Help for businesses is here

Our dedicated Enterprise Elmbridge programme can support startups, retailers or businesses in the borough.

We want to see innovative new businesses grow, existing businesses flourish and partner with our town and village centres to secure a vibrant and healthy future for our high streets.

We are working hard to provide the links to the right advice, offer grant funding and connect businesses, to help your company survive and thrive.

What support is available?

- **Business idea** – get a grant of up to £1,000 to start your business and links to startup loans
- **Independent retailer** – up to 90% funding available for shop front, signage or promotional projects
- **Looking to grow** – access free expert advice from the EM3 Growth Hub and access loan and equity funding
- **Food and drink businesses** – showcase your business to thousands of residents at the 2019 Elmbridge food festival
- **Ready to network** – join the Elmbridge Business Network for free today and connect with 700+ businesses locally
- **Business advice** – call the business support helpline on 0300 456 3565
- **Supporting growth in manufacturing** – grant funding is available to reduce the costs of improvement projects

To get in touch and find out more please email business@elmbridge.gov.uk or visit elmbridge.gov.uk/support-for-businesses.
Welcome

**Mayor’s message**

**Councillor Mrs Mary Sheldon**

As Mayor, it has been a huge honour to represent the borough at many functions. I have been to Scout and Guide events, school speech and sports days, village fairs, art exhibitions, choir festivals, rowing clubs, care home celebrations, award ceremonies – and more!

We are so blessed to have volunteers who work tirelessly to support organisations in Elmbridge – it has been a privilege to meet some of them and I look forward to meeting many more. What our residents do to support each other is truly wonderful!

In Elmbridge we have much talent amongst our young people. I have seen singing, dancing, sporting activities and help being provided at various events. They are also brave and caring and giving some of them awards at the Elmbridge Young Persons of Honour Awards was inspirational.

Thank you to those who are raising money for my chosen charity, Elmbridge Mencap, a local charity working for the benefit of people with learning disabilities and their parents/carers – please continue to raise funds as every little contribution helps.

**A thriving Elmbridge**

We all know our high streets are changing. Digital commerce means we need different things from our high streets and town centres; we want a mix of entertainment and retail, cinema and theatre in among both well-known and independent retail businesses. As a local authority at the heart of the community, we have a role to play in helping our high streets and town centres to thrive, but we can’t tackle these issues alone, we must work together with our residents, retailers and business groups.

On a strategic level we work with public and private sector partners across the south east of England to ensure Elmbridge has access to key funding and that the needs of our borough are considered in infrastructure projects such as the Brooklands Accessibility project, which will deliver almost £3m worth of cycling, walking and public transport improvements as we look to better connect Weybridge. We are also establishing a ‘Future High Streets’ working group to look at the issues and opportunities faced by our high streets and town centres.

On a more tactical level, our business grants have supported over 50 new startups and 250+ independent retailers and businesses with over £1.3m invested to date.

It is vital that Elmbridge has a thriving economy; you deserve a borough that can sustain you for work and for social activities and our economic delivery plan aims to do just that.

Throughout this issue of the Elmbridge Review you will read more about what we are doing to keep Elmbridge thriving, including of course the return of the Elmbridge food festival, 21-22 September at Painshill in Cobham.

More information on all of this can also be found on our website elmbridge.gov.uk/business and I look forward to seeing you at the Elmbridge food festival.

Robert Moran
Chief Executive,
Elmbridge Borough Council
Elmbridge safe place scheme launches

A safe place can help a vulnerable person if they are lost, confused or anxious while out and about in the community. The scheme, which launched in Elmbridge this summer, offers a safe way for vulnerable adults to alert someone about a potential risk or challenge if they are out on their own.

These places could be centres for the community, shops and other local businesses. A safe place logo will be visible in a window or on a door to help residents identify a registered venue or ‘safe place’.

At present, the scheme is being developed in Walton-on-Thames, but we hope to expand to other areas of Elmbridge over the coming months.

For more information, or if you are a local business that might like to be involved, visit elmbridge.gov.uk/safeplace.

Local children shine at Elmbridge school choirs festival

The Elmbridge school choirs festival was held at ACS Cobham International School in June to celebrate the talent of our local school choirs. It brought together eight schools who gave an outstanding performance: Burhill and Cardinal Newman (Hersham), St. Charles Borromeo, Oatlands Primary, Cleeves and St. James (Weybridge), Cobham Free School and Cranmere (Esher).

Children performed with Bantu Arts in support of Music in Hospitals & Care, a charity which brings live music to people with health conditions or disabilities. The festival was directed by Jonathan Kilhams in partnership with the R.C. Sherriff Trust and Elmbridge Borough Council.

Got grand designs?

Do your duty and avoid a fine

If you’re having work done on your house, it pays to know the rules when it comes to your waste.

If your builder doesn’t dispose of your waste properly, you can be fined up to £400. To avoid a fine:
- check your builder is a registered waste carrier, and
- get a receipt for the disposal of your waste.

If caught, flytippers can face a fine or imprisonment; every flytipping court case in Surrey has resulted in a guilty verdict.

To check if a trader is licensed, for more information or to report flytipping, visit surreyep.org.uk.

Celebrate your local sports heroes

Our borough is fortunate to have a strong sporting community, which is often demonstrated in competition. We will be celebrating local sporting talent and dedication at the Elmbridge Sports Awards at ACS Cobham International School on 13 December 2019.

Do you know:
- a local athlete who is a real inspiration for all?
- a great coach who has the drive to motivate anyone in any circumstance?
- a volunteer who always goes the extra mile for their local sports club?
- a team who has had an outstanding year or shown exemplary sportsmanship?

Why don’t you nominate them for an award? Online nominations are open until 20 October at elmbridge.gov.uk/sport.

Are you registered to vote?

The annual voter registration canvass is underway to ensure we hold the correct details on our electoral register.

Please follow the instructions on your household enquiry form so that we know who lives at your address and can check who is eligible to vote. If you respond as soon as possible, you will avoid receiving a reminder and/or a visit from one of our appointed canvassers.

It is a legal requirement to respond, even if the information is correct. If you don’t, you could be fined £1,000. Being registered will give you the right to vote and could also improve your credit rating.

If you have any questions about the annual canvass, please phone 01372 474 183 or email electoral@elmbridge.gov.uk.
In your community

A day in the life of a community transport driver

Mark has been a part of the community transport team for over 30 years. Every day he helps older, vulnerable residents across the borough access local services within the community.

A typical day for Mark and the team begins before 8am when they have a morning catch-up and check any last minute changes to the driving schedules.

At 8.30am it’s time to carry out the all-important daily vehicle and maintenance checks. This ensures every bus is in tip-top condition before it leaves the transport depot. With everything done, Mark is ready to go!

Mark spends the next couple of hours collecting residents and dropping them off to centres and groups. Whether it’s an outing to the hairdresser at the Hersham Centre or taking part in a Zumba class at the Weybridge Centre, this vital service ensures older people stay connected in our community.

Later Mark sets off to collect residents for their weekly shopping trips. Public transport isn’t always easy to use so having an accessible bus, with Mark there to assist people as they get on board, is crucial for helping people to maintain their independence. On the journey home Mark remains on-hand, ready to help people off the bus and walk them to their door with their shopping.

In the afternoon, Mark heads back to the centres for the community to take people home. The bus is always buzzing with chat as everyone catches up on their day and Mark ends his day satisfied that he has helped people in his community and brought a smile to their face.

For more information on our community transport services or to become a community transport driver, please get in touch:
elmbridge.gov.uk/css
01372 474944
commtransport@elmbridge.gov.uk

Modern slavery – an unseen crime

Modern slavery hides in takeaways, hotels, car washes, nail bars and private homes. It includes forced labour, debt bondage, sexual exploitation, forced criminality and domestic servitude.

There is no typical victim of slavery. Victims can be men, women and children of all ages, but they are often from the most vulnerable, minority or socially excluded groups.

Victims are often trafficked to a foreign country where they cannot speak the language, have their travel and identity documents removed, and are told that if they try to attempt an escape, they or their families will be harmed.

If you think you or someone you know is a victim of modern slavery, you can report it online via surrey.police.uk/ro/report or call Surrey Police on 101 (always call 999 in an emergency).

For further information visit the modern slavery helpline: modernslaveryhelpline.org. You can also find information on the responsible car wash initiative at rcws.org.uk.

Safety tips for Halloween

Whether your children are dressing up as a spooky ghost or a wicked witch this Halloween, make sure it is a fun night by staying safe. We have seven top tips for children and young people this Halloween:

1. Always be accompanied by an adult when you are trick-or-treating.
2. Only go to houses of people that you know and who are happy for you to call.
3. Keep to places that you know and which are well lit.
4. Don’t take short cuts through gardens, alleyways or parks.
5. Watch out for traffic - drivers might not see you. If you are wearing a mask, make sure that you can see where you are going and are aware of your surroundings.
6. Carry a torch and a fully charged mobile phone (if you have one).
7. If you see a ‘No trick or treat’ poster in a property – respect it and move on.

Look out for further information by following @SurreyPolice or @ElmbridgeBeat on their social media pages.
Help protect children from crime

Criminals are deliberately targeting vulnerable children – those who are homeless, experiencing learning difficulties, going through family breakdowns, struggling at school, living in care homes or trapped in poverty.

Elmbridge Borough Council, Surrey County Council, Surrey Police and other partners across Surrey are working together to safeguard young people and prevent them from experiencing any form of exploitation, including:

- child sexual exploitation (CSE)
- exploitation linked to drug dealing and ‘county lines’ activity
- building up drug debts or bonds
- being drawn into serious criminality
- being pressured into carrying weapons
- being pressured into sexual activity

Professionals, parents and children themselves may hold vital information around those individuals who are dealing drugs and those children who are being exploited in some way.

If you are concerned about the safety of a child or young person you can contact the Surrey Children’s Single Point of Access (SPA) on 0300 470 9100 or out of hours phone: 01483 517898 or email: csmash@surreycc.gov.uk. You can also report your concerns directly to the police by calling 101, or in an emergency where a child is at immediate risk, always dial 999.

Crime can also be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Royston Pike lecture series: September 2019 – April 2020

Programme highlights:

- Follow the Victorians to Eritrea and Ethiopia
- Explore Palestine, old and new Japan and follow an ascent of Mount Everest
- The history of tea and the great British pantomime
- Take a humorous look at relationships

Full programme at elmbridge.gov.uk/culture
Email: arts@elmbridge.gov.uk
Tel: 01372 474 568

Half-term family fun

Free drop-in fun

Wild at play event

Sun 27 Oct | 10am - noon | Meet in Copsem Lane car park, nearest postcode KT10 9HQ

Autumn arts and crafts

Mon 28, Tues 29 & Wed 30 Oct
Cecil Hepworth Playhouse, KT12 1AT | 10am - 2pm

Bookable event

Elmbridge Museum Explorers – Elmbridge at War

Wed 30 Oct | Cecil Hepworth Playhouse, KT12 1AT | 2pm - 3.30pm | £5 per child | Booking essential: ebcmuseum@elmbridge.gov.uk.

Includes gas mask training, an air raid drill and WW2 artefacts.

More information at elmbridge.gov.uk/shout and elmbridgemuseum.org.uk

All children must be accompanied by an adult.
At a full Council meeting in July we declared a ‘climate emergency’. Councillors pledged to take local action to contribute to national carbon neutral targets through the development of practices and policies, with an aim of making the council carbon neutral by 2030.

The motion outlined that ‘urgent action’ is required to limit the effects of global warming, which not only affects the borough’s residents but people around the globe, and that action needed to start with Elmbridge Borough Council and the services it provides. Read more at: elmbridge.gov.uk/news/climate-emergency.

A full report will be presented to Cabinet and Council in February 2020, which will outline how this will be achieved.

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**Refill and reuse**

Did you know that approximately one million plastic bottles are bought around the world every minute and it’s predicted that figure will rise by another 20% by 2021?

As most of these bottles are single-use, once discarded, they will pollute our planet for hundreds or even thousands of years because they are decay resistant.

The Refill campaign was started by City to Sea to prevent plastic pollution at source by making it easier to reuse and refill your water bottle on the go. Their work extends across the globe and looks to encourage local schemes to champion their work.

As a local borough committed to making a difference and protecting our environment, Elmbridge recently seized the opportunity to get involved and help promote the Refill scheme. A number of local businesses have since registered as Refill stations to offer passers-by the chance to fill up their water bottle. Look out for the Refill sticker on your local high street!

For further information on how to get involved as either a resident or local business, please visit: www.refill.org.uk.

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**Submit your idea for the community planting fund**

Have you got a project in mind to enhance the local area? It could be anything from creating a community garden or taking over the management of a green space to setting up an In-Bloom group or installing new planter troughs.

Why not apply to the community planting fund for up to £5,000 to fund your project? The fund is available to charities, voluntary groups, parish councils, schools, Scout and Guide groups and other not-for-profit organisations. Applications are open until 11 October. For more information visit elmbridge.gov.uk/leisure.

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**Explore your local natural play areas**

Have you visited the new natural play spaces at the Elmbridge Sports Hub and Brooklands community park? They have been designed and built with natural sustainable materials to offer children a fun, adventurous and educational play experience. Local families have been involved in the projects through consultation and an interactive hands-on design workshop. You can find your nearest play area at elmbridge.gov.uk/parks.

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**Shaping Elmbridge - Local Plan consultation**

We are preparing a new Local Plan which will decide how the communities and places of Elmbridge will develop over the next 15 years. It will allocate land for development and guide decisions on whether or not planning applications should be granted permission. The Local Plan consultation is open until 30 September 2019 and we are keen to hear from you. To take part, please visit elmbridge.gov.uk/localplan.

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**Reduce your energy bills**

Small changes can help make big savings. Follow our five tips to reduce your energy bills without spending any money on your home.

According to the Energy Saving Trust (energysavingtrust.org.uk), did you know that you can save …?

- £7 per year by filling your kettle with just the amount of water you need to use
- £5 per year by doing one less washing machine load per week
- £80 per year by turning down your thermostat by one degree
- £10 per person spending one minute less in the shower

That’s a saving of £102 off your energy bills per year (based on a single person household).

For more information and help with reducing your energy bills and keeping warm, visit our energy advice partner, Action Surrey, at actionsurrey.org.
Serving the community

Find a tenant with our Rental Support Scheme

Do you have a property to let? Are you having difficulty finding a tenant? Our Rental Support Scheme (RSS) could help.

Our RSS has helped place over 700 families into the private rented sector. With a beneficial landlord package, we can help you to rent your property to prospective tenants who are seeking good quality, affordable, private rented accommodation. Any property size considered.

This hassle-free scheme guarantees you will receive rent each month during the first 12 months of the tenancy, removing the risk of rent arrears. Other benefits include:

- No commission or charges for the landlord
- Provision of a deposit guarantee (surety against damage caused during the letting to the value of five weeks’ rent)
- One month’s rent in advance
- One-off £200 incentive payment (which can be used for any landlord costs)

For further details, please contact the Rental Support Scheme on 01372 474 522 or email rss@elmbridge.gov.uk or visit elmbridge.gov.uk/housing.

Tenant Fees Act is now in force

Private tenants are now protected by the Tenant Fees Act which came into effect on 1 June this year. The Act limits the costs that landlords can impose on tenants to secure or renew a tenancy. Tenants will be able to see, at a glance, what a given property will cost them in the advertised rent with no hidden costs. The party that contracts the service – the landlord – will be responsible for paying for that service, helping ensure the fees charged reflect the real economic value of the services provided and sharpen letting agents’ incentive to compete for landlords’ business.


Councillor expenses 2018/19

The payments comprise Members’ allowances, including Special Responsibility Allowances, Mayoral allowances, travel and subsistence expenses and payments made on behalf of Members for attendance at approved meetings, conferences and seminars. It is a legal requirement for local authorities to publish this information. Full details are available on the Council’s website elmbridge.gov.uk/cwcouncillor or by writing to: Head of Finance, Elmbridge Borough Council, Civic Centre, High Street, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9SD, email finance@elmbridge.gov.uk.

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Elmbridge food festival

The free Elmbridge food festival is coming to Painshill in Cobham on 21 and 22 September. This is your chance to experience the best culinary delights that Elmbridge has to offer. Our free, fun-packed food festival is so fabulous that we have come up with at least seven reasons why you should attend.

1. Check out at least one demo at our demonstration theatre
   With at least eight demos over two days, this one should be easy. The demo tent will have a schedule of demonstrations, including a display from Surrey Hills Butchers on how to cut and carve meat, as well as the best cuts of meat to buy for particular dishes.

2. Explore Painshill
   Whether you are new to Painshill or a regular visitor, there is always something wonderful to explore around these landscaped gardens. From the grotto to the lake and the views, take advantage of the free entry and explore Painshill.

3. Bring your kids to ‘Outside the Box’
   If you have children, entertaining them will be key and we have that covered. Our Shout! Holiday activity squad will be on hand throughout the festival with a range of arts and craft activities including making dream-catchers and jewellery. We are also excited that local dance group ‘Outside the Box’, will be with us offering both dance and cheerleading sessions to all the children.

4. Enjoy the music from our live stage
   Elmbridge has a vibrant music scene, from our wonderful choirs to independent soloists and bands. We will be bringing you a selection of music from across the borough, including Weybridge Male Voice Choir, Harrowman and Surrey Music Ladies Choir, all interlinked with music and chat from Brooklands Radio who will be broadcasting live from the food festival.

5. Sample culinary delights from at least three stall holders
   When there is so much on offer, it’s difficult to choose just one type of food to try so why bother, sample lots, in fact we challenge you to try at least three different types of food. We will have food from around the globe on offer, so you will be spoiled for choice.

6. Grab a drink from the Big Red Bus
   What’s better than sitting on a picnic blanket with a drink from the Big Red Bus and chatting with friends while you enjoy some fantastic food and music?

7. Come and say hello to the ‘My Elmbridge’ team
   Our ‘My Elmbridge’ team will be on hand to answers any queries you have about the festival and about council services. Maybe you would like to work with us or volunteer at one of our countryside conservation events, whatever your query we will be around to help you.