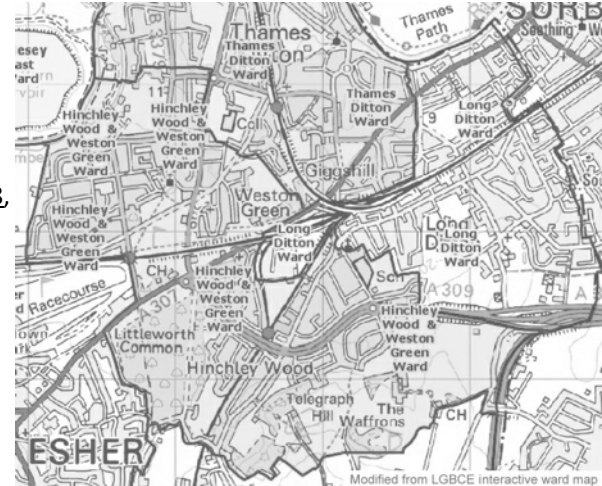


2016 COUNCIL ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARY CHANGES

This year's Elmbridge Borough Council election on 5th May will be contested under new ward boundaries which have been determined by the Local Government Boundary Commission, following a decision to reduce the total number of councillors from 60 to 48. Hinchley Wood will become part of a new Hinchley Wood and Weston Green ward with three councillors.

A summary of the Commission's report setting out its final recommendations for Elmbridge Borough Council and a full copy of the report is available on its website, www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/surrey/elmbridge. An interactive map of final recommendations is available at consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/4438, and the map alongside shows the boundaries of the new Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Ward.



Residents will recall that the administration at Elmbridge initially proposed to split Hinchley Wood in half and divide it between Thames Ditton and Long Ditton. Thanks to the vigorous representations made by residents, the Commission rejected this proposal, but in order to produce a three member ward of the right size, they have determined that Weston Green and Hinchley Wood should be merged, and that the Lynwood estate and adjoining areas should be transferred to Long Ditton. Whilst we very much regret the fact that Hinchley Wood will no longer be a separate ward within its natural boundaries, and that the Lynwood area and part of Portsmouth Road (including Brooklands Road, Paget Place, the scouts/guides hut and the recreation ground) will no longer form part of the ward, the outcome is better than it might have been, and we thank those many residents whose representations to the Commission were instrumental in achieving this outcome.

We have held discussions with Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents Association about how best to ensure continuity of residents' representation on the Council under the new boundaries. The Commission's report was received a month later than originally promised, which has led to a tight timetable for agreeing arrangements for nominating residents candidates within the new ward. There are currently two councillors for Hinchley Wood and two for Weston Green, but there will be only three councillors in the new ward. This year's election will be an 'all out' one, with all three seats being contested. Thereafter (starting in 2018), the system will revert to 'election by thirds', with one council seat being contested in each year there is an Elmbridge Borough Council election. (Note: these changes only affect Elmbridge Borough councillors, and there is no change in the arrangements for the election of Surrey County councillors).

At the HWRA AGM held on 4th February, our existing councillors, Janet Turner and Nigel Haig-Brown, were nominated to stand for re-election, alongside Tannia Shipley of Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents Association, under a joint party description of Hinchley Wood/Weston Green Residents' Associations. If these three residents candidates are elected, they will together serve the whole of the new ward, and each of them will be available to help with residents' concerns from any part of the new ward.

After the election a joint Working Group between HWRA and TDWGRA will consider longer-term working arrangements leading up to the selection of candidates for the 2018 election and beyond. In the meantime, HWRA will continue to operate in the normal way, with Road Representatives' and General meetings carrying on as usual.

Dates for your diary

Elmbridge Borough Council elections Thursday 5th May

Road closure (see over): Surrey Classic Cycle race 31st July



Budgens Post office counter

Budgens have been experiencing some staffing problems with the Post Office counter service, and are in the process of recruiting extra staff and providing more training. They are also reducing the opening hours of the Post Office counter to: Monday to Friday 9am to 7pm; Saturday and Sunday 9am to 6pm. (The opening times for the main store are unchanged).

We are aware that many residents have had frustrating waits or have even had to abandon business since the new arrangements started, and we hope that these changes will improve matters.

Hinchley Wood Station

The refurbishment of Hinchley Wood Station is well under way. There will be a new ticket office and waiting room, plus a new ticket machine. Network Rail will also install two new cycle sheds on the village side of the station, which will hold 20 cycles and open up the entrance to the station to make it more user friendly. Hopefully this work will be completed by early summer.

Damage to grass verges from building materials and contractors' vehicles.

Householders are reminded that Surrey County Council hold householders responsible for damage to the verges bordering their property. If you are having building work carried out please make sure that you or your contractor repair any damage that they might have caused to the grass verges, and if you are having building material delivered please make sure that it is placed on your property and not on the road, paths or grass verges.

Trees and shrubs

This is a very good time to cut back overhanging trees and shrubs. It is a lot easier to do it now before the leaves appear, and there is also less rubbish to dispose of. Please help the partially sighted, people with mobility issues, and those with push chairs by ensuring that your shrubs are kept well clear of the footway.



Janet Turner

Our Councillors Janet Turner and Nigel Haig-Brown can be contacted as follows:

janet.turner@hinchleywood.org.uk Tel: 020 8398 1565

nigel.haig-brown@hinchleywood.org.uk Tel: 020 8398 4060



Nigel Haig-Brown

Road representative vacancies

We have a few road representative vacancies in the following roads:

Couchmore Avenue
Manor Drive
Greenways
Soprano Way
Poplar Road
Gibson Court
Severn Drive

If you would like to join our friendly team of community helpers please contact Roy Turner 020 8398 1565 or e-mail user@royjanet.wanadoo.co.uk.

This is not an onerous task and it keeps you in touch with other residents.

K3 Bus Stops Manor Road South

Following the withdrawal (without notice or consultation) of the K3 'hail and ride' service along Manor Road South, Councillor Janet Turner has been having talks with Surrey County Council and the bus company. As a result, it is proposed to replace the 'hail and ride' section with four new bus stops: two on the north side (towards Kingston) outside numbers 5 and 55; and two on the south side (towards Esher) outside numbers 68 and 12/14. If implemented, these additional stops will avoid bus users having to go all the way to the Oaken Lane end, or cross the by-pass to Manor Road North, in order to board or alight.

Road Closures

This year once again there will be extensive road closures around Hinchley Wood for the London-Surrey 100 and Classic cycle races all day on Sunday 31st July. For more information see www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk/info-hub/road-closures/

Councillors' Surgeries: second Saturday of each month. Please check the HWRA notice board and/or website for details of time and venue.

www.hinchleywood.org.uk

If you would like to receive e-bulletins from HWRA, please go to the Contact page on the website and click on the 'subscribe' link.