

VOTE FOR BOTH CANDIDATES

Claire **BLACKWELL**

Ian **BOOTH**

OXTED & LIMPSFIELD RESIDENTS GROUP

May 2nd - Vote for BOTH of us to keep your residents-run Council

This year, all 43 councillors on Tandridge District Council have to stand for election due to a Government ward boundary review. It means you will be voting for TWO candidates in Limpsfield instead of just one as in previous years. The Oxted & Limpsfield Residents Group (OLRG) candidates are Claire Blackwell and Ian Booth who are currently your two Limpsfield Tandridge District Councillors. We are both standing for re-election and would be delighted to be able to continue to represent you.



Voting for both of us is the only way to keep the council run by residents for residents, with an independent, non-political voice.

• **ADMINISTRATION:** If re-elected, we will continue to 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 are pleased to say that we have been able to set a balanced budget for 2024/25 without cuts to services and we have been able to keep 2 hour free parking in Ellice Road car park. We are also really pleased to be the number two council in Surrey for recycling performance and number eleven in the whole of England.

We were delighted to receive a letter from the Government's Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities praising our successful efforts since becoming the administration:

"The department recognises and commends the Council's effort to grip and manage its budget pressures, and the successful steps taken to deliver the transformation and savings programme in 2022/23 and in 2023/2024."

Please do vote for both of us on May 2nd in this crucial District Council election.

OXTED & LIMPSFIELD RESIDENTS GROUP

Independent • Non-Political

Your voice in Limpsfield

Promoted by Ian Booth, 42 Park Road, Limpsfield RH8 0AW and Claire Blackwell, 4 Westerham Road, Limpsfield RH8 0ER
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REPRESENTING RESIDENTS

RE-ELECT US BOTH to fight for your interests on all important local issues including:

- **CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:** This year, as an OLRG community initiative, a CCTV system began operating aimed at deterring crime and anti-social behaviour. CCTV has been installed in Station Road East, Station Road West and Master Park with monitoring equipment in Tandridge District Council offices. This is a joint project which OLRG councillors have led and is backed by the District Council, Limpsfield Parish Council, Oxted Parish Council, Oxted BID (Business Improvement District) and the Master Park Trustees.



- **PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT:** We will do our utmost to protect the Limpsfield area from inappropriate development. We have been active recently over enforcement issues. For example, a company purchased a large agricultural Green Belt field off Honeypot Lane and subdivided the land to sell it off in plots, giving the

impression that buyers would be able to build on it. We ensured an Article 4 direction was issued to remove permitted development rights and so make potential buyers aware that the land cannot be developed. Also, an emergency mast was erected on Green Belt/AONB land off Westerham Road without any notice or permission. The council issued a stop notice and we met with the mast company and highlighted that they already had permission for a mast nearby at the Sandpits layby which hadn't been put up. The emergency mast was then dismantled. The Local Plan, submitted in 2019 by the previous administration, has been found unsound. It was submitted without first securing funding for improvements to J6 of the M25 on which the Plan depended. Its failure means unsuitable planning applications are coming forward for Green Belt sites. OLRG's policy is to resist inappropriate development, where necessary defending against unsuitable schemes at planning appeals, while also bringing forward suitable housing sites. In addition, we are working on completing a new Local Plan as soon as possible.

We support the boundary review of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which is currently taking place and its proposals to expand the AONB in the Limpsfield area. The AONB, now called a National Landscape, is the highest level of landscape protection. A planning application for a housing development on the Chichele Road field has now been refused by Tandridge District Council. The land is Green Belt and has been recommended to be made part of the expanded AONB. The Chalkpit Quarry where there is an application for 75 houses, is Green Belt and is already part of the AONB.

- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** We have started a new council house building programme for 200 homes over the next five years, mostly on council owned land though, where affordable, land is being bought for housing. We are also aiming to maximise the amount of affordable housing in new developments and to work with housing associations, developers and landowners to secure sites and funding for new affordable housing which includes rented and shared ownership homes.



Independent • Non-Political

To keep your residents-run council, please vote for both OLRG candidates

VOTE FOR Ian Booth AND Claire Blackwell
Your voice in Limpsfield

PUTTING THE COMMUNITY FIRST

RE-ELECT US BOTH 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 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 loss of services to residents. We have chosen instead to cut the council's costs and to reshape and slim down the council. We have also brought in strict accounting rules. We are working on sharing services with other councils, on digital innovation, and on commissioning at least some services from outside providers to achieve better value for money.

We have had to make £5.5m of savings in three years and so we are very pleased to say we have been able to set a balanced budget for 2024/25 and to do so 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 retained. The Council Tax rise is 2.99% which is £7.11 per year for a Band D property (or 14p per week). Going forward, we realise it can't all be about savings and we are working on generating income, for example by investigating opportunities to sell the council's expertise in particular areas.

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

Ian Booth: I am standing for re-election and, having lived in Limpsfield for over 35 years, am keen to continue campaigning for the interests of Limpsfield residents and businesses. I am currently chair of Tandridge District Council's Audit and Scrutiny Committee, which is a watchdog over the council's financial and other governance. I am also a member of the Investment Committee. Now retired from full time working, I spent many years developing and delivering major capital projects for both public and private sector clients. My priorities include protecting our environment, supporting local businesses, continuing the rebuilding of the council's finances and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.



Claire Blackwell: I am also standing for re-election and have really enjoyed representing Limpsfield as a Tandridge District Councillor for the past five 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 have lived in the Parish of Limpsfield for the past 30 years, and attended St Michael's School, Limpsfield in 1979 and then went on to study at Oxted County School. I am currently Chair of Planning and a member of the Planning Policy Committee. I have also enjoyed being on the outside body for the Friends of Limpsfield Common and on the AONB partnership.

Independent • Non-Political

To keep your residents-run council, please vote for both OLRG candidates

VOTE FOR Ian Booth AND Claire Blackwell
Your voice in Oxted Limpsfield

Independent • Non-Political • Working ONLY for you

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION

LIMPSFIELD WARD

Thursday, May 2nd

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 for BOTH OLRG candidates to keep your residents-run council



Vote

BLACKWELL



AND



BOOTH



If you are voting in person, don't forget to bring your photo ID.

If there is anything you would like to chat about, please just get in touch at
oxted.residents@btinternet.com or contact us at:

Claire: email: claireblackwell15@yahoo.co.uk or phone 07711 561890

Ian: email: boothian1@gmail.com or phone 07771 973163

If you would like to support in any way or would like to display an election board, please let us know.

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

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