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 South West Herts Conservative Association

News from Berkhamsted

Spring 2021

Some Words from Your Conservative Candidate for the Berkhamsted County Council Election on May 6th - Peter Matthews

Berkhamsted is a great place to live and I have taken an active part in its growth over the past 25 years. I am a trustee of the Berkhamsted Castle Trust and also the Friends of St Peter's and St Peter's Parochial Church Council. During my terms as Town Mayor, Town Councillor, and Borough Councillor I actively supported and promoted Berkhamsted. I support the Herts County Council transport plan to reduce congestion and air pollution. I aim to develop a Berkhamsted focussed version based on a sound infrastructure whatever the growth in housing. I will support the

extension of the 20mph scheme. Overdevelopment of the town is also linked to pollution and congestion and I will oppose it, looking to more sensible, sustainable development that will contain a high proportion of affordable homes. I will continue to support our varied ecology and lobby for a reduction in pollution and water extraction that has caused so many problems with our chalk streams. I will support a new hospital in Southwest Herts and will work with the County Council and local GPs to improve the access to primary healthcare and local hospitals.



Have Your Say: Vote Postal



Local elections are happening on Thursday 6th May. Some of you may be worried about going to a polling station if you have not had your vaccine. To save the worry and to make sure you still have your say, register for your postal vote before Tuesday 20th April.

Go to: www.postalvote.conservatives.com

A 2017 Boundary Change which only affects County Council Elections, transferred the KAA ward in Berkhamsted West to the Bridgewater seat which includes Northchurch as well. Thus Conservatives in the KAA ward will be voting for Councillor and Dacorum Mayor, Terry Douris. The Conservative candidate for all the other Berkhamsted wards is Peter Mathews.

Let's Talk Infrastructure



Infrastructure and services will come under increasing pressure should even a fraction of the new housing proposed in the Draft Local Plan becomes a reality. This photo of the Bulbourne running through Berkhamsted looks to be in good order with an excellent flow of water. However, this may be misleading as the Bulbourne can have reduced flow during warm weather periods. This is exacerbated by the extraction of water by the water companies to meet the existing demands of the area.

Lower Your Speed and Save Lives

Peter is a strong supporter of planned extensions to the 20mph zones in SW Berkhamsted for areas like Shootersway. These plans have been postponed due to the change in traffic volumes in lockdown but plans should resume after the traffic volume and speed survey is completed in September.

Berkhamsted Benefits from County Council Spending

The Conservative County Council has spent over £1 million on improving the area around the station including the refurbishment of the bridges on Lower Kings Road, one near The Boat and the canal foot bridge. Peter Matthews is pictured discussing the value of the improvements for an important part of the infrastructure with constituents. But that's not all.



Peter Matthews discussing the bridge improvements with constituents.

A Greener Hertfordshire

The Conservative County Council has agreed a Sustainable Action Plan, committing £12m in funding to support a greener and more sustainable future through the following:



- 1) Reducing landfill in Hertfordshire to zero by 2030.
- 2) Being carbon neutral in its own operations by 2030.
- 3) Becoming a net zero greenhouse gas country before 2050.
- 4) Improving biodiversity on its land by 20%.
- 5) Planting one new tree for each new house built and one new tree for each tree removed.

Potholes in Our Roads

Poor weather conditions have led to more potholes on Berkhamsted roads. Repairs and resurfacing have been undertaken by Herts C.C. with areas like Park St and Trevelyan to be repaired later this year.



The Local Plan

Berkhamsted Conservatives are opposed to the number and locations of the developments proposed in the Plan and submitted a strong and well researched objection to it. We accepted that a plan is necessary, but the evidence in the supporting papers does not stack up. Moreover, no consideration has been taken of the effects of Brexit, Covid and our current economic situation.



The Conservative Hertfordshire County Council serves us well. Don't believe false news! Here are the real facts:

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Good reasons to Vote Conservative...

1. £12m committed to a new Care Home facility opening in September 2021.
2. £12m invested in home care workers and a £3.5m package for the voluntary sector.
3. £7m a week spent on caring for over 14,000 senior residents.
4. £53m for the provision of schools for children with additional needs.
5. New £1m Meals on Wheels contract awarded. 500,000 hot meals provided annually.
6. £33m provided to build 750 new residences in extra care settings for older residents.