IS IT TIME FOR HERSHAM TO FIGHT BACK?

Recent boundary changes to Elmbridge Council Wards have reduced the voice of Hersham residents from 6 representatives to 3. Esher Councillors will in future have their remit extended into the Longmore Estate, and Whiteley Village and Burwood Park will be represented by other non-Hersham Councillors. As a result Hersham's size in terms of its ward boundaries will also be considerably reduced – see: - https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/4438

Does this matter to you?

The Hersham Residents Association (HRA) is opposed these changes.

We are left with two options: we can accept these changes or we can explore the creation of a Hersham Community Council, which would cover an area similar to what we currently know as Hersham. This can be achieved if sufficient numbers of Hersham residents demand it.

A Community Council would be the first layer of government where local residents go with their concerns and ideas, and which Elmbridge Council would be obliged to listen to. It will have an exclusively Hersham remit.

Do you think that the Hersham community would be better served if it had its own community council?

The **Hersham Residents Association (HRA)** is holding a meeting to discuss these and other ideas:

PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE FEASIBILITY OF A COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR HERSHAM THURSDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2016 at 8.30pm at the WATERMAN'S ARMS, overlooking Hersham Green

LET'S MAKE HERSHAM AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.

What would a Community Council be and do?

Claygate already has a local council of the type we have in mind. It represents and makes decisions on behalf of the people in the area it covers. It sits closest to the residents, with Elmbridge Borough Council one layer above. As such, the Community Council would be the first place for residents to go with concerns and ideas. Therefore it would rapidly become a vital part of Hersham.

Elected representatives tend to be from local businesses or are local active residents and are free to express and act on their own, not as part of any local political groupings.

A Community Council would not have the same decision making powers as Elmbridge Councillors, but it would be involved in topics such as planning, crime prevention, managing open spaces and campaigning for facilities. They are a powerful local force because they can influence and negotiate and arrange local events on behalf of local residents.

 ∞

HERSHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (HRA)

The HRA is a non-political organisation whose aims are to promote the interests of Hersham and its residents. We are therefore interested to hear the views of Hersham residents and businesses. We want to gauge interest in these suggestions. So we ask you to come to the meeting and put your views forward. The next step depends on the response we receive.

PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE FEASIBILITY OF

A COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR HERSHAM

THURSDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2016 at 8.30pm

at the WATERMAN'S ARMS, overlooking Hersham Green