

WEYBRIDGE ST GEORGE'S HILL BY-ELECTION ON THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER



Dear Resident,

Elmbridge Borough Council has confirmed that a by-election will be held in the Weybridge St George's Hill (WSGH) ward on Thursday 10th October 2024.

This vacancy has arisen due to the sad passing of our highly respected and much-loved local councillor, Charu Sood, in August. Described by Dr Ben Spencer MP as the "very epitome of a community champion", Charu set up community initiatives such as Weybridge in Bloom, Sew Weybridge (making PPE during the pandemic), supported local charities (raising funds for victims of domestic violence), and much more. She is much missed.

My name is **Colin McFarlane**, and I was proud to be a friend and colleague of Charu's. It is my honour to have been selected by her colleagues to stand in this election to continue her outstanding work on behalf of the Weybridge community. I have no doubt that Charu will be a tough act to follow but I am determined to do my best.

Having lived in St George's Hill for 25 years, I've seen its growth and challenges firsthand. My career was in IT and project management, working for international corporations, and since retiring I have volunteered as an ambulance first responder helping vulnerable people in their time of greatest need. I am keen to give back to the community locally by serving Weybridge residents as their representative on the Council.

As chairman of the local Conservative association, I already work closely with Ben, our MP, and our county councillor Tim Oliver OBE and police commissioner Lisa Townsend. If elected I will be able to leverage these contacts, and my knowledge of how local government works to get things done for Weybridge St George's Hill residents.

The key issues facing the ward as I see them are: Progressing the re-provision of Weybridge Hospital; backing investment in our town centre – a new community hub is coming, and I want fairer parking charges for shoppers; and protecting our area from harmful development that could result from the new government's higher housing targets. Elderly residents and families on lower incomes also need the Council's support, particularly over the winter.

Like Charu, I am standing under the Conservative banner but my promise to you will be to always put the needs of Weybridge above party. I will be knocking on doors with my team in the coming weeks and I very much look forward to meeting you in person and hearing your views about how we can make Weybridge St George's Hill a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Colin McFarlane
Weybridge St George's Hill by-election candidate

Promoted by Steve Bax on behalf of Colin McFarlane, both of Curzon House, Church Road, Windlesham, Surrey, GU20 6BH, and printed by The Print files, 49 Illingworth, Windsor, SL4 4UP.

Four priorities for a better Weybridge St George's Hill

1

Rebuild our Weybridge Hospital

Many promises have been made about rebuilding Weybridge Hospital but seven years on from the devastating fire our community is still making do with temporary buildings. If elected as your councillor, Colin McFarlane will work with our MP Dr Ben Spencer to hold NHS managers' feet to the fire to deliver the permanent facilities our community deserves.

2

Defend our area from harmful development

Conservatives at Elmbridge Borough Council support a 'brownfield only' approach to building new homes. Unfortunately, the new government is imposing higher housing targets and our Council's Liberal Democrat led coalition (which includes the St George's Hill Independents) are poised to release green spaces. We will insist that any new builds respect the character of Weybridge.

3

Renew our town centre

Our high street has not been well supported by the current Council leadership. We have seen charges hiked at Churchfield car park and Sunday charging introduced, which hurts shoppers and businesses. Colin is calling for a fairer parking regime and will be a staunch supporter of our shops. Conservative Surrey County Council is delivering a new Library and Community Centre Hub in the town centre and Colin also backs the redevelopment of Weybridge Hall as a theatre.

4

Repair our roads

Surrey Conservatives led by our Weybridge County Councillor, Tim Oliver, are investing £85m to fix potholes and carry out preventative resurfacing. Colin will work closely with Tim to continue to make progress. This includes renewing road markings and securing additional grass verges cuts and weed removal. It is important we do everything in our power to keep Weybridge moving forward and looking as good as it can possibly be.

St George's Hill Independents claim to be non-party affiliated but have been in coalition with the Liberal Democrats at Elmbridge Council for seven of the last eight years. Conservatives are the sole opposition at the Council and the **voice of residents**, holding those in power to account.

Please vote for COLIN MCFARLANE on 10th October to strengthen our numbers and stand up for Weybridge St George's Hill. If you have a question for Colin or would like to help our campaign, please email cgmcfarlane@weybridgeconservatives.com - thank you!