to let you know it has been an honour to serve all of you in this ward. I thank those who elected me and those I have worked with. 2018 seems a very distant memory. What a tumultuous four years it has been, nationally and internationally: what with PM Johnson, Brexit, Covid and now a war in Ukraine. Local matters can seem pale in comparison.

However, what local councillors deal with can affect the quality of our day to day lives in close-up. Much of a councillor's work is invisible while we are doing it and bringing about change takes time, but the results are worthwhile. In my time as your councillor, the most significant of these have been: the creation of our new Local Plan, which will influence and shape the quality of the environment we live and work in over the next 15 years; the completion of the cycle and walkway from the station to the centre of Weybridge (work on this started long before I became a councillor); the Elmbridge Climate Emergency declaration - authored by my friend and colleague Andrew Davis (RIP) - which is now bearing fruit under the stewardship of local councillor Ashley Tilling. We also celebrated the opening of the Broadwater Path, a project worked on by former Lib Dem councillors over many years.

Our efforts do have a tangible and more immediate impact when it comes to planning decisions. In the Queen's Road area, we are pleased that we have been able to protect existing residents from increases in parking stress from developments with inadequate parking.

At an even more close-up level, ward councillors can have an impact by responding to issues and concerns of local residents, either on matters that affect the town or on matters that affect them personally. I am grateful that, as a councillor, my interventions have helped.

I am delighted that Helgi Joensen has agreed to stand for election. I am confident that he will continue to contribute to the well being of our town and of individual residents.

Vicki Macleod