

intouch



Issue 1/2023

DIANE AND RODNEY DECIDE TO RETIRE

CLLrs. Diane and Rodney Chambers have decided to retire and two local residents are eager to follow in their footsteps.

Councillors Diane and Rodney Chambers have decided to retire from Local Government and will not seek re-election this coming May. They wish all the residents of Hempstead and Wigmore well for the future.

Local residents Jim Gilbourne and Andrew Lawrence are keen to follow in their footsteps.

Jim is active in the local community, serving as a Warden at All Saints' Church on Hempstead Road, as well as being on various committees in Hempstead, including the Village Hall, the Village Fayre and the Residents Association. Jim is also a member of the of the PCC for the parish of Gillingham South. Jim established an amdram group in 2018, The Hempstead Players. Now semi-retired, Jim undertakes some work as a self-employed housing consultant. He has lived in the

Medway Towns for over 22 years, the last 6 in Hempstead. He is devoted to helping people 'live better' and enjoy the many services the council and community can offer.

Andrew and his wife Rita, moved from SE London in 2000 and have lived in Hempstead for the last 16 years. Their three children were all born in Medway. He is an insurance broker by profession and owns a successful insurance intermediary headquartered in Maidstone, with an office in Malta, employing 14 staff.

Andrew has a passion for education becoming a school governor in 2015. He is the Deputy Chair of an Academy Trust with three schools in Medway where he was previously Chair of Governors.



Andrew and Jim

WINTER RAVAGES ROAD SURFACES

A very cold winter and extended period of minus zero temperatures has taken its toll on the road surfaces across Medway. The Council's valiant Highways Department are working hard to repair the damage. As you would expect the Highway's Team are prioritising work to deal with those potholes that are dangerous to road users and pedestrians or may cause damage to vehicles. As at the 3rd February, 1,200 potholes have been repaired in a two week period.

You can report a pothole by visiting www.medway.gov.uk/potholes.

WE COMPLETED OVER 1,200 REPAIRS
medway.gov.uk
So much done, but more to do.

COUNCIL TAX GOES PAPERLESS

Conservative run Medway Council has introduced a new online portal for managing your council tax.

You can now:

- Go paperless with e-billing.
- Check your payments.
- Update your personal details.

Part of the Council's digitisation strategy, paperless Council tax will make the services more efficient and responsive to users.

To sign up for the new service, you need your latest council tax bill. Medway Council may also invite you to sign-up via text or e-mail. The message will be from Medway Council.

FIGHTING AGAINST PLANS FOR LIDSING

Planning Inspector David Spencer has declared that Lidsing Garden Village development plans are unsound.

Maidstone Borough Council will have to make substantial changes particularly around access via a fourth arm to junction 4 of the M2.

The inspector stated that he would want to see further evidence on mitigation of the development most of which affects Hempstead and Wigmore and how the North Downs, an Area of Outstanding Natural

Beauty, could be protected including 17 hectares of landscaping south of the M2.

Hempstead and Wigmore Conservatives commented that whilst they welcomed the inspector's initial views there is no mitigation that would make it acceptable to us or residents.

Jim Gilbourne and Andrew Lawrence are both committed to the fight against Lidsing Garden Village, with Cllrs Diane and Rodney Chambers and Rehman Chishti MP.



View across the land proposed for Lidsing Garden Village

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS ON HOUSE BUILDING

Andrew and Jim are very keen to understand your attitudes to new house building in and around Hempstead and Wigmore.

We want to hear from as wide section of the community as possible so that we are better able to represent your views. East Hill, Gibraltar Farm, Lidsing and Bloors Wood are all still on the horizon but should we oppose all development?

Please take our 3-minute survey which opens on 14th February and closes on 31st March 2023 and can be accessed via our website

<https://www.hwconservatives.co.uk/surveys>



Part of the Gibraltar Farm Site

News SNIPPETS

BEWARE OF REMOTE ACCESS SCAMS

Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott, is alerting residents to an increase in fraud relating to callers enticing people to download software to fix software issues or slow broadband. Once installed on your device the fraudsters can gain access to your emails, online banking, etc. Only download software or grant access to your computer to someone you know and trust.

EASTHILL PLANNING APPLICATION

The Developer has submitted a phase 1 planning application to construct 91 residential units. Residents can submit their views at www.medway.gov.uk/searchplanning MC/19/0765 by 24th February 2023.

YOUR CONSERVATIVE TEAM FOR HEMPSTEAD AND WIGMORE



Andrew Lawrence

✉ 308 Hempstead Road, Hempstead, Gillingham, ME7 3QH

@ team@conservatives.co.uk

Jim Gilbourne

✉ The Old Farmhouse, 4 Harrow Road, Hempstead, ME7 3QA

@ team@hwconservatives.co.uk



Andrew and Jim, as local people, know the area well, but will nevertheless be walking around the ward on the look out for anything that may need attention.