



Gill Coates



YOUR RESIDENTS' CANDIDATE FOR ELMBRIDGE ON 2ND MAY

A message from Gill

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I was elected as one of your RA councillors in May 2021. Since then I have been working hard to protect this lovely corner of Elmbridge and serve your best interests.

Residents hold the balance of power in EBC. Your RA councillors have a major voice and we make a real difference. I was appointed to the Cabinet in May 2022 and I have served two years as Portfolio Holder for Community Care. I am passionate about helping our elderly and vulnerable residents, having been a carer for my mum and a Meals on Wheels volunteer, and I work tirelessly to champion these services within Council. I also represent EBC on Kingston Hospital Trust, the Health Liaison Panel, Citizens Advice and CHEER and sit on the Elmbridge Connects Advisory Body, Cost of Living Group and Annual Grants panel.

Locally, some of you may have met me at the Nature & Climate Festival, which I co-founded in 2022. This has brought over 60 speakers, workshops and activities to encourage everyone to think about climate change and how we can live sustainably. Or perhaps at one of the monthly litter picks in Weston Green or Hinchley Wood. I'm very active with the TD&WGRA and I've organised the Secret Gardens of Weston Green, Nature & Climate Photography Competition, Platinum Jubilee Picnic, three community projects for the 'Big Help Out' for the Coronation and I'm a *Thames Ditton Today* depot. I also support most Hinchley Wood RA events and work closely with my fellow councillors in the HWRA.

I've helped a number of local residents on planning concerns in their neighbourhoods and I sit on the East Area Planning Committee. Elmbridge needs more small and affordable homes, but I believe that can be achieved through appropriate development that respects the character of our surroundings.

Life is not always easy in local politics. Recently there has been considerable misinformation on social media about me and EBC's community services, including from our local MP! This makes me livid, but I don't engage with it. I just get on with the job. But here's the simple **fact**: EBC is committed to helping *more* people, not fewer (read our policies) and our community centres are *not under threat of closure*. Please remember this when you read the other leaflets that come through your door.

RA councillors are committed to helping people to thrive and if you vote for me on May 2nd that is what you will get - a Councillor who puts residents first, not political ambition.

What your local RA councillors have done for you:

- * Lobbied our Surrey County Councillors to get potholes fixed
- * Cleared vegetation around Milbourne Pond
- * Voted to give Stokes Field 'Village Green' status
- * Lobbied Network Rail to repair the bridge at Esher Station



- * Helped in numerous local RA events, like Secret Gardens, Christmas Lights and the Nature & Climate Festival



- * Kept you informed about Council activities
- * Taken part in monthly litter picks in Weston Green and Hinchley Wood
- * Rejected inappropriate planning applications
- * Always been on hand to answer residents' concerns and signpost them to other sources of help and advice
- * And much, *much* more.....



Gill is a member of our experienced team of Hinchley Wood & Weston Green Residents' Associations Councillors, alongside Janet Turner and James Crawshaw

Why vote Residents' Association?

As independent Residents' Association councillors we serve the interests of the local community, not those of national political parties.

We work as a team to provide a comprehensive cover for the ward's residents.

We live in the ward and are readily accessible to deal with residents' concerns – through regular Association open meetings, phone and email.

We are among the hardest working on the council and in the wards – we get things done!

Since 2019 Residents have participated in administrations which have delivered excellent results for the benefit of Elmbridge local communities.

Your Hinchley Wood and Weston Green councillors' priorities are:

Planning: Resist inappropriate development, and support sustainable development with the necessary infrastructure.

Green Belt and open spaces: Continue to protect our Green Belt and other open spaces, and encourage their use for recreation.

Resident wellbeing: Support the elderly and vulnerable members of our communities, and promote opportunities for young people to reach their full potential.

Amenities: Promote and maintain our thriving communities by protecting and enhancing local shops and other community facilities.

Elmbridge Residents Group - Working Together

Through the Elmbridge Residents Group, the independent residents councillors on Elmbridge Borough Council work together as a team. We are the second largest group (after the Liberal Democrats) and we are in a coalition with them to run the council. Together we have a mission for a thriving, sustainable Elmbridge driven by the power of community. Our priorities are:

- Prudent, sensible financial management of Council budgets in the face of shrinking government grants
- Becoming a Net Zero Council by 2030 and encouraging residents to live sustainably
- Inward investment in projects that will improve our local surroundings and amenities
- Delivering core services like waste collection, housing, planning and licensing, efficiently and reliably
- Protecting our public green spaces and encouraging wider enjoyment
- Reaching out to the 9% of Elmbridge residents we know are in need of support

Remember - EBC gets just 11% of our Council Tax (the rest goes to SCC and the police). A vote for Residents Association candidates in the local elections ensures we get a say in how it is spent.

For a strong Residents voice on the council, vote:

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Hinchley Wood/Weston Green Residents' Associations



Don't forget:

Bring photo ID to vote