

VOTE ASHTEAD INDEPENDENT to Keep National Party Politics out of Local Government

The Independent in local politics

I firmly believe that the District Council should not be influenced by national party politics. Whatever one's views when it comes to general elections, the focus of a District Councillor should be the welfare of residents; an independent mind-set is essential for fair decision-making. As your representative in Mole Valley District Council, I collaborate with any members working in your best interests rather than opposing policies simply because of political groupings. As Independents we are constantly battling political bias and the herd-like voting activity of the other two political groups.

Ashtead needs to keep a strong Independent representation so that the whims and schemes of politically-controlled Councillors are resisted. I have fought long and hard in Committees against building on Green Belt land. I am particularly glad that the Draft Local Plan now before the Inspector does not include the land between Leatherhead and Ashtead alongside the M25, where 550 homes and a school were planned – with little thought of the impact on roads and other infrastructure.

Ashtead Independent Councillors have proved to be a potent influence against plans and policies deleterious to our village. We hope that our persistence will help break the stranglehold the current Liberal Democrat Administration which persistently attempts to push as much housing as it can in and around Ashtead and Leatherhead.

From the Chairman, Ashtead Residents' Association

Throughout her term as a Mole Valley Councillor, Pat has consistently shown her commitment to working on behalf of Ashtead and its residents, whether fighting our corner for community benefit or for an individual constituent. Pat has battled in our interests in the Council Chamber, making Ashtead's case during the preparation of the Local Plan, on how the Council spends its money and on all matters that risk having an adverse effect on Ashtead's built and green environment and wildlife habitats. Pat's integrity and professionalism mean that she can be relied upon to stand firm in her beliefs and not flinch from fighting on Ashtead's behalf. I urge you to vote for her on 5th May.

Glynis Peterkin

Please display this in your car or front window

**MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION
ASHTEAD COMMON WARD**

on Thursday 5th May 2022 VOTE

Patricia
WILTSHIRE
Independent



Ashtead Independents, working with Ashtead Residents' Association

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**MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION
on Thursday 5th May 2022 (7am-10pm)**

Ashtead Common Ward



Patricia Wiltshire
Ashtead Independent Candidate



Ashtead
Independent

Working with
Ashtead Residents' Association

Patricia Wiltshire - Ashtead Common Ward

My Background

I moved from Wales to Surrey in 1960 for my first job, and spent most of my professional life in scientific research and education, mostly at King's College and University College London. I developed the discipline of forensic ecology, and over almost three decades this has become established within police protocols. I have worked with every police force in the UK and Eire, and continue to serve as an expert witness in high profile criminal cases. I am a registered expert on the National Crime Agency register, and regularly invited to lecture at UK and overseas universities and institutions. I have a substantial research publication record, including chapters in scientific books, and my own memoir 'Traces', published in 2019. I have considerable experience with the media, particularly TV, and give much of my time to local interest groups and charities, proceeds from which are donated to the Wildlife Aid Foundation, Leatherhead.

I care about well-being, especially the pollution of our air, waterways, and soils. I am passionate about wildlife, conservation, animal welfare, and preservation of our natural and semi-natural landscapes. I enjoy arts and crafts, the piano, and have a passion for antique Welsh and English oak furniture. I am a member of the Leatherhead and District Local History Society, and of the Ashtead Art Group.

My contribution to Ashtead and Surrey Downs

- My scientific background and court experience gives me the confidence to challenge the Council's Administration where appropriate. I consider my prime duty is to be aware of the various strands of its activity as they affect our residents' interests and wellbeing. I have worked hard in my six years as a Councillor for Ashtead Common, and hope you will vote so that I can continue to represent you. I want to do all I can to ensure that policies and decisions made by Council on your behalf are beneficial.
- I continue to support the Ashtead Tree Wardens, and work with them on particular issues. Some of our trees are in a poor state and I work with Officers in Mole Valley Parks Department so that they are kept informed of specific problems. I am very concerned about public safety aspects of trees and take up any complaints very quickly.
- When helping develop the Ashtead Neighbourhood Development Plan, I recognised the great antiquity of our field systems and hedgerows, especially to the south of the village. This experience gave me the determination to do all I could to resist any development that would prejudice the ancient and beautiful features in our landscape. I have worked hard to educate other Councillors about our natural and historic heritage.
- I am grateful to residents who provide me with technical information enabling me to challenge forcefully unsuitable developments that impact negatively on them and their neighbours. I am particularly concerned at the lack of concern for adjacent properties when planning applications are submitted. Although we must acknowledge that our village will be ever-changing, we must strive to keep its special character, and challenge vigorously any inappropriate development.
- I play an active and vociferous role on the Council's Development Management Committee and also have served on the Licensing and Scrutiny Committees. I contributed actively to the Planning Policy Working Group preparing the Draft Local Plan, arguing strongly to preserve our Green Belt and our natural heritage wherever it was threatened. I served as Vice-Chairman of the Council for 2020-21.
- For the last year, I have been Chairman of the Council's Standards Committee and have overseen the adoption of an improved Code of Conduct for Councillors.
- I am an active member of Mole Valley Conservation Group, comprising wildlife specialists freely giving their expertise to Mole Valley District Council. I was a founding member of the St Stephens House Surgery Patient Participation Group, and first Chair of the PPG Forum representing most practices in the Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group area.

My view of Ashtead

I have lived in Surrey for 56 years, 42 in the same house in Ashtead now shared with my husband, fellow Ashtead Councillor David Hawksworth. I cannot imagine living anywhere else. Ashtead is a clean, safe, and interesting place, and there are many voluntary activities and an amazing variety of interesting clubs to join. I have always been impressed by Ashtead's sense of identity in spite of being the most populous part of Mole Valley

Ashtead is blessed with good road and rail links and, of course, easy access to London but, on our doorstep, we have wonderful, open countryside, with the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, National Nature Reserves, and Sites of Special Scientific Interest, free to all.

Compared to the rest of the UK, health and longevity in Ashtead are good and long, and we have excellent hospitals within easy reach. That said, we can never be complacent and must continue to raise concerns if standards are lowered and our infrastructure deteriorates.

If re-elected I would

- Concentrate on Ashtead and Mole Valley issues, and not confuse them with those of national politics.
- Work to safeguard the character and environment of Ashtead Village and its surroundings, and challenge Council policy wherever it is to the disadvantage of residents, especially in relation to the new Local Plan.
- Strive for social and truly affordable housing as part of the Council's future Plan while emphasising the need for energy efficiency. Old methods of building energy-wasting housing should be abandoned in favour of thermal economy.
- Work to ensure that the Council considers the impact of any proposed development on the residents, wildlife, heritage, and environment as well as keeping pressure on Surrey County Council for road and pavement repairs, the preservation of green verges, and continued provision of children's and youth services.
- Support the Ashtead Tree Wardens in their sterling work to preserve and monitor our trees and promote the wilding of areas that do not need to be 'manicured' while insisting that our village is kept tidy where it matters.
- Continue to work towards getting the village pond back to a state where it can be enjoyed by all.
- Always be available to listen to residents, help resolve issues they have, and to convey their opinions and concerns to appropriate Officers for action.

REMEMBER

Common Ward is split into two by the railway line, and Network Rail's argument that the Green Lane crossing it is not a public right of way is a continuing concern for our residents. I have worked hard with my fellow Independent Councillors and residents to keep open the Green Lane crossing, and are pleased that Surrey County Council Local Committee determined it should be recognised as a right of way. Ratification is now awaited from the Secretary of State. Without this, many people living north of the railway line would have to make a long detour to get to Leatherhead.

The Green Lane Crossing is important for pedestrians, cyclists and those wheeling prams. We will continue to do everything in our power to keep that crossing open in perpetuity. I am also supporting the application for funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy to upgrade the footpath to prevent flooding.

The Independents have already been successful in creating a mud-free pathway from the Recreation Ground to Barnett Wood Lane, and for steps to be installed to make access to the Woodfield, and so the station, easier.

I will persist in my endeavour to bring the village pond back to being a pleasant and more accessible feature of our village. After a long struggle, and backslides along the way, there is now an application pending for substantial funding to restore this, developed in co-operation with Council Officers.

Any Questions?

**Do not hesitate to contact me on 01372 272087
or patricia.wiltshire1@btinternet.com**