

Dear Fellow Resident of Ashtead Village Ward

I have served as one of your three District Councillors since 2012, and am now standing for re-election.

Today more than ever, Independent Councillors are needed to ensure party politics do not triumph over local interest and common sense.

I strongly believe that local affairs should be in the hands of local residents, with the community best served by having independent Councillors represent their concerns on the council.

I wish for your voice to be heard above that of party politics.

When you vote, please think about which candidate will prove best for Ashtead village.

I have served as a Councillor with enthusiasm and commitment to resolve issues and put Ashtead first every time.

Yours sincerely

Mary



What Ashtead village means to me

Ashtead is a thriving local community, where people truly care about all aspects of their village environment, with a variety of shops, excellent schools, sporting amenities and close links with the various church groups and associations.

The strong and active Residents' Association represents our views and the interests of the village. Working together, we will ensure the preservation of Ashtead's character in all aspects of its future development.

Please display this in your front window

MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION

on Thursday 6th May 2021 VOTE



Ashtead Independents, working with Ashtead Residents' Association

MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION

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

Ashtead Village Ward



MARY COOPER

Ashtead Independent Candidate



**Ashtead
*Independent***

Working with

Ashtead Residents' Association

MARY COOPER - ASHTEAD VILLAGE WARD

Who Am I?

I have served as a Councillor for Ashtead Village Ward since 2012. My family have lived in Ashtead for 20 years. I work in food safety consultancy alongside retailers and manufacturers and have represented retailer views on Governmental legislative committees. I am a member of Ashtead Residents' Association and St Michael's Parish Church Ashtead.

Our children attended local schools and I completed 4 years at the Greville school as a Local Authority appointed school Governor. Currently I am an MVDC trustee & clerk of the Ashtead United Charities Almshouse. As a Board member of Friends of Ashtead Youth Club (FOAYC) I work as part of a committed team, who are looking to explore options with local organisations and Surrey County Council in order to secure a future for our thriving Youth Work services, and popular community facility.

In 2019 I joined the Ashlea Medical Practice Patient Participation Group (PPG) to help represent patient views and raise awareness of infrastructure concerns with potential housing expansion in the district. I was a forum member for Ashtead Community Vision and involved in the development of the Ashtead Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP).

As MVDC Vice Chair of the Audit Committee we provide an independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and corporate governance arrangements including anti-fraud and corruption. I am also a member of the Development Control and the Standards committees.

Ashtead Independent Councillors...

- ***Put people before politics***
- ***Keep National Party Politics out of local affairs***
- ***Are keen to maintain Ashtead's village character***
- ***Co-operate with others to achieve the best for Ashtead***
- ***Represent you, and Ashtead, without a Party Whip getting in the way***

MY RECORD AS A COUNCILLOR

In my time as a Councillor, I have:

- Worked on Ashtead residents' behalf on key planning and licensing applications and helped reduce where possible the impact of over intensive development and loss of amenities
- Identified and helped allocate funds with the MVDC parks team allowing us to upgrade facilities in the Recreation ground play area
- Resisted unsuitable building proposals, including Woodfield Lane flats (sadly lost on appeal)
- Worked with trustees and our Surrey County Councillor to explore options & funding opportunities for the future of the Youth Centre which has been badly affected by SCC cuts to funding
- As clerk of the Ashtead United Charity I work closely with the trustees to deliver policies and actions which benefit the resident community
- Regularly engage & follow up residents' concerns with Clarion and MVDC housing teams
- Supported the Marks & Spencer development in The Street & ensured retailers and customers comments on issues at the APMH car park refurbishment were relayed to the Lib Dem administration, we fought to ensure the return of refuse recycling facilities & we are seeking to further enhance parking facilities in the high street car parks with requests for more '30 minute free' car parking spaces
- Provided guidance to residents of The Murreys on flooding issues & the balancing pond overhaul using support from the MVDC legal team to pursue remedial action from the developer
- Attended Council meetings and working groups such as MVDC Access group where we discussed improvements in access for disabled communities
- Attended Planning Policy Working Group meetings to express opinion on the development of the draft local plan & move for less development directed at us in the north of the district, we continue to battle for change
- As a member of the Thomas Flack committee I supported Ashtead group applications and ensured they were aware of funding opportunities
- Supported our Surrey County Councillor with initiatives to install pedestrian crossings & push for 20 mph zones around schools

WHAT I PLAN TO DO AS YOUR COUNCILLOR

- Continue to maintain & improve local facilities to retain the unique atmosphere of the village
- To consult promptly with residents on case work studies and inform widely on outcomes via our newsletter & resident communication forums
- To work alongside fellow Councillors to safeguard as much of the Green Belt as we can, especially around Ashtead
- I do not wish to see Ashtead becoming overdeveloped & will object to applications where I believe the densification will cause problems for Infrastructure and is unsustainable development
- Protect and enhance our parks, open spaces and recreation facilities
- Work closely with our Surrey County Councillor Chris Townsend and Friends of Ashtead Youth Club (FOAYC) trustees to protect & enhance our youth provision at the Ashtead youth centre
- Support through the local committee process any further proposals to improve & provide suitable safer routes for pedestrian and cyclists particularly near our schools
- Work closely with the Ashtead Residents' Association & local residents to help improve infrastructure and push for suitable investment opportunities
- Ensure the Council tax is spent wisely on the services we need from MVDC.
- Support suitable climate change initiatives which truly make a difference to our community
- Maintain a watchful eye on MVDC council investments to ensure they deliver sufficient income to help provide local services

From Ashtead Residents' Association

I wholeheartedly support Mary as Independent candidate for Village Ward. Her skill set makes her a strong member of both the Standards Committee and the Audit Committee and she is well placed to ensure sound Council governance and conduct. Mary holds strong views about local issues, particularly the wellbeing of our young people on whose behalf she has worked hard for many years including being a school governor. She is a founder member and Board member of The Friends of Ashtead Youth Club, a charity formed to ensure the continued provision of youth services in Ashtead. On health matters, Mary represents patients' interests as an active member of the Ashlea Patient Participation group. She is a committed champion for the community of Ashtead and I have no hesitation in asking you to give Mary your vote on Thursday 6th May.

Glynn Peterkin, *Chairman, ARA*