

Fact Check What is going on in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead?

RBWM finances: a Tory-made disaster

- the Conservatives had to plunder reserves last year to alleviate a forecasted £8m overspend
- the Conservatives are expecting another overspend of £4m by March next year
- the Conservatives will have to save another £4m in the year after that, and have no idea about how to do so
- the Conservatives have run down the Borough's reserves to a level much lower than those of comparable councils
- the Conservatives are spending 5% of the budget simply servicing a debt that is heading towards £200m.

The Conservative strategy of 'borrow now, pay later' is fast catching up with them. We urgently need more independent councillors to hold them to account and balance the books.

An official report from CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) into the way RBWM has been run expressed serious doubts about whether the Conservatives have been behaving in a way that is legal, transparent, professional and competent.



CIPFA said:

- the Conservatives management strategy does not comply with CIPFA's Code of Practice
- the way the Conservatives manage the Borough's capital does not comply with the Local Government Act (LG Act)
- the way £350k was approved for the Clewer and Dedworth neighbourhood improvement scheme was highly questionable
- Conservative councillors have been able to bypass council processes and due scrutiny to get their pet schemes approved.

Visit www.theboroughfirst.org for more background evidence and the report in full.

CIPFA recommended:

- an urgent review of RBWM's financial management
- urgent measures to ensure that RBWM complies with the LG Act, regulations and codes of practice
- a review of the financial resilience of RBWM
- a review of all schemes in the capital programme to ensure that they are compliant and properly managed.

This adds up to a shameful indictment of the way the Conservatives have been running our Borough. They have ridden roughshod over process and plunged us into dire financial trouble.

No wonder so many councillors and residents could take no more, and formed THE BOROUGH FIRST - dedicated to putting the interests of the Borough ahead of these tawdry political practices.

No wonder the Tories lost so many seats in May.

This by-election gives voters in Riverside another opportunity to demonstrate that they deserve and demand something better by voting for CLAIRE STRETTON on Wednesday 30th October.

MEET THE CANDIDATE EVENT

If you've missed Claire on the doorstep, why not come and meet her on **Sunday 27th October** between **3.30pm and 6pm** in the **Function Room** of the **Thames Hotel**, Ray Mead Road, Maidenhead SL6 8NR



THE ROOM IS ALSO USED AS THE POLLING STATION FOR THE WESTERN PART OF THE RIVERSIDE WARD



An **Update** and **Fact Check** from **Claire Stretton** your tBf candidate in **Riverside** for the council by-election on **Wednesday 30th October**

#peoplebeforepolitics
www.theboroughfirst.org



Riverside Ward What you have told me is important to you and what I commit to do.

People who live in Riverside have raised a number of issues on the doorstep. Here are some of them - and what I intend to do about them if I am elected.

Street Parking

Across the ward residents have issues with parking by their homes and some parking schemes are ineffective or badly designed. Boulter's Meadow, High Town and Ray Mill Road West are particularly problematic. **I will identify and lobby for new street parking schemes and make sure that both new and existing schemes are properly designed.**

Speeding and Roads

Unsafe spots identified such as the bends on Ray Street and Blackmoor Lane and cars speeding on main routes. Concerns regarding the impact of the proposed new road between the Bath Road and Blackmoor Lane across the Moor. **I will engage with council officers to improve road safety, and call a public meeting to examine the case for the new road across the Moor.**

I will call a public meeting to examine the case for the new road across the Moor...

Town Centre Regeneration & Development

Many Riverside residents are not happy with the large number of flats that are appearing in the town centre with virtually no affordable or social housing for families and unidentified infrastructure. **I will campaign for more affordable housing, including social rent, and make sure that house-building plans are supported by the necessary infrastructure: schools, doctors, parking, public transport, community facilities.**

I will campaign for more affordable housing ... and make sure that house-building plans are supported by the necessary infrastructure...

Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime

Issues regarding both burglaries and ASB have come up on the doorstep. **I will liaise with the police and other agencies to improve the reporting of offences and the effectiveness of responses.**

Contact and follow Claire: M 07788 428285 E claire.stretton@theboroughfirst.org @clairestretton

The Riverside

The area along the Riverside and around Boulter's Lock is one of the Borough's prime assets and we should do more to make it a great amenity for residents and visitors alike. We need to make sure the plan to extend Boulter's Lock car park goes ahead, working with residents to ensure proper landscaping and biodiversity. **I will work with residents to press for the enhancement of the Riverside as a whole, such as better landscaping and planting and removal of derelict and unlicensed boats from Boulter's Lock to Maidenhead Bridge.**

I will work with residents to press for the enhancement of the Riverside as a whole...

Open Spaces

Residents **do not want** further encroachment on open spaces for house building and **do want** protections placed on open spaces to create a balance between wildlife and community uses. **I will engage with concerned residents and lobby for sites like Battlemead Common and Deerswood Meadow** (just reallocated from Housing to Green Infrastructure in proposed BLP revision but will need to be closely monitored) **and other important open spaces, to be protected.**

Riverside Primary School drop off & pick up

The 'kiss and drop' scheme accessed from the western entrance is not working with parents' cars blocking residents' access to their homes, parking in residents' spaces and backing up onto the Cookham Road, causing dangerous conditions and frustration for all. **I will work with the school to find workable solutions, such as opening the school gates earlier or spreading the load to other school access points.**

I will work with the school to find workable solutions...

To keep the Conservatives out and hold them to account VOTE FOR CLAIRE the only candidate who can beat them in Riverside

Comment on Twitter:

@clairestretton a Cllr who spoke up about governance issues at RBWM, who identified early issues with BLP and tried to put them right, was rightly sceptical about finances, who did a great job on Development Control Panel and is very supportive of the Arts. Fine track record.

The Results from the May 2019 election

Dudley, Simon	Conservative	851	Elected
Targowski, Christopher	Conservative	777	Elected
Stretton, Claire	the Borough first	678	
Jarvis, Mick	the Borough first	600	
Castell, Rob	Liberal Democrats	476	
Singh, Kashmir	Liberal Democrats	450	
McDermott, Craig	Green Party	215	
Bunce, Sharon	Labour	182	
Knowles-Leak, David	Labour	168	

Published and Promoted by Geoff Hill on behalf of Claire Stretton and "the BOROUGH first" both of P.O. Box 4919, Maidenhead, SL60 1LS. Printed by Where The Trade Buys, Unit 94, North East BIC, Sunderland, SR5 2TO.

The
BOROUGH
first

We believe in:

Local democracy
Councillors Independent of National Parties
Listening to local residents

Our **Core Values** are:

Integrity
Collaboration
Respect

The
BOROUGH
first



www.theboroughfirst.org
#peoplebeforepolitics