

## How to contact us

01444 452590  
 info@msca.org.uk  
 midsussexconservatives.com

# JOHN O'BRIEN

## West Sussex County Councillor

### East Grinstead South & Ashurst Wood

We are approaching the next County Council Elections, which are being held on 2nd May 2013. We are pleased to announce that **John O'Brien** will be standing as our Conservative Candidate to defend the seat he won in May 2010.

**John O'Brien** 'How the last three years have flown by, it only seems like yesterday that I first took the step of standing for election as a County Councillor for East Grinstead South and Ashurst Wood. It has been a sharp learning curve since that day in May 2010, when I first entered County Hall in Chichester as the new boy. Most of the other councillors had been elected the year before, but I had been elected at a by-election due to my predecessor moving out of the County and standing down. I was given the naughty boy seat in the front row of the council chamber, right in the middle facing the Chairman, but I was made to feel very welcome by all, even by the opposition.



I arrived at a very difficult time, the council were already making very substantial savings from their budget as part of an ongoing financial review. The new coalition government then announced that we would have to make a further saving of £79 million over the next three years due to grant reductions. Welcome to the world of local government politics.

The workload has meant I have had to put my photographic business on hold and concentrate only on my elected responsibilities.

I have worked very hard over the last three years, gaining a lot of experience and knowledge, during which time I have been appointed as Deputy Cabinet member for Highways and Transport. As a County Councillor I take seriously my role representing East Grinstead South and Ashurst Wood, but as a County Councillor we also have the wider responsibility for the running of all our services across the whole county.

Representing my respective wards on all three councils is challenging, but it does have a lot of advantages, especially when it comes to getting things done. Many residents do not know what each of the councils are responsible for, so being on all three it is easy for them, as I have become a one stop shop.

In 2011 I stood in the Town and District Council elections and was elected as District Councillor for Town Ward and as Town Councillor for Herontye Ward. Currently I am also the Deputy Leader of East Grinstead Town Council.

I am looking forward to the challenges ahead and promise to continue to work hard for the residents of East Grinstead and Ashurst Wood, to the best of my ability.

Follow me on Twitter; @objohnny or my website; [www.johnobrien.yourcillr.com](http://www.johnobrien.yourcillr.com)

### East Grinstead's Neighbourhood Plan is Progressing Well

As part of the localism agenda, there have been changes in the way towns are asked to plan their future. We in East Grinstead, like our surrounding towns and villages are each producing a Neighbourhood Plan, to guide how we would like our towns to develop over the next 20 years. We are looking at issues such as highways infrastructure deficits, town centre regeneration, business generation, tourism, sustainability, housing needs and development, to name but a few. As we go to print, a further exhibition is being arranged to collect additional views on *Housing, Town Centre Regeneration and Transport*. Details of this exhibition will be advertised when dates are available. To find out more about our Neighbourhood Plan please visit our dedicated website; [www.eastgrinsteadplan.org.uk](http://www.eastgrinsteadplan.org.uk)

### East Grinstead Conservative Town Councillors

#### Ashplats Ward



Liz Bennett



Danny Favor



Tony Scott

#### Baldwins Ward



Margaret Belsey



Nick Hodges



Norman Webster

#### Herontye Ward



John O'Brien



John Saull



Dick Sweatman

#### Imberhorne Ward



Heidi Brunsdon



Rex Whittaker



Frank Osborne

#### Town Ward



Peter Wyan



Ben Burns



Nicola Burns

#### Worsted Ward



Garry Sillitoe

### Mid Sussex District Conservative Councillors



Peter Reed  
Ashplats



Liz Bennett  
Ashplats



Edward Belsey  
Herontye



Dick Sweatman  
Herontye



John O'Brien  
Town



Heidi Brunsdon  
Imberhorne



Norman Webster  
Baldwins



Margaret Belsey  
Baldwins

### West Sussex Conservative County Councillors



John O'Brien  
East Grinstead  
South &  
Ashurst Wood



Heidi Brunsdon  
Imberdown



Liz Bennett  
East Grinstead  
Meridian

After a memorable 2012 when we celebrated the Olympic Torch procession, The Queen's Jubilee, Grenadier Guards Band visiting for Armed Services day, London 2012 Olympics, European Hockey Championships in East Grinstead, the great success of many of our sporting teams along with new exiting stores opening in the town, to mention just a few. Can we match that in 2013? We're off to a great start with the official opening of the new railway station early in March and the arrival of the Bluebell Railway into East Grinstead on 23rd March - this is catching everyone's imagination. The 3 Towns Marathon which was such a great success last year, is to be run again this year. Conservatives are working hard to ensure East Grinstead remains a great place to live and to give our town an even better future!

## Project EG Regenerating our Town Centre

One of the priorities shown in the East Grinstead neighbourhood plan surveys, was the regeneration of East Grinstead Town Centre. We have established a small team, which includes local business leaders to look at various ways and options of increasing/sustaining local businesses and the regeneration of the town centre. We have named the team 'Project EG', which is loosely based on some of the suggestions made in the Mary Portas report. The team will work closely with and feed directly into the Town Council and our other councils as appropriate.

## Is Twenty Plenty?

Councillors are always having the issue of speeding cars in residential roads brought to their attention as a major safety issue. As part of our Neighbourhood planning process, we are looking at ways to promote safe cycling, walking, especially to school, to encourage healthier lifestyles and reduce the dependency on the car. We will be asking for residents for their views as to whether we should look at ways of reducing the speed limit to 20mph on many of our residential roads. **IS 20 PLENTY?**



## Imberhorne School New Sports Hall nearly finished

Conservative Councillors have helped secure funding from the County Council for a high quality sports hall and drama suite for Imberhorne School. The new buildings are almost finished and will hopefully be opened in the early spring. This will improve the facilities greatly on offer at one of the town's first rate schools.



Cllr Heidi Brunsdon with Cllr Peter Griffiths

## West Street Safety Concerns being addressed

John O'Brien has been working with residents in West Street over a long period of time, with help from Cllr Peter Wyan, trying to look at how we can make it safer for pedestrians to use the footpaths, without coming into conflict with vehicles mounting the pavement at the narrow section near to the library. With support from his fellow EG County Councillors this project was put on the local infrastructure priority list and is now progressing to the design stage. John O'Brien has had recent site meetings with Highways Managers to progress the work. Our local police team has started training residents to form a town centre speed watch team to help with some of the issues here. This will be welcome news for residents.



## Ashurst Wood Pre School New Building Project awarded £20,000

The new building project is now almost ready to start the building phase. **John O'Brien** has managed to secure a £20,000 grant, from the WSCC Members Fund for the new building. This is a very worthwhile project for the benefit of the young of Ashurst Wood. Well done to the project committee for their hard work, the people of Ashurst Wood and the Parish Council, who have supported this with numerous fund raising events. This is good example of all the councils working together to support a worthwhile cause.



John O'Brien at the site of proposed Pre-School

## Supporting Sport - Active Communities & Healthier Lifestyles

All three councils worked hard together with councillors to support and help win the bid by East Grinstead Hockey Club, to host the European Hockey League Championship for the first time in this country in October 2012. The tournament was hot on the heels of the London 2012 Olympics, where many of the players on display represented their respective countries. The tournament was a great success, helping build a sporting Olympic legacy and promoting healthier lifestyles.



## Bluebell Railway Extension Opens on 23rd March

The Town and District Councils have supported this wonderful project and have helped with over £100,000 of grants. This has been a major endeavour by the Bluebell Railway and they are to be congratulated on bringing Steam back to East Grinstead. First through trains arrive on 23rd March, what a great day for the town.



Cllr Norman Webster visiting Bluebell Railway



## Design Work underway on New Bus Interchange and Steps Improvement.

We've been working with the Railway company and the County Council on delivering the new station, which opened on March 8th, creating a better commute and a pleasant welcome to tourists visiting the new Bluebell line extension. John O'Brien and other councillors have been working with West Sussex Highways on improving the bus interchange, which is now at the design stage. Part of the project will now be looking at how to improve access for pedestrians and cyclists up the steps and over the footbridge to the upper car park and Worth Way.

# 60 SECOND SURVEY

Please take a minute to fill out this survey and tell us what you think about the issues that concern you.

**1** What would you like to see improved in East Grinstead and Ashurst Wood.

**2** Are there any other local issues you would like to bring to our attention?

Please give us your contact details so we can keep in touch with you about the issues you have raised:

|         |
|---------|
| NAME    |
| ADDRESS |
| PHONE   |
| EMAIL   |

## JOIN THE WINNING TEAM

Now is a great time to join East Grinstead Conservatives. As well as supporting the party, you will be invited to great events and can take part in debating the issues of the day through the Conservative Policy Forum.

Let us know if you would like to join or can simply help our campaigns in East Grinstead:

- Become a Conservative Party member
- Deliver a few leaflets in your road
- Display a poster at election time
- Make a donation towards our campaigns

**Please return to:** Conservatives, 5 Hazelgrove Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 3PH  
**or email:** info@msca.org.uk