

# Ashtead Independents

An independent group  
of Mole Valley Councillors,  
working for the good of Ashtead  
along with Ashtead Residents' Association



Together with many of Ashtead's residents, and the Ashtead Residents' Association, we believe that national party politics has no place in local Councils. It creates unnecessary antagonisms and divisiveness, and constrains parts of the Council from working entirely on behalf of their residents.

**Contact your Ward Councillor  
if you have questions,  
concerns or need advice on  
Mole Valley or County Council  
matters.**

**Working with Ashtead Residents' Association**

**Putting Ashtead before Party Politics**

[www.ashteadindependents.org](http://www.ashteadindependents.org)

## Councillors for COMMON WARD



### DAVID HAWKSWORTH

Elected 2016, David is Leader of the Ashtead Independents and the Informal Independent Group in the Council. A research biologist and ecologist, he was Director of a research institute, and now holds honorary positions at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and The Natural History Museum London; he was appointed CBE in 1996.

Married to Cllr Wiltshire, he has served on the Standing Committee of the Ashtead Residents' Association and Ashtead Community Vision Forum, and as Chair of St Stephen's House Surgery Patient Participation Group. He helped establish the Ashtead Tree Wardens, was the Cabinet Member for Well-being in 2018-19, and is on the Development Management, Surrey County Council Local, and Ashtead Common Consultative Committees.



### PATRICIA WILTSHIRE

Now Vice-Chair of the Council, and re-elected in 2018, Patricia's background is as a university lecturer and researcher in ecology and archaeology. She has worked for 25 years as a forensic ecologist in serious crime, and is an expert witness. She is a visiting professor at the University of Southampton. She has lived in Ashtead for nearly 40 years. She was Cabinet Member for Environment in 2018-19 and sits on Committees which include Development Management. She was the founding Chair of the South Downs Patient Participation Group Forum, and served on Ashtead Community Vision Forum.

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## Councillors for PARK WARD

### DAVID HARPER

Elected in 2016, David is from an engineering background (formerly MIET). David was Deputy chair of the Scrutiny Committee from 2016-2017 and Cabinet Member for Planning Policy in 2018-19, with a particular responsibility for exploring options for zones to be allocated for housing and economic development within the new Local Plan for the District. He now serves on the Scrutiny Committee, and is a substitute on the Development Management Committee.

David is a Director of art-K Ltd, an art education service for children and adults, with 23 clubs dotted around the country, and enjoys being a member of the St Giles Tower bell-ringing band.



### GARRY STANSFIELD

Elected 2018, Garry was born in and has always lived in Surrey, and moved to Ashtead with his wife and children in 1993. A Member of the Institute of Engineering and Technology, he works in Automotive Business Development. He served on the Ashtead Residents' Association Standing Committee for 23 years, and strives to do what he can to improve the local environment for present and future residents.

Garry is a member of the Scrutiny Committee, Standing Budget Panel, and a substitute on the Development Management Committee.



## Councillors for VILLAGE WARD



### MARY COOPER

Elected in 2012 and re-elected in 2016, Mary is a Director and consultant in the Food retailing sector. She is a Member of the Audit Committee, and a substitute on the Development Control and Scrutiny Committees. She was Leader of the Ashtead Independents in 2016-18, is a former LA Governor of the Greville Primary School, and also served on the Ashtead Community Vision Forum.



### CHRIS HUNT

First elected in 2003 as a Conservative, Chris joined the Ashtead Independents in 2019 as he is keen to protect the village character of Ashtead and proactively consult residents. The ability to reflect and balance the views of residents makes him happy to be part of the Ashtead Independents team. He has lived in Ashtead since 1996, worked as a surveyor, and is now a manager in funeral care. He has served as Cabinet Member for Planning Services and Housing in 2018-19, and Chair of the Development Management Committee, of which he remains a member. He is also a member of the Planning Panel.



### ALAN REILLY

Elected 2018, Alan is Epsom born, a life-time Surrey resident, and has lived in Ashtead Village Ward for four years. He was the owner and manager of a successful, Epsom based, international business. Since being elected as an Ashtead Village Councillor, he has been proactive in developing volunteer working groups to improve maintenance of our alleyways. He enjoys discussing issues with residents and colleagues, and is especially concerned about pot holes, parking, footpaths and alleys, speeding, and general road safety.

Alan is a member of the Licensing Committee, Car Parking Panel, and a substitute on the Development Management, Scrutiny, and Standards Committees.

## SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Chris Townsend has been Ashtead's County Councillor since 2009, and sits on the Children, Schools and Education board. He is a governor of City of London Freeman's School, and has served as a parent governor of Barnett Wood Lane and West Ashtead schools. He was also a member of Ashtead Community Vision Forum.

Chris was a member of the District Council from 2000 until he stood down in May 2016. He was chair of the influential Scrutiny Committee on many occasions, and from 2013 to 2016 was Leader of the Council in the Independent-led joint Executive with the Conservatives.





# Your Ashtead Independents and the District and County Councils

## REPRESENTING ASHTEAD

- Ashtead provides seven of Mole Valley District Council's 41 Councillors, all seven are Ashtead Independents (AIs), as is our single County Councillor.
- Ashtead is split into three Wards, each served by two or three AI councillors (see map).
- All AI Councillors live in Ashtead.
- Councillors are elected for four years, usually in May. Elections are staggered.
- Five AIs have experience as Cabinet Members and portfolio holders.
- AIs are independent of national party politics. Although we discuss and seek to agree on local issues, there is no whip and each votes as he or she sees fit.
- We work closely with the Ashtead Residents' Association, but are not mandated or financially supported by them.

If you would like to join us, to help at election time or distributing our Newsletter, or be a candidate, please contact any of us.

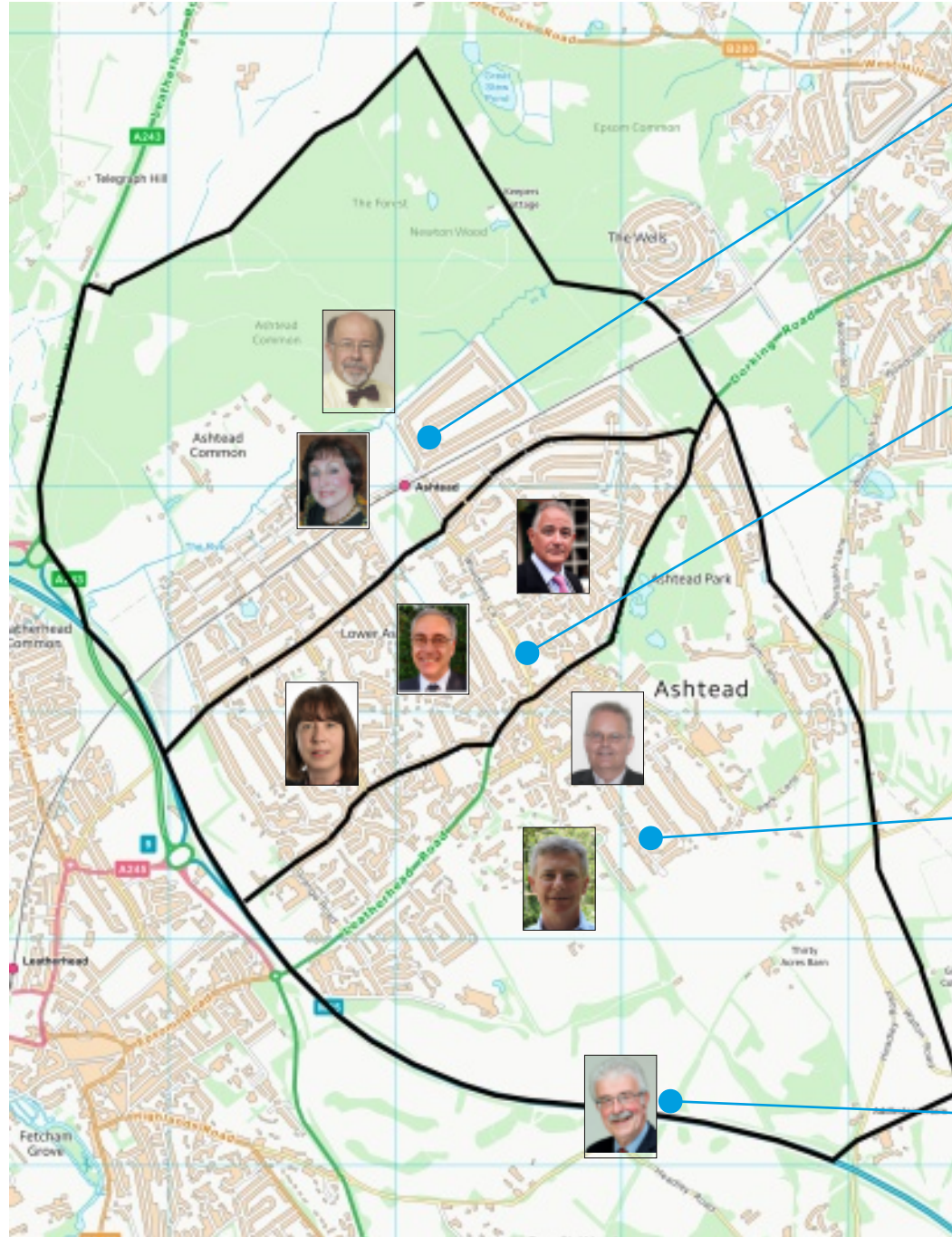
## Which Council does what in Ashtead?

### MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL:

MVDC empties our bins, maintains our public open spaces, the Wood Field, the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field (Recreation Ground) and Ashtead Park. It makes licensing and planning decisions, allocates public sector housing, enforces parking and other infringements, and addresses nuisances. MVDC also owns the Leatherhead Leisure Centre.

### SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL:

SCC looks after our roads, provides schools, was responsible for the expansion of The Greville and St. Peter's, runs the Library, and is the main provider of Children's, Youth and Adult Social Services.



### COMMON WARD

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### SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

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