

VOTE

Claire BLACKWELL

OXTED & LIMPSFIELD RESIDENTS GROUP



May 4th - Vote to keep your residents run Council

I have really enjoyed representing Limpsfield as a Tandridge District Councillor for the past four years and would be delighted to have the opportunity to continue this role. Protecting the whole of Limpsfield from inappropriate development and keeping its unique character is extremely important to me. I started at St Michael's School, Limpsfield in 1979 and then went on to study at Oxted County School and have lived in the Parish of Limpsfield for the past 30 years. I have also enjoyed being on the outside body for the Friends of Limpsfield Common and on the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) partnership.



● **ADMINISTRATION:** I am part of the alliance of residents and Independent Councillors which has run the Council since May 2021 when we became the largest group and took over from the Conservatives. Since then, we have got the finances back on track from a position close to bankruptcy which we inherited. I am very pleased to say it means we have been able to set a balanced budget for 2023/24 without major cuts to services or cuts to the amount of money available for grants to voluntary organisations. We have also been able to keep 2 hour free parking in Ellice Road car park.

● **RE-ELECTING ME:** I stood for election in 2019 because I was concerned about several issues including the submission of our Local Plan and the implications of what would happen if it were to fail. I saw the change for the better that Oxted and Limpsfield Residents Group (OLRG)

Councillors were making and I was keen to get involved and work for our community. Working with my fellow ward Councillor, OLRG's Ian Booth, I will campaign for the interests of Limpsfield residents and businesses. I am currently Chair of Planning and a member of the Planning Policy Committee and I am committed to dealing with the difficult issues we are facing with regards to the submitted Local Plan (update overleaf).



Please do vote for me and the OLRG team on May 4th in this crucial District Council election.

OXTED & LIMPSFIELD RESIDENTS GROUP

Independent • Non-Political

Your voice in Limpsfield



REPRESENTING RESIDENTS

RE-ELECT ME and I will push for your interests on all important local issues.

MY PRIORITIES include tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, preventing inappropriate development, protecting our Green Belt and keeping the character and community feel of Limpsfield, improving infrastructure especially pressing for more health services locally.



CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR: The tendering process is now underway for CCTV cameras to be installed in Oxted and Hurst Green. The proposal is to install CCTV first in Station Road East and West, with the shops in Hurst Green and Master Park following on as two subsequent phases. OLRG has co-ordinated support for the scheme from Tandridge District Council, Limpsfield Parish Council, Oxted Parish Council, Oxted BID (Business Improvement District) and the Master Park Trustees. Oxted Parish Council is kindly considering providing the bulk of the funding with contributions from the BID and Limpsfield PC.

SURREY HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY (AONB): A review of the AONB boundary is currently taking place and I am delighted that the AONB may be expanded in Limpsfield, giving extra protection to our most beautiful and valued landscapes.

RE-ELECT ME and I will fight against inappropriate development and for better infrastructure.

We are working hard to get a Local Plan approved for the District. The Plan was submitted for examination in 2019 by the previous administration and was not of our making. The Planning Inspector has expressed serious concerns about it in particular about the delivery of the proposed South Godstone garden community and the capacity of junction 6 of the M25. We are now putting forward a new proposal to shorten the Plan period deleting the garden community and other sites about which the Inspector has raised concerns, to acknowledge the Government's recent proposals for changes to planning policy, and to improve infrastructure provision for those sites that go ahead. We hope the Inspector will accept our proposal because it has always been my greatest worry that the District will be left without an up to date Plan which will lead to speculative applications on the Green Belt. If that were to happen, I will do my utmost to protect our area from inappropriate development and also to secure much needed infrastructure improvements as OLRG has worked to do ever since we were formed.



Independent • Non-Political

Claire Blackwell and the OLRG team
Your voice in Limpsfield

PUTTING THE COMMUNITY FIRST

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

One of the most difficult issues our administration faced has been keeping the Council solvent. We inherited a £920,000 annual hole in the budget due to a pension costs error. At that time, the Council was close to issuing a section 114 notice – effectively bankruptcy. 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



cuts to services. We have chosen instead to cut the Council's own costs and, to do that, have embarked on a root and branch review to reshape and slim down the Council to try to ensure expenditure no longer outstrips income. We have also brought in strict accounting and reporting rules. We are working on sharing services with other councils, on digital innovation to give better customer experience and efficiency, and on commissioning at least some services from outside providers to achieve better value for money. For the financial year 2023/24, we are having to find £1.7m of savings, a big challenge on an annual budget of £11.9m especially at a time of high inflation affecting our costs. So I am very pleased to say that we have been able to set a balanced budget and to do so without major cuts to services or cuts to the amount of money available for grants to voluntary organisations. Some fees are rising but increases for services to residents have been kept to a minimum and 2 hour free parking in Ellice Road car park has been retained. We have also ring-fenced some money as a "Cost of Living" fund to help residents in urgent need as necessary. The Council Tax rise is 2.99% which is £6.90 per year for an average property (or 13p per week). If re-elected, I will have very much in mind

the need to focus what resources there are on the services that matter most to residents and to provide you with the services you deserve and for which you pay your Council Tax.

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

I 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. My only allegiance is to the community and not to party politics.

If enough OLRG/Independents are elected on May 4th, we will be able to continue as a residents run administration. If you want that to happen and for the community's voice in Limpsfield to be heard strongly, please do vote for me and the OLRG team.



And if you are voting in person, don't forget to bring your photo ID. These are the first elections where photo ID is needed. Please contact me as overleaf if you need any more info about this.

Independent • Non-Political

Claire Blackwell and the OLRG team
Your voice in Limpsfield

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION

LIMPSFIELD WARD

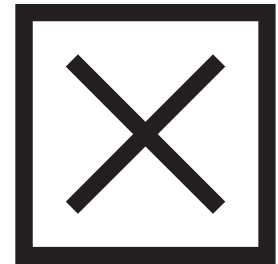
Thursday, May 4th

Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm
Voting for residents of Limpsfield North is at
St Peter's Church Hall in Limpsfield Village

Voting for residents of Limpsfield South is at
St Andrew's Church Hall on Limpsfield Chart



Vote
BLACKWELL



If you would like to get in touch to discuss any issues or concerns, please do email me at claireblackwell15@yahoo.co.uk or phone 07711 561890 or send me a message at the Oxted & Limpsfield Residents Group Facebook page: www.facebook.com/oxtedresidents

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

Claire Blackwell

To join OLRG email: oxted.residents@btinternet.com
Website: www.oxtedlimpsfieldresidents.co.uk

OXTED & LIMPSFIELD RESIDENTS GROUP



• OLRG •

Your voice in Limpsfield