

# New car charges split Eltham in two

Mayor of London's new low emissions zone will run along Well Hall Road



Charlie is outside the proposed ULEZ, while Spencer is inside it.

From October next year, Eltham will be split in two as a new Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) is introduced along the South Circular. Greenwich Council acknowledges that the likely impact of using the south circular as a boundary for the ULEZ is that drivers will divert on to local roads to avoid paying the charge.

In practical terms this means that residents with non-exempt motorcycles, cars, vans and minibuses

will have to pay £12.50 per day to move between the eastern and western sections of the Progress Estate; pay to get to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital from south or east of the Well Hall roundabout and pay just to leave Allenswood, Arbroath or Dunblane Roads.

Charlie and Spencer are working for a better solutions to poor air quality than this tax, which will hit poorer residents hardest.

If you would like to contact your local Conservative Councillors Charlie Davis and Spencer Drury, please use the details below.

## How to contact Charlie & Spencer

**Correspondence:** Town Hall, Wellington Street, Woolwich, SE18 6PW  
**T:** 07712 436150 (Charlie)  
**E:** spencer@spencerdrury.com



# Charlie Davis & Spencer Drury

## Working hard for Eltham

### Helping Council bowls clubs

Charlie and Spencer have been working with the Tudor Bowls and Pleasance Vets bowls clubs to ensure that they will continue after the Council announced plans to stop supporting them. Their pressure ensured that there would be no charges for using the green, but there is more to do to ensure the clubs survive.



London Assembly Member Andrew Boff speaks at the Eltham Tea and Cake 2019.



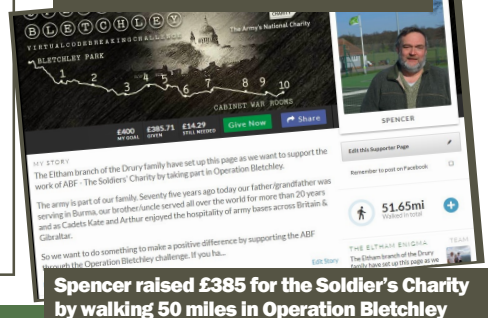
17,353 people voted for Louie French in the December 2019 General Election.



Charlie was part of the disturbingly fit trio of Conservative Councillors who took part in Swim Serpentine 2019.



Spencer getting a preview of the Eltham Park Café interior in October.



Spencer raised £385 for the Soldier's Charity by walking 50 miles in Operation Bletchley

### Attending housing consultations

Greenwich plans to build more Council Housing around Eltham North ward have led to consultations for garage sites on the Strongbow Estate and Well Hall Road (beside the existing flats). The plan for the building opposite the Orangery is expected soon.

### Supporting the Eltham mural

Eltham North Councillors used the ward budget to support the hard work & enthusiasm of Westmount Social Media who worked to get the mural painted under the railway bridge. A bid has been written by Spencer to support a project at the Gordon School too.



### Re-opening the police station

As a candidate for the London Assembly, Charlie has been standing up for Eltham. Charlie has secured a commitment from Conservative Mayoral candidate Shaun Bailey to re-open Eltham Police Station if he is elected in the May 2021 London elections.



Charlie and Shaun outside Eltham Police Station.

### Fixing Progress Estate fences

Spencer has been working with the Progress Residents Association to try and organise for Hyde Housing to repair the broken fences for communal greens on Well Hall Road. This is proving slow going, but, post-lockdown Spencer did organise for the Council to cut back the overgrown hedge on Lovelace Green.



# Charlie Davis Spencer Drury

## Reporting back to Eltham

## Making sure Eltham's voice is heard in Woolwich

Dear Resident,

These are difficult times and it has been a unique year in so many ways, but we wanted to let you know that we are still working hard for you and giving Eltham a voice on the Council.

At a time like this, we wanted to highlight the way in which we are working with the Labour-run Council to make sure that all residents are supported in the best possible way, for example:-

- agreeing a Conservative proposal to prioritise support for local businesses post-lockdown.
- agreeing a joint (Labour/Conservative) vote of thanks to all those staff and key workers who kept core services running during the lockdown.

We want to be clear that we would not oppose the Council's policies just for the sake of it, only where it seems that a better alternative is available. At a time when many of our communities seem divided by many different issues, we would like to make clear that while we disagree with many of the policies of the Labour-run Council, we accept that they are based on sincerely held beliefs. We aim to be a constructive voice for Eltham and for all residents who need someone to stand up to a Council in its 48th year in power! We hope you are all well in these trying times and do contact us if you have any concerns where the Council may be able to help.

Yours faithfully,

Charlie Davis

Spencer Drury

## INSIDE REPORTING BACK

### Bin collections Eltham focus

Changes to the way bins are collected have been proposed.

Fighting against the withdrawal of wardens and cleaning from Eltham.



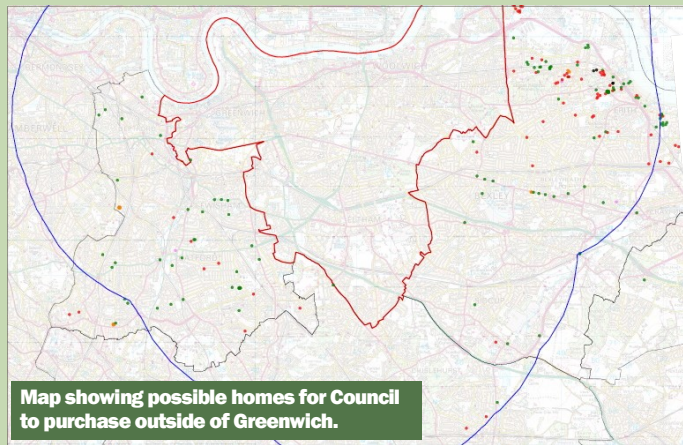
conservatives.com



# Council makes it harder to buy your own home

In 2013, when Greenwich Council agreed to use Right to Buy receipts (from the sale of Council housing) to provide new affordable housing, the Government probably didn't imagine £130m would be spent buying private homes across the Borough or anywhere within 30 minutes of Woolwich. Greenwich Council has used a loophole in the legislation to buy private homes under the guise of temporary housing, although people can remain in properties, without a formal tenancy, for years.

This scheme pushes up prices for residents buying homes on the private market (as the Council can offer more than the asking price) and raises borrowing, as 70% of the spending is from increased debt. In 2019 the Council decided homes outside of Greenwich could be purchased too.



# Council withdraws support from Eltham

Last year, the Council committed to improving the number of visits by Town Centre Wardens to Eltham, having been caught misleading the public about whether they ever came here at all. However, by December 2019, the Council decided to end the Town Centre Warden service and instead employed a private company to provide the service solely in Woolwich Town Centre. LA Support Limited will keep the first £383,000 of income it generates from issuing tickets in the one year pilot project. Problems in Eltham will be dealt with by the Woolwich-based Council as and when they arise.

**In February 2019, following questions from Charlie, the Council committed to fully cleaning the marble Eltham sign at the end of the High Street at least three times a year. By 2020, they had withdrawn this promise to save on the staff overtime it cost.**



# Working to keep Eltham safe

# HOW IS GREENWICH SPENDING COVID-19 FUNDS?

**Greenwich Council has received millions of pounds from the Westminster government to help cope with the pandemic, but making sure these funds are spent effectively and fairly within the Borough is a challenge.**

**Eltham town centre street measures cost £142,500**  
Plastic barriers and a small number of cycling "wands" along Eltham High Street cost £142,457.72 according to new figures revealed in bid for TfL funds from Greenwich Council  
**Murky Depths blog, July 2020**



Many people have commented on the changes to Eltham High Street to facilitate social distancing, however, at a cost of £142,500 (including a reported £160 per cycling wand) there are real questions about value for money.

Charlie and Spencer have pushed for rent holidays for business who are Council tenants and 71 firms received this, but, by the end of June, £3.8m of the Government's £39m business relief grant had still not been distributed by the Council. Similarly, work on improving road safety at Deansfield School has stalled over costs which are quoted as £13,600 per school in Greenwich but only £3,450 in for a similar scheme in Southwark.

# Labour's new policy: Pay more for less bins collections

Labour Cabinet members have been considering a range of changes to bin collections in order to improve the Council's finances. The proposed changes include cutting bin collections to once every two weeks, introducing a charge for garden waste (a 'garden tax') and reducing the size of all black-topped bins.

Despite stating in October 2019 that "there is no plan to introduce a charge for garden waste collections" a month later proposals for a garden tax were published. Greenwich Council hopes to raise £570,000 each year from an initial garden tax of £30pa, but this figure has not been agreed and it could be as high as neighbouring Lewisham's charges £80pa for a similar service. The Government may stop this proposal as it has suggested a ban on garden taxes.

Spencer said "The bin collection service has long been a jewel among Greenwich Council's services, providing an excellent, reliable service. As a result, changes to bin collections aimed at cutting costs or raising funds are unwelcome. The Council has suggested that these measures will improve recycling rates, but acknowledges that the biggest problem is a lack of a workable recycling system in flats – this is where the Council should focus its efforts rather than downgrading an excellent existing service."



**Councils hit gardeners with 'quiet green tax' as they charge up to £100 a year to take clippings away**  
Councils across the UK are hitting gardeners with a 'quiet green tax' of almost £100-a-year to collect grass and hedge clippings. Andrew O'Sullivan, managing director of UK-wide Gardeners Club, blasted councils that do charge and accused them of turning their backs on green initiatives.  
**Daily Mail, Sept 2019**

- Financial mismanagement
  - Fraud
  - Poor Behaviour
- Some highlights from the second year of the Labour Council in Woolwich.**

## June 2019

The BBC revealed that Greenwich Council had spent 44% of its reserves from 2015-18—one of the worst 10 records nationally. This was confirmed by the Council's auditors, who warned the Council's reserves should not be used as "an easy way to resolve immediate budget pressures".

## August 2019

Confirmation that the 'Old Royal Naval College' will not change its name following a negative response to the proposal, including a motion to Council submitted by Conservative Councillors in Dec 2018.

## December 2019

Auditors use their Annual Letter to warn Greenwich Council again about the use of reserves, mentioning a potential 'financial precipice' and recommending that the "use of reserves remains limited in future years".

## February 2020

A Labour Councillor for Glyndon Ward is found guilty of fraud after failing to declare her ownership of three properties when accepting a Council home in 2012. Also in February, a report reveals the Council's

**Greenwich councillor facing jail over flat deception**  
A Labour politician who lied to get social housing while renting out three properties is facing jail... The RBG estimates a loss of £67,417 from keeping someone in temporary accommodation between 2012 & 2018.  
**The Times, 13th February 2020**

Housing budget is overspent by £3.9m and pushes rents up by the maximum amount.

## March 2020

The guilty Labour Councillor receives a 2 year suspended sentence and 250 hours of community service. She resigns from the Council.

## April 2020

Sad news, as respected Labour Councillor and Eltham resident Christine Grice dies of cancer.

## June 2020

Council spends £12,000 on an investigation into a minor breach of the Council's Code of Conduct by a Labour Councillor for Abbey Wood. The Councillor is found guilty, but states that "Any councillor who dares to stand up for themselves will be trampled on" appearing to reference the intervention of the Labour Council Leader. Later in the month the Labour Council Leader reports one of his party's Councillors for potential anti-Semitic tweets.

# THE YEAR IN BRIEF

A photograph of the Royal Borough of Greenwich Town Hall, a large, ornate building with many windows and a central entrance.

## See it for yourself!

The Royal Borough of Greenwich Town Hall is based in Woolwich. There are regular meetings which are open to the public, many of which are now live on the Royal Greenwich YouTube channel.