

VOTE

Mark STRINGER

OXTED & LIMPSFIELD RESIDENTS GROUP



May 1st By-Election Vote to keep your residents-run Council

This is to introduce myself as your Oxted & Limpsfield Residents Group (OLRG) candidate for Oxted South in the Tandridge District Council by-election on May 1st. The by-election is being held because Councillor Chris Langton, who has represented the ward for six years, is moving away from the area. I would be delighted to have the opportunity to fill the role and, if elected, I aim to put the same amount of energy and drive as Chris has into working for your interests. I have lived with my family in Broadham Green for sixteen years and work as a Senior Lecturer at Birkbeck, University of London.

• **ADMINISTRATION:** If elected, I will be part of the Residents Alliance which has run the council since May 2021 when we took over from the Conservatives. Since then, we have got the finances back on track from a position close to bankruptcy which we inherited. At a time when many councils are struggling to stay solvent and a number have declared bankruptcy, we have been able to set a balanced budget for 2025/26 without cuts to services and we have been able to keep 2-hour free parking in Ellice Road car park.



• **ELECTING ME** is a vote to keep the council run by residents and for an independent, non-political voice who will represent you and who will listen. You may have read that the government intends to abolish district and borough councils in England in a major shake-up of local government. This includes Tandridge District Council. Until that happens, it is crucial to keep fighting for the best for our community and to work to set in place the best way forward for the future. This is what I would aim to do along with you all.

MY PRIORITIES also include tackling anti-social behaviour (update on CCTV overleaf); preventing inappropriate development and protecting the character and community feel of our area, taking planning enforcement action where necessary; ensuring more affordable and council housing provision and improving infrastructure.

Please do vote for me and the OLRG team in the Tandridge District Council by-election on May 1st.

OXTED & LIMPSFIELD RESIDENTS GROUP

Independent • Non-Political

Your voice in Oxted South

Promoted by Deb Shiner, Wolfs Wood, Hurst Green RH8 OHN on behalf of Mark Stringer, Broadham Green Road, RH8 9PF
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REPRESENTING RESIDENTS

ELECT ME and I will fight for your interests on all important local issues including:



have kids climbing on our roof and we saw the tree fall on the centre which helped us determine the cause, and was helpful to the insurance claim. It will also help us with parking in the future.”

• **PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT:** The government has recently changed the planning rules to loosen protection for the Green Belt with a new category of land called “grey belt”. Previously, all Green Belt development was regarded as inappropriate unless developers could put forward a strong case that there were very special circumstances for it to be released. Now developers can put forward speculative applications on Green Belt land which they consider should be reclassified as grey belt because they say it is “poorly performing” Green Belt. This, together with a much increased housing target set nationally, puts much more pressure on Green Belt land. I will do my utmost to protect our area from inappropriate and unsustainable development and to secure much needed infrastructure improvements as OLRG has worked to do ever since we were formed.

• **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT:** I fully support the concerns of local residents about breaches of the planning rules such as the unauthorised travellers’ site off Tanhouse Road. Enforcement and stop notices were issued quickly, all of which were ignored. The council then went to court and won with fines issued. But there has been an appeal against the council’s enforcement notices and this appeal, after twice being postponed, is now scheduled for 4 days starting on 29th April.

• **AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** A new council house building programme is currently underway, mostly on council owned land though the council is buying land for social housing such as the former Methodist church in Hurst Green where 13 new homes are planned. I support this because it seems the only way to secure truly affordable housing. There are plans for the council to build 22 homes on part of the Warren Lane depot site and 12 on the garage area at Wolfs Wood. We are also aiming to maximise affordable housing in new developments and to work with housing associations, developers and landowners to secure sites and funding for new affordable housing - rented and shared ownership.



Independent • Non-Political

VOTE FOR Mark Stringer and the OLRG team
Your voice in Oxted South

PUTTING THE COMMUNITY FIRST

ELECT ME for prudent financial control and protection of frontline services.

A case study featuring Tandridge District Council’s transformation from the brink of bankruptcy four years ago to being confident in its financial position, has recently been published by the Local Government Association. Entitled “Bucking the Trend”, it can be read on this link: <https://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/tandridge-district-council-bucking-trend>

The study outlines the financial challenges the council faced in 2021 when the residents-run administration took over. We inherited a situation where the council was considering issuing a bankruptcy notice. We did not have the option of using reserves to balance the books because they had already been severely depleted. We



were determined from the start to avoid major loss of services to residents. We chose instead to cut the council’s costs and to reshape and slim down the council. We have also brought in strict accounting rules. We have had to deliver £6m of savings over four years and have now achieved financial stability, while an increasing number of councils are in serious financial difficulties. We have been able to set a balanced budget for 2025/26 without reducing services. Some fees are rising but increases for services to residents have been kept to a minimum and 2 hour free parking in Ellice Road has been maintained. The Council Tax rise for Tandridge is 2.99% which is an increase of £7.33 per year for a Band D property (or 14p per week).

PLAYGROUNDS AND TOILETS: Stabilising the finances has meant we can go ahead with refurbishing playgrounds and public toilets. These include Mill Lane playground and, working closely with Oxted Parish Council, the Boulthurst Way playground. The Ellice Road car park toilets in Oxted have also been completely refurbished.

ELECT ME for an Independent voice whose only allegiance is to the local community.

I am standing for election for the first time because I strongly believe that Independent councillors - who are not told what to do by a political party - are the only way to ensure the community is always put first. Together with my fellow ward councillors, OLRG’s Deb Shiner and Bryan Black, I will listen and work with residents to be their voice in the council, aiming to secure a safe and prosperous future for us and our families and to get the best value from council services.



If you want to keep a strong residents-run council and for the community’s voice to be heard strongly, please do vote for me and the OLRG team.

Independent • Non-Political

VOTE FOR Mark Stringer and the OLRG team
Your voice in Oxted South

Independent • Non-Political • Working ONLY for you

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION

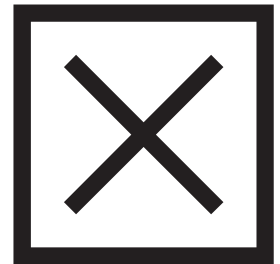
OXTED SOUTH WARD **Thursday, May 1st**

Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm

**Voting is at Hurst Green Community Centre
4 Oak Close, Hurst Green RH8 0BA**



Vote
STRINGER



If there is anything you would like to chat about, please just get in touch at:

mrmarkstringer@outlook.com

or message via the OLRG email: oxted.residents@btinternet.com

*If you would like to support me in any way or would like to display an election board,
please contact me as above. Many thanks.*

Best Wishes

Mark

To join OLRG email: oxted.residents@btinternet.com

Website: www.oxtedlimpsfieldresidents.co.uk

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