

## Weybridge Parking

### What can we learn from Cobham?

Weybridge's comprehensive Parking Review is starting this autumn. What does it mean for Weybridge? And what can we learn from the experience of Cobham, who are some months ahead of us in the review process?

#### New approach: Comprehensive Parking Review

The reviews aim to take a holistic look at parking needs and parking facilities (on-street and off-street), and to consult locally, including getting the views of businesses and residents' groups.

#### What's behind it?

Surrey County Council Elmbridge Local Committee decided in 2015 to move from piecemeal changes – which usually resulted in more yellow lines and less parking – to a strategy of comprehensive reviews of successive parts of the borough. It is a three year rolling programme (initially April 2015 to March 2018), starting with the Cobham area followed by Weybridge, both in the current year.

#### Head start for Cobham

Cobham was chosen as the first town, largely because the local Chamber of Commerce had done a lot of work up front, and had clear ideas about what was needed and how to achieve it.

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## PLUS A SURVEY:

### What do you want for Weybridge?

You are invited  
to share your views at our  
**Portmore Park & District Residents  
Annual Meeting**  
Meet other residents and local councillors

**Tuesday 3 November**  
**7:30 for 8:00 pm**

St Charles Borromeo School Hall  
Christ The Prince Of Peace (Portmore Way)

7:30 – Chat and light refreshments  
8:00 – Hear about and discuss local matters which affect our  
community

## News and views from our local Councillors

Elmbridge Borough Councillors for Weybridge North, Andrew Davis and Ramon Gray, plan to be at our AGM to listen to and speak with residents. This year Ramon Gray was also elected as Surrey County Councillor for Weybridge (his predecessor Christian Mahne was at our last AGM).

We hope also to have a guest to speak about the parking review. Note that PPDR and our AGM are always careful not to be party political.

## Worrying signs? See inside...



## Weybridge off-street parking shortage?

People have been saying for years that Weybridge Town Centre needs more off-street parking, if shops are to flourish. But what has happened?

Churchfields car park has been a very nice earner for Elmbridge, generating surplus income, much of which seems to go elsewhere in the Borough, rather than being used to improve parking locally.



Churchfields car park on a damp Wednesday in October

### Why do car park charges keep going up?

With limited parking space which could easily fill up, the council raises prices to the point where there are usually enough spaces free to enable 'churn' of short term visitor parking. Then if people ask why Elmbridge is not spending the surplus income on improving local parking, they can point to the fact that the existing car parks are not full.

### What is the impact?

High parking charges inevitably put some people off from visiting the town centre, so local shops suffer. Some shops close or move away, and the town centre slowly declines.

### What is needed?

For some observers, the answer is plain: Weybridge needs more off-street short stay parking spaces, priced low enough that people are not put off from stopping in Weybridge to shop and have a coffee or a bite to eat.

## Give your views in our PPDR survey

Help us continue to reflect local views.

PPDR has a strong record of pressing for action on local issues including parking, town planning, rat run traffic, public amenities, the town centre, and other matters of concern to residents.

Please give us your views on what matters for Weybridge, in our survey questionnaire (with this newsletter, or downloadable from [portmore.org.uk](http://portmore.org.uk))

## Weybridge Parking (continued from Page 1)

In the view of Cobham Chamber of Commerce, a major parking issue in their town is the number of parking spaces being taken by all-day parking by town centre workers. Weybridge has a similar issue, which has been a major factor in the demand for residents-only parking zones.

### Cobham proposals

Cobham Chamber of Commerce have suggested a mix of things that might help solve their issues:

- Offering affordable season ticket all-day parking away from the town centre, but within walking distance (they have proposed a site), to free up town centre parking spaces for shoppers.
- Identifying under-used private off-street parking, and making it available to workers.
- Allowing shoppers to park short term during the day in residents-only parking zones.

Together with Surrey County Council they have conducted a survey of local stakeholders, which is being analysed, to inform the parking review. We understand that they hope for full consultation and results by next summer.

## What do you want for Weybridge parking?

### Do the issues sound similar? Local solutions?

It's not easy to think of somewhere in Weybridge to accommodate cheap long stay parking near enough to the town centre, unless it involves park-and-ride. But what about using more private off-street parking, even renting out driveway space? And how about allowing shoppers to park on some streets, yet stopping all-day incomer parking, by having residents-only parking for an hour in the morning (practical, effective, cheap to enforce)?

Your thoughts? - [contactus@portmore.org.uk](mailto:contactus@portmore.org.uk)

## Weybridge Morrisons' first year

What is the local verdict on Weybridge Morrisons? Residents seem increasingly positive about the new store, though it rarely seems very crowded.

Thankfully the traffic chaos people feared has not happened. And store manager, Gary Hunt, who braved challenging questions at our AGM last year, has been responsive to community concerns, for example around avoiding on-street staff parking.

Elmbridge conditions on planning consent currently limit Morrisons customer parking to 90 minutes, but some people feel that longer (2 hours?) would allow more people to shop elsewhere on the High Street as well as in the store. Do you have a view?

## Broadwater Path: CIL funding success

### *Funds from Infrastructure Levy to be used for long awaited local public amenity*

PPDRA has supported proposals to establish the Broadwater Path for over ten years – since Cllr Tim Crowther first got agreement on the path – and has pressed for funding. Now Elmbridge BC has awarded CIL funding for Surrey to put down a firm surface and at last establish this path formally.

**Broadwater Path passes through beautiful and tranquil scenery** on the north edge of Broadwater, and connects north Weybridge to Cowey Sale and Walton Bridge. It has been informally used by local people for as long as anyone can remember, when ground conditions allow, but in recent years has become boggy and obstructed in places.

Broadwater Path will be even more significant with the proposed temporary closure of the Thames Path alongside Desborough Channel for major works associated with the Lower Thames Flood Relief Strategy – which will be going ahead, MP Philip Hammond told Weybridge residents at this year's election hustings, as he has secured funding.

## Landmark building at risk

A local landmark building in Church Walk, with a significant history as the first generating station for electric street lighting in England, is at risk.



Its fanlight windows with elegant arched brickwork on three aspects are key visual features in the local street scene, as are its traditional proportions, and its courtyard with an open view to the River Wey.

All these would be lost if the proposed new design were permitted – two storey, square windows, a higher roof with large dormers, blank gable end, and a huge single storey side extension and garage.

This historic street scene is too significant to lose.

**STOP PRESS:** *Application withdrawn. We await future proposals more sympathetic to the history and setting.*

## Estate agents' signs a blight?

Are all those estate agents' signs that line our local roads really what they seem? Or are they just free advertising, exploiting the goodwill of residents and councils? Some councils ban such signs entirely. Elmbridge is more lenient.



**These two signs have been displayed, attached to a telegraph pole on private land, for 15 months after the advertised properties were sold and let.**

That's 15 months during which the signs have been blown down in gales and somehow reappeared, become tatty and somehow been refreshed.

It appears that estate agents have teams who go around re-erecting their unpaid advertisements on private property in our local residential roads until someone actively stops them.

Is it time to put an end to this abuse, and free our streets from the clutter of roadside advertising? Hammersmith & Fulham Council has a blanket ban on signs put up without written council permission, and prosecutes estate agents who offend. Should Elmbridge do the same? Would you prefer a ban, or simply fines for overstaying legitimate use?

*Share your views - [contactus@portmore.org.uk](mailto:contactus@portmore.org.uk)*

## 'Weybridge Riverside' preferred name for new electoral ward

'Weybridge Riverside' – a name proposed by PPDRA – was liked so much by Elmbridge Borough Council that they chose it as their preferred name for the proposed new electoral ward including our part of Weybridge, in their submission to the Local Government Boundaries Commission.

This is all part of reducing the total number of Elmbridge Borough Councillors, involving merging Weybridge North and most of Weybridge South to create a single three councillor ward.

What really matters, of course, is that local views are well represented in Council. Watch this space.

## School's green use of land

St George's Junior School has been quick to make use of the neighbouring Greenlands Farm land it recently purchased. Residents were nervous when the vendors described the land as a 'development opportunity'. Happily the school has taken a different course.

The school has established 'eco-garden' and 'Forest School' areas alongside the back lane for the benefit of its pupils, and has made an area of woodland available to Weybridge Beekeepers. It has applied for consent to use the area between the school and the council recreation ground as playing fields. The school is hopeful that the field can be used for cricket from April/May 2016 and for rugby from September 2016.

### Reducing traffic congestion

In addition, the lane is being used as a closely controlled alternative way for parents to drop off their children without adding to congestion in Thames Street, and is typically used by 70 parents a day. The school has also cut down on coaches waiting in Thames Street, again helping reduce congestion.

Meanwhile, the new build on Thames St was set back a little by the construction fire, but buildings will be coming into use by the end of November, and Phase 3 is expected to complete in the Easter holidays 2016.

PPDRA has been meeting with the school three times a year since 2002, sharing the views of local residents.

## 'Weybridge Point': What now?

People worried about losing riverside parking at the end of Thames Street were relieved that the controversial 'Weybridge Point' grant application, proposing much reduced parking space, was not approved. However, action is needed to improve this little car park and Thames Path gateway.



PPDRA is talking with the Weybridge Society about possible actions. We would like to see something the whole community supports. A new smarter surface (like the Canoe Club car park) would be a start, plus more welcoming Thames Path signage. And then perhaps a simple boardwalk beyond the car park edge, as a scenic route for pedestrians?

**NEW DRAMA: 'Seven Letters'**, a poignant story of three spirited women, is being staged in Weybridge on 16 & 17 October, at St James' Hall. Call 01932 853709 for ticket information, or email [sevenletters2015@hotmail.com](mailto:sevenletters2015@hotmail.com)

**Aims of PPDRA:** We are a non-political local association, supporting local heritage, quality of life and community.  
**Join us to help to get the voice of our community heard.**

**How to join/renew** Please use the form below, or [download a renewal or standing order form from our website](#)

**Contact us – [contactus@portmore.org.uk](mailto:contactus@portmore.org.uk)** – PPDRA c/o 3 The Swansway, (64) Portmore Park Rd, KT13 8HU

**PPDRA Committee 2015:** Miles Macleod (Chair) Clinton Close, Tel 844449; Michael Freeman (Deputy Chair) PPR, 856973; Jane Heard (Secretary) PPR; Ian Bonnett (Treasurer) The Willows; Pippa Graeme, Elmgrove Rd; Mike O'Sullivan, Wey Road; William Rutherford, Mount Pleasant; Clare Smith, Greenlands Rd; Gillian Stokes, Thames St; Stewart Wright, Dorchester Rd

**JOIN / RENEW:** Membership of PPDRA is open to residents between the High Street and the Rivers Wey and Thames.

We have a nominal subscription of £3 or more, to help cover costs. **Want to become more involved?** Just let us know!

**PPDRA Membership Form** (Subscription normally due at the time of the AGM, for the following year)

Please return to PPDRA Membership, 3 The Swansway, (64) Portmore Park Road, KT13 8HU.

Name(s) .....

Address .....

Postcode ..... Email .....

(to receive newsletters and any updates)

I enclose (please tick): £3  £5  Other  Please enter amount:

I am interested in:  Helping the Traffic Group  Joining the Committee /representing my road  Other: .....