



# Caroline JAMES



## YOUR RESIDENTS' CANDIDATE FOR ELMBRIDGE - 5<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022

### A Message from Caroline:

I was proud to be elected in 2018 as a Councillor for Thames Ditton and East Molesey. It carries a great deal of responsibility, which all RA Councillors take very seriously. We work with the conviction that local matters are best dealt with by local people, making decisions on merit rather than party agenda.

I have a particular interest in planning, and serve on two Planning Committees in Council, ensuring that applications are properly scrutinised and strongly challenged if deemed inappropriate or poor quality. But I also assist, and guide residents through the complexities of the planning system.

My work is not all in committees though. It is also in helping residents resolve issues which are often causing them a great deal of distress. Councillors can really make a difference here - it makes my role hugely rewarding.

My family and I live in the centre of Thames Ditton, although I commute to London three days a week. You will find me on the platform, or in the queue for the bakery, or in my husband's antique shop in East Molesey at weekends. It has been great to meet more residents from that part of the ward over the last few years.

TDWGRA Councillors work with residents to maintain our vibrant community. I listen, but I'm not afraid of speaking out when I can make a difference. I want to continue that work, and hope to have your support on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

Caroline: 20 High St, Thames Ditton 020 8398 7635  
carolinejames1@gmail.com or @carolinehames

### Why vote Residents' Association?

**RA Councillors are independent, and are not influenced by national party politics:**

- **We live in Thames Ditton ward** and work for the interests of all its residents and businesses.
- **We work as a team** providing comprehensive Residents' Association Councillor cover at both Borough & County Council levels.
- **We keep in contact with you** through regular open meetings, dedicated website, Twitter and Thames Ditton Today magazine.
- We work hard and respond to residents' needs. **We get things done!**
- We fight to **preserve our precious Green Belt**.
- We work together with other Councillors in the **Elmbridge Residents Group - Independents** leading the Council efficiently - for residents.



Our RA team for Thames Ditton ward: Karen Randolph, Caroline James, Nick Darby (Surrey) & Alex Batchelor



## Our Priorities



- **Housing & Green Belt:** Support well-designed sustainable development, including more affordable housing. Defend our Green Belt and resist excessive development.
- **Public Transport:** Fight to retain and improve the performance of our train and bus services.
- **Health & Wellbeing:** Support and expand physical and mental health services for all residents, especially those in greatest need.
- **Climate Change:** Encourage residents to address the impact we have on our climate, and the changes we can make in our community to help alleviate it.
- **Local Environment:** Maintain and enhance our outdoor spaces by clearing litter, adding greenery and promoting recycling.
- **Local Shops & Businesses:** Promote and maintain our retail community. Fight against loss of business and shop premises by changes to residential use.

### Some examples of how your Residents' Association has worked for you



*Set up the volunteer monthly litter-picking group*



*Through our RA County Cllr Nick Darby and local parents, instigated a **new school-bus service** to Three Rivers Academy in Walton*



***Successfully pressured SWR** to keep a proper train service at all times*

**Foodbank collection hubs** set up to help those in need of support



**Lobbied the Government** to reduce their excessive housing target, and to amend legislation that threatened our High Street shops



### Elmbridge Residents Group - shaping the vision of Elmbridge Borough Council

The ERG is the largest single group in Council, forming a dynamic non-political Residents Association-led administration. **Our priorities:**

**A sensible, prudent budget** - one that will help **reduce our use of reserves** as we build back from two years of pandemic

**Services for the community** - we continue to provide a **comprehensive range of services for young and old:** Meals on Wheels, sport and recreation, seven Community Centres, Youth Hub, community transport and many more

**Keep Council tax rises below inflation** - Elmbridge has increased its share of council tax by just **2.16%**, in contrast to Conservative-led Surrey Council's 4.99%

**An original, visionary Local Plan** - we've shaped the draft Local Plan so that the final version:

- **Preserves all our Green Belt**
- **Reduces** by over 25% **the untenable housing target** the Government tried to impose on us
- Provides for **housing that is more affordable**
- Ensures future building will be to standards that **lead us towards Net Zero Carbon**

*You can find out more about the Elmbridge Residents Group at: [www.elmbridgeresidentsgroup.com](http://www.elmbridgeresidentsgroup.com)*

**For a strong Residents' voice, vote Caroline James**

