

# MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

COMBINED NEWSLETTER AND MANIFESTO SPRING 2026

[www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk](http://www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk)

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**Molesey Residents Association Councillors at Elmbridge**

**Ruby Ahmed 020-8979-4210 Pat Gormley 07983-376419 Tony Popham 07970-107937**

**MRA Councillor at Surrey County Council - Ernest Mallett 020-8979-6446**

## NEWSLETTER SECTION

### Have your say at our AGM Vine Hall, Vine Road on FRIDAY May 22nd 2026 at 8.00pm

- With Local Government Reform, Molesey will now be part of a bigger council, represented by many fewer councillors (see later article)
- Therefore it is ever more important that Molesey is represented by strong, independent voices at the new East Surrey Unitary Authority
- If you are a MRA member, please come to the AGM and let us know your thoughts
- Non-members are welcome and can join at the door as a supporting member of the MRA.

### HURST POOL REFURBISHMENT STARTS APRIL 2026

Elmbridge Borough Council has announced that a £1.3 million refurbishment of Hurst Pool is set to begin at the end of March 2026, with completion scheduled for late summer.

The refurbishment is intended to extend the pool's lifespan and improve the visitor experience. Works will include modernised changing rooms, upgraded interior décor throughout, enhanced energy efficiency to reduce environmental impact and improved vending provision for refreshments and coffee.

Hurst Pool users are being advised to use the Xcel swimming pool as a temporary alternative. Additional swimming lessons and aqua sessions are planned at the Xcel whilst the refurbishment is ongoing.



Picking up on residents' concerns, MRA Councillor Pat Gormley has been lobbying for improved public transport from Molesey to the Xcel sports complex. It is therefore pleasing that Surrey Connect on-demand bus service can be used as an option for residents to get from Molesey to the Xcel Sports complex. See separate article for more detail.

The MRA actively lobbied for the inclusion of a dedicated cafeteria area in the refurbishment. Whilst we are disappointed such an area was discounted for economic reasons, we are pleased that the Hurst Pool will continue as a community asset for many years to come.

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# NEWSLETTER SECTION

## FUTURE OF MOLESEY COMMUNITY CENTRE SECURED

Elmbridge Borough Council has nearly completed its Connected Communities programme, part of which involves its current six community centres being transferred and managed by the voluntary sector and community and faith partners.

Management of The Molesey Centre will be transferred to St Peter's West Molesey, working in partnership with the Friends of The Molesey Centre.

Their vision is to create a hub providing an affordable cafe, family-friendly activities, a dedicated play space and support services for residents of all ages and backgrounds.

St Peter's will continue to run the St Peter's Community & Youth Hub on Ray Road where it offers a range of groups for young people as well as being the home of East Elmbridge Foodbank.



In addition they want to provide a vibrant programme of activities for the elderly and for the Centre to be open for activities throughout the whole week.

Due diligence and governance processes are being carried out with a view of a transfer to be completed during April.

## NEW SPLASHPAD FOR MOLESEY

Only announced at the end of February, Elmbridge Borough Council has agreed a Play Strategy Extension (2026 to 2029). This is a three - year programme to upgrade and invest in play equipment in the borough, for children and families to benefit from enhanced play spaces across the borough.

As part of this strategy, a new splash pad facility is being planned for Molesey.

MRA Councillor Pat Gormley has been advised that the location and timeline for this splash pad facility will be decided after detailed surveys have been undertaken on potential sites.

The MRA will update residents once plans are more formalised.

## MOLESEY TO BENEFIT FROM ON-DEMAND BUS SERVICE

Last month, a new on-demand public bus service was made available for Molesey.

Surrey Connect is intended to help Molesey residents travel around Elmbridge and into Mole Valley, where there are no traditional bus services operating.

The service means residents can book a bus for when you need it and utilise public transport.

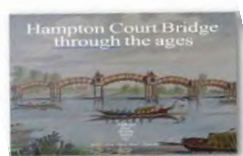


Working with Surrey Connect, Elmbridge Borough Council has provided permission to use some of our car parks as rest stops between routes, currently car parks in Weybridge, Walton and Esher.

However, Walton Road car park in East Molesey is under consideration as a future rest stop. If you feel you could benefit from this service, for more details visit

<https://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/news/2026/elmbridge-benefit-popular-demand-bus-service>

or call 01372 474 944 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm).



**LEARN MORE OF THE HISTORY OF MOLESEY** Molesey Local History Society has recently published its latest book, 'Hampton Court Bridge Through The Ages'. The book details the design and construction of the four bridges at Hampton Court, from the 18th century to today. Priced at a very reasonable £10, if you want a copy then email [enquiries@moleseyhistorysociety.org](mailto:enquiries@moleseyhistorysociety.org) or phone 07808 864351.

# MANIFESTO SECTION



Future  
Surrey

7 May 2026  
East Surrey  
Elections



Get ready to vote on 7 May

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

### A Personal View

Cllr Ernest Mallett writes:

Why have I asked for a picture of a rabbit to head this article? I am a farmer's son, but even though I am not a farmer, I think like a farmer might. What I see, is that numerous councillors in Surrey are running round in brainless circles, just like rabbits do when they are exposed on the harvest field as the corn is being cut.



The purpose of LGR is basically to reduce the layers of Local Government so you will be less confused as to how you can get a local problem solved. Labour claim it was in their manifesto, 'Well No', but then they say they had previously mentioned it, so here we are on the brink.

As a member of the public, you have no say in it but neither do I as a County Councillor. Lots of Borough councillors are running around in circles claiming they need this or that before they can agree, hence the Rabbit comparison, because the reality is that only 2 people have any say, the Local Government Minister, Steve Reed and the Leader of Surrey CC, Tim Oliver.

So, what's the real score? SCC has so far spent £850,000 on paperwork. Don't worry because the government refunded this out of your taxes. Then the estimate of the cost of change was £85 million, Oh but 'Hold On' that has just risen to £92.5 million.

No costings have been given but you have a benefit, it will save you £23million in Council Tax per year----- But will it? Apart from no detailed public costings, the Government, under a FAIRER FUNDING PLAN, are taking grants away from Surrey to give to Midland and Northern Councils. O.K., they say Surrey people can afford it! But, 'Wait-not so fast!' The Government has determined that SCC/The Boroughs/The replacing two new Councils, must raise the Surrey Council Tax to the maximum legal level of 5% for each of the next 3 Council years. (That will be £300million compound divided between the two new councils.)

So, forgetting the finance if you can, you are going to get everything that matters into 2 Councils of roughly 600,000 population each with slightly unequal number of councillors around 80 each council.

Locally, you will have 2 councillors in West Molesey & 2 councillors sharing East Molesey and Thames Ditton.

### EAST SURREY ELECTIONS

in the Combined Ward - Thames Ditton and East Molesey



# WHINCUP

MOLESEY RESIDENTS



# BRIERLEY

THAMES DITTON RESIDENTS



in the West Molesey Ward



# MALLETT

MOLESEY RESIDENTS



## THURSDAY MAY 7th 2026

# MANIFESTO SECTION

## YOUR MRA CANDIDATES FOR THE MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> ELECTIONS



**KEVIN WHINCUP**, standing for **Thames Ditton and East Molesey ward** Is a borough councillor at Elmbridge BC.

Kevin has a long history of service to the community – in the armed services, with the NHS and currently in local government.

In representing you, Kevin has demonstrated his passion in ensuring residents' voices are heard at Council.

Kevin asks for your support on May 7<sup>th</sup> so he can continue to be your voice in the new East Surrey Unitary Authority.



**SAM BRIERLEY**, standing for **Thames Ditton and East Molesey ward**

My family have lived in Thames Ditton for nearly twenty years and our two children both attend local schools. I am standing for election as I strongly believe it is local independent Councillors who serve our community best, not those prioritising a wider political goal over local issues. I work in Thames Ditton High Street , so I am accessible and well placed to understand its challenges, and how important our businesses , amenities and services are to local people. If elected I will fight for Thames Ditton and East Molesey.



**ERNEST MALLET** standing for **West Molesey ward**

Is a county councillor at Surrey CC.

A stalwart of the community, Ernest was awarded an MBE for his tireless work for Molesey.

Ernest brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from years of service to support you through what will be a challenging transition from the current local government model to the new Unitary Authority structure.

Ernest asks for your support so that he can continue to challenge the status quo on your behalf at the new East Surrey Unitary Authority.

Residents' & Independent Councillors make up the greatest number in existing councils operating in the East Surrey area.

Our ward will form part of the new unitary authority of East Surrey. At present the composition of all Surrey County and Borough Councillors that sit in the East Surrey area is clearly led by Residents and Independents.

Voting for your Residents' candidates in Thames Ditton And East & West Molesey will therefore ensure that your voice will continue to be heard in council and may even run it.

