

FOCUS

Latest news from Weybridge Liberal Democrats



Cllr Ashley Tilling



Cllr Judy Sarsby



Cllr Helgi Joensen

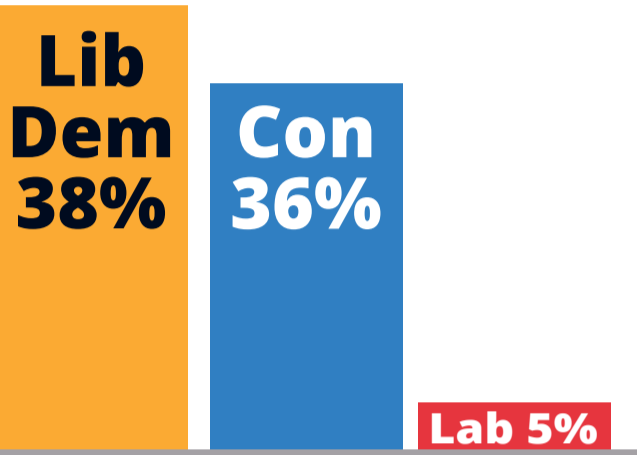
Liberal Democrats

SUMMER 2022

OFF TO A GREAT START

Lib Dems make **stunning gains** in local elections

More people voted for the Lib Dems than the Conservatives across Elmbridge this May



Newly elected Liberal Democrat councillors have hit the ground running and are working hard following their stunning success in May's local elections. The Liberal Democrats won the most new seats on Elmbridge Borough Council. We held the three wards we were defending – including Weybridge Riverside – and gained four more from the Conservatives.

The Liberal Democrats also won the popular vote in Elmbridge for the first time ever, taking 38% of the vote against just 36% for Johnson's Conservative Party. We thank those of you who voted for us for your support in these recent local elections.

In Weybridge Riverside Helgi Joensen held the seat with an increased majority, taking over from Vicki Macleod. This means we continue to have a team of three Lib Dem councillors in the ward working for you.

In Oatlands and Burwood Park ward, the Lib Dem candidate cut the Conservative margin to just 7%. In Hersham, Walton North, Walton South and in Cobham there are new Lib Dem councillors.

These results strengthen the Liberal Democrat team on Elmbridge Borough Council which they run in partnership with the non-political Resident Association councillors.

George Potter, the Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for Runnymede and Weybridge, added "This is a great set of election results for the Liberal Democrats. At a time when politics is being dragged through the mud by the Tory Party and people are struggling with the Cost-of-Living crisis, it is good to see councillors elected who have a genuine interest in their communities and the residents they represent."

Local election results

vs 2018

ELMBRIDGE RESULTS: **7 LIB DEM (+4)** **5 RESIDENTS (+2)** **4 CONSERVATIVE (-6)**



ELECTED!

Helgi Joensen

HOLDS Weybridge Riverside
increased share



2nd PLACE

Pete Hampson

Oatlands and Burwood Park
increased share



ELECTED!

Kirsty Hewens

GAINS Walton South
from the Conservatives

Health Campus gets priority

Ever since the fire burnt down the Weybridge Community Hospital 5 years ago, residents have been asking what will be replacing this and when. Things are now finally moving forward with a commitment to faster progress on an affordable and achievable plan.

The recent public exhibition established that the new Health Campus on the old hospital site will get the primary focus, but the redevelopment of the library site is also expected to press ahead.

Weybetter Weybridge (a partnership of the key local organisations who are delivering the programme) estimate that the new health campus will be operational towards the end of 2025. Their vision is that the campus will provide:

- Doctors, nurses and therapists working together to provide a one-stop shop for local health services
- Access to 'on the day' urgent care provided by nurses, GPs and a range of health professionals
- Ultrasound and advanced blood testing diagnostic services on site
- A range of children's services including a 0 to 19 health visiting and school nursing hub, as well as speech and language and other therapy services

However, replacing the walk in centre is not in the plan (due to the creation of the Urgent Treatment Centre at St Peters) nor is an X-ray unit proposed (as the previous one was underused and there is good capacity in Walton).

The new library space on the present site will be designed to be flexible, enabling different types of activities and events to take place. It will include exhibition and performance space, alongside confidential rooms that can be used for workshops, classes or for groups to meet. There will be space throughout the building where



Artist's impression of what the new health centre might look like

people can use facilities including Wi-Fi, computers, printing and photocopying to support them to collaborate, work or study.

There was a further proposal that part of the Churchfields Car Park should move from its existing position to Churchfields Bowling Green. This would allow for a large plaza as a multi-functional public space behind the new library. There is resident concern about this proposal and we are uncertain whether it will be pursued.

LibDem Cllr Helgi Joensen will be participating in Weybetter Weybridge meetings. Email him with your views at weybridge@elmbridgelibdem.org.uk.

There will of course be extensive public consultation in the months ahead. For further information, go to the Surrey County Council website and search for **WeybetterWeybridge** or follow the QR code.



Fair draws record attendance

Weybridge Jubilee Fair and Arts Festival, held in Churchfields Rec. was a resounding success. If you didn't attend this year, be sure to put Saturday 24th June in your 2023 diary now!

What started last year as a Covid-delayed community event, this year blossomed into a 'must attend' gathering and celebration for Weybridge's residents. It brought together performances from local schools and community groups, representation from local clubs and charities, local craft businesses and fabulous food - the Obsessions sizzlers were a runaway success. There was even a dog show.

Congratulations to the organisers. Looking forward to next year.

Weybridge Business Park

All offices on the main Business Park on Hamm Moor Lane have been emptied and the site owner has applied to Runnymede Council, application RU.22/0776, for permission to build three warehouse units. The largest of these, with 10 loading bays and 12 waiting bays, is believed to be earmarked as an Amazon distribution centre.

It has been pointed out in a letter of representation that the impact on local roads of the estimated 99 HGVs per day, as well as numerous delivery vans and commuter transport (of up to 450 employees), would be significant and would almost certainly affect traffic in Weybridge High Street, Heath Road and Portmore Park Road. Indeed, National Highways has asked for a 56 day delay in any decision so that a further review of the methods used to calculate the trip generation



Weybridge Jubilee and Arts Festival

trip generation in the Transport Assessment can be reviewed. However, the consultant acting for the applicant has responded by providing data that shows a reduction in the number of vehicle movements from the level of previous occupancy of the site.

Cllr Ashley Tilling writes that EBC were consulted and responded on 10th June but as traffic impact is a matter for SCC Highways they could not find any grounds to raise an objection (EBC 2022/1662).

Protecting our riverside

Have you noticed the 'permanently' moored boats along the stretch from Cowey Sale to Weybridge? These boats are

illegally moored and The Environment Agency, which is responsible for policing this stretch of river bank, have not taken action to move on the boats.

Councillor Judy Sarsby has been in continuous contact with EBC officers and Environment Agency staff to try and get more concerted action. She says "Police have powers to tow away illegally parked cars, why can't the Environment Agency have powers to tow away illegally moored boats?"

Judy and fellow councillors on EBC, frustrated by this situation, have now lobbied local MPs and Government Ministers to get action to rectify the situation and safeguard the riverbank from these illegal moorings.

Parliamentary candidate selected

George Potter has been selected as the Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for Runnymede and Weybridge constituency. George works as a software engineer team leader and is also a Surrey county councillor.

George says: "I'm delighted to have been selected, and I'm determined to challenge the Tories to tackle the urgent issues facing our country."



Love Elmbridge Back the Plan

Liberal Democrat Councillors on Elmbridge Borough Council are urging residents to get behind the Council's new Local Plan or risk thousands of new homes being imposed across Elmbridge.

The Liberal Democrats, working with Resident Councillors, have put forward a Draft Local Plan for Regulation 19 Consultation, prior to submission to the Government Inspector, that will deliver the homes we need and protect the character of our Borough including its precious Green Belt. But there is a danger that Government Inspectors will reject it and force national planning rules on our area.

Cllr Bruce McDonald, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council said, "This Local Plan has been forged by listening to what our residents have said. It will provide a sustainable housing number for Elmbridge, whilst protecting and enhancing the character of the Borough. It will help our high streets and communities thrive whilst protecting our Green Belt."

"We have built our plan from the bottom up, and it allows for at least 100 affordable homes a year - not the unrealistic and unachievable housing targets imposed by the Conservative government."

Liberal Democrat Parliamentary candidate for Runnymede and Weybridge, **George Potter**, added "I know how much everyone who lives in our borough cares about its future. People I speak to want to see an approach that is balanced and sustainable, recognising that we need affordable homes for young people whilst protecting the quality of the environment and the Green Belt."

"The planning system can't make housing more affordable or solve the housing crisis by itself. We need a national policy which tackles the chronic and long-term shortage of affordable housing and national policies which make housing more affordable, not less."

Elmbridge Borough Council are running a final consultation over June and July 2022 before the Local Plan is submitted to the Government Inspectors.

Please sign our petition to send a strong message that local people support our community and want to protect our local Green Belt.



Lib Dem Cllr Bruce McDonald is standing up against the Tories' housing targets

Key points of the Council's Local Plan

- 1 The Plan allows for 465 homes per year over 15 years, not the 647 pushed for by the Conservative Government.
- 2 The Plan will protect the green belt and enhance green infrastructure and biodiversity in the borough.
- 3 The Plan will shape development in the urban area to meet the needs of our communities, whilst respecting and enhancing the unique characters of our towns and villages.

Give the plan your support!

elmbridgelibdems.org.uk/backtheplan

Please note that the pre-submission consultation closes on 29 July



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Get in touch with us

✉ weybridge@elmbridgelibdems.org.uk → www.weybridgelibdems.org.uk

📘 @weybridgelibdems

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LOTTERY



Take part in our monthly draw to win the cash prize and help fund our local campaigning.

Half the money received is awarded as a prize. You must be 16 or over to play.



PLAY NOW: elmbridgelibdems.org.uk/lottery

COME AND MEET US AT CAFE ONE

Talk with your LibDem Councillors and the Focus Team. We meet on the first Sunday of every month at Cafe One, Baker Street, 11 am to 12 noon



Can you help us here in Weybridge?

Name:

House name or number:

Postcode:

Email:

Telephone:

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

Send this back to: 2a Oatlands Avenue, Weybridge KT13 9TN or fill in online: elmbridgelibdems.org.uk/volunteer

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