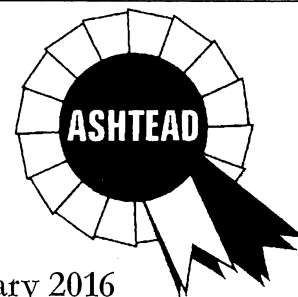


Ashtead Independents

Newsletter

Issue No 24



January 2016

Letter from the Leader

Dear Ashtead Resident.

Your Ashtead Independent (AI) Councillors are all busy people who give some of their time to caring for the neighbourhood in which we live. It is sometimes difficult to find extra time to publish a newsletter but we recognise that it is important to keep you informed of local issues and what we are doing about them, so we are pleased to be able to distribute this one.

The General Election in May coincided with the District Election in Ashtead Village Ward. The one remaining Conservative Councillor was up for re-election. The National swing to the Conservatives enabled him to retain his seat. Sadly, Professor David Hawkworth, who would make an excellent councillor, will have to try again.

The Conservative resurgence meant that they now have an overall majority. Consequently Chris Townsend (AI Ashtead Park) had to resign as Council Leader, and John Northcott (AI Ashtead Common) and Simon Ling (AI Ashtead Village) as members of the Council Executive. We will all, from the back benches, hold the new Executive to account for their actions. We hope the re-appearance of one-party control will not result in the lack of consultation and transparency of decision making that has in the past characterised such a situation.

During the period of joint Conservative/Independent control, many initiatives have been put in place, not least the Transform Leatherhead Project and the refurbishment of the Pippbrook building, and we will be keeping a close eye on these.

None of us can continue for ever and we are constantly looking out for public spirited individuals who might consider a term or two as a District or County Councillor. If you think this might be something you could do please get in touch for an informal discussion without any obligation (on either side!).

Yours sincerely

Simon

Stop press –

Ashtead has a draft Neighbourhood Development Plan!

For the past two years, Ashtead Community Vision (ACV) has been working to develop a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for our village, and they have now reached something of a milestone.

Ashtead now has a draft NDP which will be published in the New Year and which is scheduled for delivery to Mole Valley District Council by April 2016. Before this can happen, ACV must hold the first of two public consultations on the NDP, and this will take place **between 18th January and 28th February 2016**. There will be an open session for residents at the Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall on **Saturday 6th February** as well as the opportunity for residents to comment online and through social media.

Community engagement and consultation are a fundamental part of the NDP process, so please get involved and make your views known when the time comes. We wish ACV all the best as the NDP journey continues.

For further information please visit:
www.ashteadcommunityvision.org.uk

Paula Hancock



Woodfield Lane widening

We are very pleased to say that the Surrey/Mole Valley Local Committee approved the Woodfield Lane widening scheme at their meeting on 2 December. A scheme to alleviate congestion in the area was first proposed by Common Ward Independent Councillors John Northcott and the late David Howell; put to Surrey CC by the previous Conservative County Councillor and subsequently promoted by Independent County Councillor Chris Townsend. There had been a delay caused by doubts expressed at the previous meeting by the Conservatives on the Committee, although all aspects were fully covered in the report.

We hope that the work will be done in the first quarter of 2016, but it is weather dependent of course. The scheme will allow traffic to move freely along the road in both directions with parking retained for shoppers or short term stays only on the Woodfield side.