

Ashtead Independents

An independent group
of local Mole Valley Councillors
working for the good of Ashtead



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 tends to prevent a proportion of the Council from being able to exercise full influence on behalf of their constituents.

Working with Ashtead Residents' Association

Putting Ashtead before party politics
ashteadindependents.org

Councillors for VILLAGE WARD



MARY COOPER

Mary is a Director and consultant working in the Food retailing sector. Originally elected in 2012, she was re-elected in 2016 and is now serving her second term as a Mole Valley District Councillor. She is a Member of the Audit, Licensing and Standards Committees, and a substitute on the Development Control and Scrutiny Committees.

Mary was Leader of the Informal Independent Group & Ashtead Independents 2016-18, a former LA Governor of the Greville Primary School, and a member of Ashtead Community Vision Forum.



ALAN REILLY

Elected in 2018, Alan is Epsom born, a life-time Surrey resident, and has lived in Ashtead Village Ward for three years. State educated, he was the owner and manager of a successful, Epsom based, international business. He is delighted to have been elected as an Ashtead Village Ward Independent Councillor, and is much looking forward to discussing residents' concerns with colleagues and the Council. He is especially concerned about pot holes, parking, footpaths and alleys, speeding, and general road safety.

Alan is a member of the Licensing Committee, and a substitute on the Development Control, Scrutiny, and Standards Committees.

Councillors for PARK WARD

DAVID HARPER

An engineer by profession (MIET) and by nature. Elected in 2016, he was Deputy chair of the Scrutiny Committee and addressed proposals from a pragmatic and practical point of view.

Following the elections in May 2018, David has been appointed the Cabinet Member for Mole Valley District Planning Policy. He is also a substitute on the Development Control Committee.

David is a Director of art-K Ltd which is an art franchise business, and a member of St. Giles bell-ringing band.



GARRY STANSFIELD

Born in and having always lived in Surrey, Garry moved to Ashtead with his wife and two children in 1993. Garry is a member of the Institute of Engineering and Technology, and works in Automotive Business Development for a German Semiconductor company.

He was elected to the Council in 2018, and is a member of the Scrutiny Committee, and a substitute on the Development Control Committee, in addition to being a member of the Planning Policy Working Group and the Standing Budget Panel.

Garry served on the Ashtead Residents' Association Standing Committee for 23 years, and intends to do what he can to improve the local environment for present and future residents.



Councillors for COMMON WARD



DAVID HAWKSWORTH

Elected in 2016, David became Leader of the Ashtead Independents and the Informal Independent Group in the Council in 2018, and is now the Cabinet Member for Well-Being. He has a background as a research biologist and ecologist. Formerly Director of an intergovernmental research institute, he now holds honorary positions at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and The Natural History Museum London.

David has lived in Ashtead since 2007, previously served as a member of the Standing Committee of the Ashtead Residents' Association and of Ashtead Community Vision, and as Chair of the St Stephen's House Surgery Patient Participation Group. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Ashtead Tree Wardens. David is a member of the Development Control Committee and of the Surrey County Council Local Committee, and represents the Council on the Ashtead Common Consultative Committee. He was appointed CBE in 1996 for services to science, and is married to Cllr Wiltshire.



PATRICIA WILTSHIRE

First elected in 2016, and re-elected in 2018, Patricia's background is as a university teacher and researcher in microbiology and ecology, and is now an experienced forensic ecologist who has been used by all UK police forces in cases of serious crime. She also holds a professorship in the University of Southampton. Patricia is now the Cabinet member for the Environment, where she will be able to draw on her extensive knowledge of environmental sciences. In addition she is a member of the Development Control and Standards Committees.

Patricia has lived in Ashtead for 38 years, served on Ashtead Community Vision, and along with her husband Cllr Hawksworth was particularly involved in preparing the Green Belt Boundary review in 2014. She is a member of the Ashtead Art and St Stephen's House Patient Participation Groups, and was the founding Chair of the South Downs Patient Participation Group Forum, comprising representatives of the 31 surgeries in the area.

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



Chris Townsend has been Ashtead's County Councillor since 2009, and sits on the Children, Schools and Education board.

Chris was a very long serving member of the District Council until he stood down in May 2016. He was chairman of the influential Scrutiny committee on many occasions, and from 2013 to 2016 was Leader of the Council for the period of the Independent-led joint Executive with the Conservatives.

He is a governor of City of London Freemen's School and has been a parent governor of Barnett Wood Lane and West Ashtead schools. He is a member of Ashtead Community Vision Forum.

The Ashtead Independents and Mole Valley District Council

REPRESENTING ASHTEAD

- Ashtead provides seven of MVDC's 41 Councillors, six of whom are currently Ashtead Independents (AIs), as is the single County Councillor.
- For electoral purposes, Ashtead is split into three wards, each served by two AI councillors (see map).
- Councillors are elected for four years, usually in May. Elections are staggered.
- Many executive decisions are delegated to the Council Leader and Cabinet. Three AIs now hold a Cabinet position and portfolio.
- Because of the electoral balance of MVDC AIs punch above their weight.
- AIs are independent of national party politics. Although we seek to agree on major issues, there is no whip.
- The group works with the Ashtead Residents' Association, but is in no way mandated by them.

We are always interested in hearing from people who might be interested in joining us, just helping at election time, or distributing our Newsletter. Always feel free to contact any of us.

Which Council does what in Ashtead?

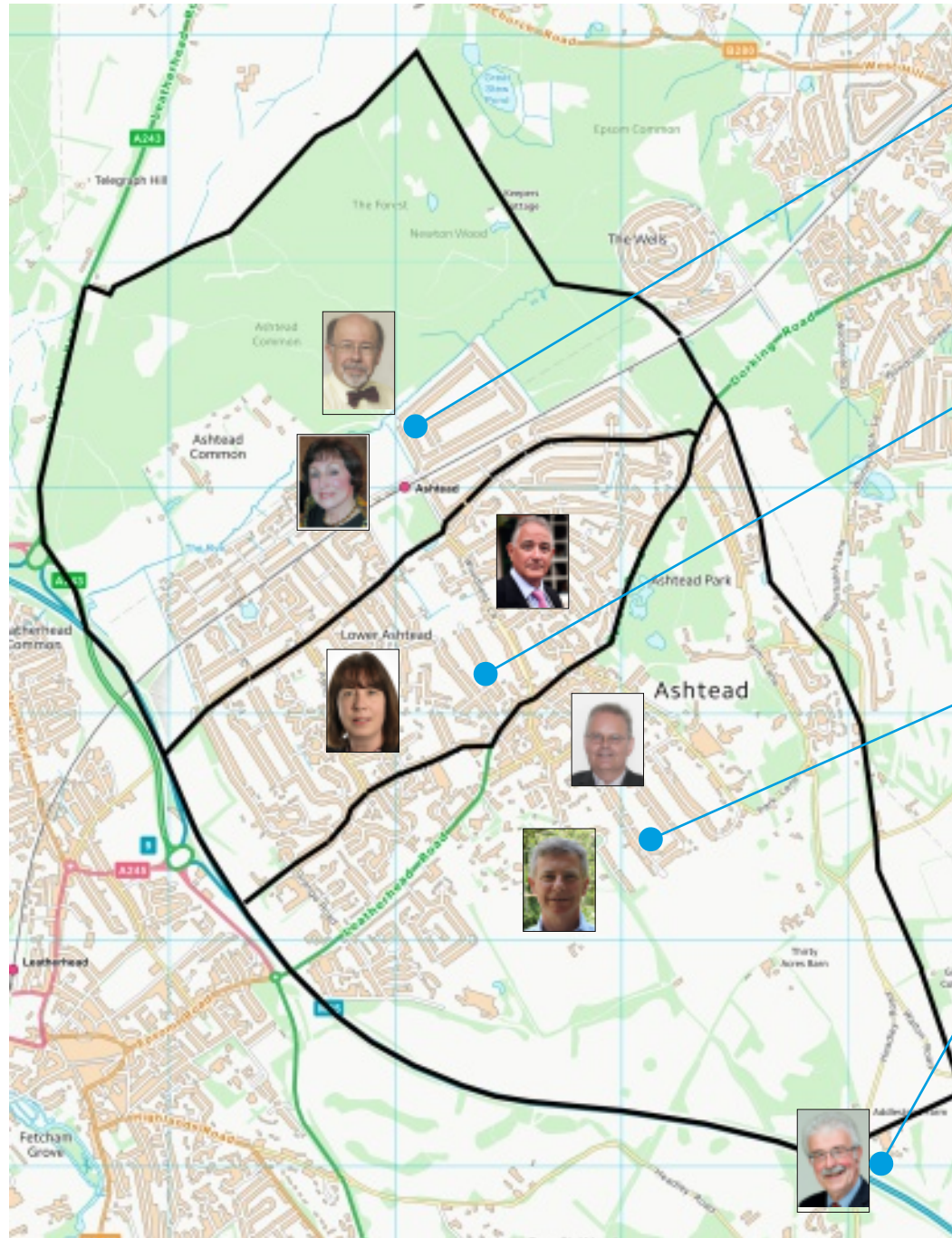
MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL:

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 planning decisions, allocates public sector housing and enforces parking restrictions. MVDC also owns the nearby 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 Social Services.

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Approximate boundaries only
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COMMON WARD

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SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

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**Contact your ward
Councillor if you have
questions or need advice
on Mole Valley or Surrey
County Council matters.**