

# FOCUS

From your Court Ward  
**FOCUS** team:  
Cllr Elaine Britten  
Cllr David Buxton  
Cllr David Morgan  
Cty Cllr Colin Taylor



[www.epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk](http://www.epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk)

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## PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACE SHORTAGE

**The number of children hoping to start at primary schools in Epsom & Ewell next September appears to exceed the total number of places available in the borough.**

Local Liberal Democrat County Councillor **Colin Taylor** drew attention to this problem when Surrey County Council's budget was discussed in February. The Conservative-controlled County Council has decided not to allocate any money for new or extended schools in 2008-2009.

Although the shortfall for entry to reception classes at age 4+ is only 11 places for the coming year, "the trend is worrying", said Cllr Taylor. "Normally there should be at least some places to spare, to allow flexibility when families move home etc."

"Actually the situation is much worse than the overall figures show", he added, "because two of the schools with spare places are too far away from the new housing estates where additional primary school places are needed, and where hundreds more new houses are expected to be built over the next few years on the western side of Epsom."

Last year a number of families were disappointed not to get their children into the nearby Southfield Park primary school. Work has already started on further homes at Livingstone Park and planning applications are expected to be decided this year for further sites at St Ebba's and West Park.

"The Conservatives must treat this problem seriously", said Colin. "If this approach continues it will create serious problems for parents living in Court Ward."



*"Southfield Park is expected to be oversubscribed this autumn," said Cty Cllr Colin Taylor*

### COUNCIL AGREES MORE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

*The borough council has agreed that providing **facilities for young people, specifically 11 - 19 year olds** should be a priority over the next few years in local recreation grounds. The proposals, put forward by Lib Dem councillors, were agreed at the autumn meeting of the Leisure Committee.*

*Court Ward councillor **David Buxton** welcomed the decision. "I'm delighted that the Council has agreed to spend more on our young people", he said. "I particularly welcome the £20,000 that has been allocated in the budget for play equipment for the older age group in Court Recreation Ground."*

# RA PROPOSE FORTNIGHTLY RUBBISH COLLECTION

## Lib Dems insist residents are consulted first

The Borough Council has agreed, in principle, to begin fortnightly collections of all recyclable materials and residual waste from spring 2009, but, thanks to Liberal Democrat councillors, only after a Borough-wide consultation has taken place.

Liberal Democrats on the Committee were not prepared to support the scheme unless either a Borough-wide consultation had taken place, or a trial period had been completed. The Committee agreed to add this condition.

The proposals are to collect paper, glass, cans and textiles (as now) from the doorstep on a weekly basis, then kitchen waste and disposable nappies also on a weekly basis. On a fortnightly basis the council will collect green waste (as now), cardboard and plastics. After all this recyclable material has been collected there should be very little left in the regular wheelie bin.



### +++ STOP PRESS +++

### +++ COUNCIL TAX TO RISE BY 5.4% IN APRIL +++

**76%** of your Council Tax goes to Surrey County Council (their increase was 4.8%) and **13%** goes to the Police (their increase was 9.7%). Epsom & Ewell Borough Council receives just **11%** of your Council Tax (their increase was 4.5%).

Contact Cty Cllr Colin Taylor or any of the Court Ward councillors for more details (contact details on the back page).

### DID YOU KNOW?

*At least 8 billion lightweight plastic carrier bags are issued in the UK each year. Yet a plastic bag can take between 500 and 1000 years to break down in the environment.*

*That's why Liberal Democrat councillors have now formally asked the borough council, via the procedure of putting a 'motion' to council, to take steps to make Epsom & Ewell a plastic-bag-free borough.*

### COUNTY HALL FIASCO!

When the Conservative administration at Surrey County Council took an axe to its Emergency Planning Department (as part of a major review) the 11 staff were reduced to just 7.

*Then all the staff bar one left.*

Then a freeze in recruitment blocked advertising for new staff.

*When the freeze ended, it was realised that 7 staff was insufficient and two more were recruited, making 9.*

This was still found to be inadequate so two more were recruited, bringing the Department back up to 11 – exactly where it was before the review!

### EPSOM AND EWELL CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

*Independent, free, confidential and impartial advice available to everyone*

The Old Town Hall, The Parade,  
Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5AG.  
Telephone number: 01372 720205

We help members of the local community with advice on:-

- \* Benefits
  - \* Employment
  - \* Debt
  - \* Housing
- and many other issues

#### Our opening hours are:

Monday	10.00 to 2.30
Tuesday	10.00 to 2.30
Wednesday	10.00 to 12.30
Thursday	10.00 to 2.30
Friday	10.00 to 2.30

Or visit us at  
[www.EpsomEwellCAB.org.uk](http://www.EpsomEwellCAB.org.uk)

*Editor's note: each CAB is a registered charity independent of all political parties.*

# IN AND AROUND COURT WARD

## LONGMEAD UPDATE

The revised application for the **Hollymoor Lane** regeneration project has been passed by the council's Planning Committee. Planning representative Cllr **David Morgan** welcomed the application on behalf of local residents and supported the addition of a pedestrian crossing which had been requested by local residents. A bus shelter will be included near the development and David has also secured better parking facilities for bicycles and motorcycles.

It is hoped that the transfer of land from Epsom & Ewell Council to Rosebery HA will take place by the end of March, which will allow Rosebery to complete demolition of the **Sefton Arms** in April/May. Rosebery intend to complete the development over as short a period as possible, perhaps less than 12 months.

Residents in **Teddington Close** and **Middleton Road** are currently being consulted about the first phase of the Environmental Improvement Programme and work on this should start by May.

## LIVINGSTONE PARK BUS-INESS

**Bus-shelters** have now been installed at the **Livingstone Park** thanks to pressure from Cllr **Elaine Britten**. The **FOCUS** team is aware of the concerns of some residents living near the shelters but, although they have attracted some low-level graffiti, this has been removed very quickly (once the suppliers realised which shelters were being reported!). One resident who had initially opposed their installation contacted Elaine to report that the shelters are not attracting the level of anti-social behaviour she had feared and agreed that they are of great benefit to local residents. Thank you for your feedback.

Thanks to Elaine, **lighting** has now been installed along the dark stretch of road near the bus-stops to further deter any ASB. She is also pushing for the **transponders** to be installed on the bus-only road in Livingstone Park.

Following a request from a Livingstone Park resident, Elaine has also secured the **rerouting of the E9 bus** via Epsom Station, the destination of most rush-hour passengers.

## BRICK ROUNDABOUT DANGER

*A Longmead resident has complained to **FOCUS** that she and her children were nearly knocked down crossing **Blenheim Road** at the junction with **Longmead Road**. "We risk our lives crossing there everyday," she wrote, pointing out that hundreds of children from **Epsom Primary, Blenheim High** and **Glyn** cross at this point. The main problem was that the height of the roundabout and the bushes on top mean that it just wasn't possible to see approaching traffic until it's too late.*

*County Councillor **Colin Taylor** went to see the problem for himself during the morning rush hour and agreed that the junction was very dangerous. At his request, Surrey County Council has had the bushes removed but won't support lowering the roundabout itself. "This was one of the fastest responses I've had during my time as a councillor," Colin said. "Although visibility is much better now, I'm disappointed that the council refuse to reduce the height of the roundabout. But I hope I can get them to install a central refuge in Blenheim Road to improve safety for pedestrians*



*"Visibility is much better now", says Colin*

The three redundant lampposts in **Lower Court Road** reported in the previous issue of **FOCUS** have now been removed, thanks to pressure from Cllr **David Morgan** and County Cllr **Colin Taylor**. Now Colin is trying to get the County Council to fill the holes left when the posts were removed so the orange safety fences can also go!

Colin has also got agreement from the County Council to install additional bollards around the entrance to Epsom Primary School to prevent driving and parking on the footpath in **Pound Lane**.

The **FOCUS** team has been active in getting graffiti removed around the ward. Whenever a resident contacts us about graffiti and when we see it ourselves, we report it immediately and it is normally removed within 2 working days. You can also report graffiti directly via the council's website by clicking on the 'Reporting It...' button. Please let the **FOCUS** team know if you do this so that we are aware of the extent of the problem.

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LIB DEM FOCUS COUNCILLORS

Elaine Britten	12, Cavendish Walk, KT19 8AP	01372 728474
David Buxton	4, Norris Close, KT19 8BF	07970 811429 (text only)
David Morgan	30, Pound Lane, KT19 8RY	01372 741081
Colin Taylor	32, Christ Church Mount, KT19 8NB	01372 721336

Or email us at : **Court-FOCUS@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk**

Or write to us using the 'grumble' sheet below.

### REGULAR FOCUS SURGERIES ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Following the success of two recent surgeries at the Longmead Centre, your Court Ward councillors will now be holding regular monthly surgeries in the ward. The surgeries will alternate between the Longmead Centre in Sefton Road and the Concorde Hall in Horton Footpath (off Horton Hill).

All surgeries will be open from 10am to 12 noon on the second Saturday of each month.

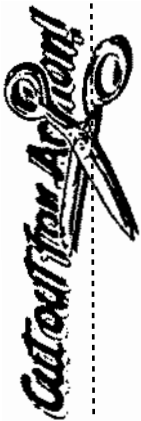
#### LONGMEAD CENTRE SURGERIES

April 12th  
June 14th  
August 9th  
October 11th  
December 13th

#### CONCORDE HALL SURGERIES

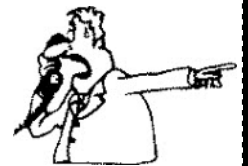
March 8th  
May 10th  
July 12th  
September 13th  
November 8th

The surgeries are free of charge and open to all. No appointment is necessary. If you have a problem or an issue that you'd like to discuss, please come along to see us.



### WE DON'T KNOW YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM UNLESS YOU TELL US!

Please use this space for any problems, complaints or ideas that you want the FOCUS team to take up.  
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.



NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Send to: Epsom & Ewell Liberal Democrats (Court Ward FOCUS), FREEPOST, Epsom KT19 9BR  
(no stamp needed but it saves us money if you use one)