

At the last Surrey CC election I promised to take action and gave priorities and this leaflet shows clearly what I have achieved since 2017 and what my priorities are for the next 4 years, if elected.

**PRIORITIES FOR 2021-2025**

1. Continue to improve Ashtead's roads and footpaths
2. Take appropriate action to alleviate the parking and congestion in Ashtead
3. Monitor school places to provide Ashtead children with Ashtead schools and take action as and when necessary
4. Support the Youth Centre in providing appropriate facilities for our young people
5. Work to ensure that the Green Lane crossing is maintained
6. Work towards 20mph schemes around all our schools
7. Support measures to tackle climate change
8. Continue to support our local hospitals

*I have championed Ashtead whenever and wherever I can and will continue to do so*

**HIGHWAYS**

- Over the past year much work has been held back due to the Covid pandemic, however we have been fortunate that a number of roads have been re-surfaced over the last 4 years as promised. These include **Links Road, Stag Leys, Oakfield Road, the A24 Epsom Road from Bowyers Close to Parkers Hill, Church Road, Ottways Lane and Taleworth Road**. These improvements formed part of the Surrey Highways Horizon programme that I have supported to ensure that Ashtead is clearly included in all future Highways budgets. Pavements have had a priority and although **The Street** has partially been done, others have been put forward and I await priorities and funding. **Footpaths** have been cleared of weeds and shrubbery by a volunteer group run by a Mole Valley Independent Councillor (Alan Reilly) but that work has also been held back by the Covid pandemic. Grit bins have been added at **Hillside Road**, many old bins being replaced and all bins are regularly filled.
- **Parking** has been and still is to some extent a problem in Ashtead whether it be school traffic or commuter parking. However with the Covid 19 pandemic, we have found that roads have been quieter and less crowded – let us hope that these issues do not return. Over the past 4 years many yellow lines for parking restrictions have been introduced in roads where residents have expressed concerns about safety and visibility, especially where our schools are involved. Other than in those school areas, lines have been introduced in **Woodfield Lane, Barnett Wood Lane, Meadow Road, Ermyn Way, West Farm Avenue and Craddocks Avenue** amongst a number of others. The area around **Grove Road** has also had Residents Parking introduced in response to residents' requests. Going forward please contact me if you have any concerns with parking in Ashtead.

- **Twenty Miles per Hour** has been achieved in Dene Road for St. Giles' Infant School and I have now got agreement from Surrey Highways that feasibility studies looking at 20mph at both **Greville and West Ashtead** schools will be done this year 2021, as I promised at the last SCC election. Traffic calming may be needed as part of these proposals but residents will be involved in any decisions made.
- **Flooding** has been an issue with 2 main concerns – namely outside **Downsend School** on the A24 and in **Barnett Wood Lane** outside the shops. Both of these areas have been addressed by Surrey Highways in the last 2 years with considerable success. I am particularly pleased that these major problems have been resolved and I now intend to look once more at the flooding in **Farm Lane** on the 'S' bend.
- One very current issue is the potential closure of the **Green Lane crossing** over the railway. I have had many meetings with Network Rail, Surrey Rights of Way, the ARA and local MV councillors on this over the past few years. I am totally committed to keeping that crossing open and will work with all parties to ensure we get a sensible and practical solution.



- As you can see I have worked hard to get Ashtead their fair share of the Highways budget and I will continue to press SCC Highways to deliver what Ashtead residents need. An example in this regard is the pedestrian crossing on the A24 Epsom Road (as a result of a petition from parents) to enable parents and children to safely move between the pre-school playgroup in Ashtead Park and the Greville Primary school.



**Benefiting local organisations**

I have provided funds from my local allocation as a Surrey County councillor to a number of organisations including **Ashtead Youth Centre, several Ashtead schools, Ashtead Scouts and Guides, the Conservatory Club (for Dementia Care), and Ashtead Common**. I always try to spread these funds around for the benefit of all in our community.

**BUDGET 2021/2 and onwards**

I continue to monitor the finances closely at Surrey CC and again Savings/Efficiencies, I say Cuts, are involved in this year's budget and these rise to over £110m over the next 5 years. Pressures of over £200m are also involved and all this has to be addressed by 2025/6. The Conservatives proposed a 2.49% increase this year in Council Tax with a virtual promise of 4.49% next year, both real tax increases at this difficult time. The Social Care element this year is 0.49% with the remaining 2.5% being held over to next year - surely the money is needed now to alleviate the problems that SCC has with, particularly, Adult Social Care.

**Letter from The Chairman of Ashtead Residents' Association**

I strongly endorse Chris' candidacy as an Independent Councillor representing Ashtead's interests on Surrey County Council. Ashtead's best interests are at the heart of what motivates him and the relationships that he has built at SCC mean that he is listened to when he makes Ashtead's case to fellow Council members and Council Officers on issues such as highways, parking, rail, schools and youth services. He is deeply committed to ensuring the continued provision of youth services in Ashtead and is a founder member and trustee of The Friends of Ashtead Youth Club. Chris works assiduously on behalf of Ashtead's residents and I have no hesitation in asking you to give him your vote on Thursday 6th May.

Glynis Peterkin

**ASHTEAD YOUTH CENTRE**

Following Surrey CC's decision last year to stop providing Universal Youth Services across Surrey, I have been pursuing an approach to picking up that facility in Ashtead. With Mary Cooper (MVDC Independent Cllr. for Ashtead Village ward), a SCC youth worker, a couple of interested parents and a representative from the Rotary Club, we have formed a charity - Friends of Ashtead Youth Club to potentially take over the running of the facility for Ashtead young people.

SCC have agreed to maintain responsibility for the maintenance of the building and pay all energy costs, heating, power and lighting etc., whilst we become responsible for the Youth service. This opportunity allows us to have other organisations to use the facility (eg Kidsclub etc.) who will then fund us rather than SCC, enabling us to use such funds to enhance the Youth Service we wish to provide.

The charity is talking to a couple of potential Youth providers to take on the responsibility, under our auspices, for the young people of Ashtead. We are currently working through the Service Level Agreement with SCC and expect to agree over the next few months. Initially we would be looking at being open for Youth work one night a week (2 sessions - one for younger children and the other for older/teenagers). As we progress, we hope to add other evenings and ultimately get back to the number of sessions we have had in the past.

It is obviously early days in all the current negotiations, but we are confident we can take over the facility and the provision of services for Ashtead young people.

Anyone interested in joining us in this venture, please contact either myself (chris.townsend53@ntlworld.com) or Mary Cooper (mary.p.cooper@btinternet.com). We are also on Facebook : Friends of Ashtead Youth Club

Conyers  
The Marld  
Ashtead  
Surrey  
KT21 1RU

Dear Resident,

I write to ask for your support again as the Ashtead Independent candidate to represent the whole of Ashtead on Surrey County Council in the election on Thursday 6th May 2021. I have been your County Councillor for the last 12 years. I have lived in Ashtead for over 44 years with my family, and our 3 children all went to local schools. My wife, also Chris, taught at St. Giles School, ran the monthly Friday Market for the RNLI and is a Trustee of the Sydney Simmons homes in Dene Road. I have been a Governor at a number of local schools (Barnett Wood, West Ashtead and currently City of London Freemans). I was the District Councillor for the Ashtead Park ward on Mole Valley District Council for 24 years, but I stood down in 2016.

At Surrey CC I have been a member of the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning & Culture Select Committee, Resources and Performance Select Committee, the Ashtead Common Consultative Committee and various task groups (eg. Members Development group, Agile working group, Customer Experience group etc.). I am also on the Mole Valley Local Committee which contains both District & County members and jointly decides on priorities for Highways amongst a number of other issues. I am on the Mole Valley Youth Task group that deliberates on Youth provision across Mole Valley and I specifically look after our own Ashtead Youth provision (see also elsewhere on this leaflet). I also represent the Independent Group at the Local Government Association on the County Councils Network, and that keeps me up to date with what is happening nationally.

I feel it is vitally important that Ashtead has an Independent voice so that the interests of our village can be pursued without the interference and constraints of party politics. There is clear room for improvement in the delivery of services from Surrey CC, especially in Social Care and Highways. However dealing with individual constituents and their concerns will continue to be a major focus for me and I am committed to making sure that the voice of our residents is heard at Surrey County Council.

Many things have changed over the last 12/18 months due to Coronavirus and I have been monitoring the situation in both Care Homes and schools. It is vital we are positive over the coming months as Ashtead is a great place to live. I will continue to give the interests of all residents my full attention and energy. I am sure that not being restricted by party politics has enabled me to get much done over the past 12 years and I intend to keep the momentum going to resolve many of the issues that will come up over the next 4 years.

This is, remember, a County election to be decided on Surrey County Council issues. Please vote for me on 6th May to ensure that Ashtead continues to have an Independent team, with myself and the 7 Mole Valley Ashtead Independent Councillors reflecting all residents' views.

Yours sincerely  
CHRIS TOWNSEND



Ashtead  
Independent



TOWNSEND  
X



Thursday 6th May 2021

Ashtead  
Independent



SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION

Ashtead Division

Thursday 6th May 2021 (7am-10pm)

VOTE

CHRIS TOWNSEND

Ashtead Independent Candidate

Supported by Ashtead Residents' Association