

FOCUS



www.epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk

www.surreylibdems.org.uk

www.libdems.org.uk

E mail town-focus@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH

LATEST ON PARKING/TRAFFIC CAMPAIGN

Thanks to everyone who responded to our campaign in FOCUS. You made sure we knew when you complained to the county council and the borough council. Residents' parking is now being discussed by the Local Committee thanks to Lib Dem County (and Borough) Councillor Colin Taylor. The Chairman of the Local Committee has formally written to the County Council about HGV and waste transfer lorries. The Police have acted on obstructive parking and have promised to act on pavement parking : if a double pushchair cannot use the pavement, the car parked is causing an obstruction. (Ring 0845 125 2222 for non-emergency Police matters.)

NONSUCH IS SAFE

Surrey County Council eventually agreed that the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee take back full responsibility for the park and the mansion. Cllr Nigel Pavey, who sits on the JMC, hopes an announcement will be made in the next few weeks as to use of the mansion in the future.

UPDATE ON EPSOM HOSPITAL

Consultations are on-going and the first Darzi report will be published in June. A Women's & Children's Services Review is taking place. (www.surreyhealth.nhs.uk/about-surrey-pct/the-epsom-programme). Cllr Jonathan Lees is spokesperson on Epsom Hospital.

MOVING TOWARD A PLASTIC BAG-FREE BOROUGH

Epsom & Ewell Liberal Democrats' campaign for a plastic bag-free borough gathered momentum in April. Nearly 1000 leaflets were handed out to shoppers in Epsom Market Place while the Farmers' Market was in full swing. Sainsbury and Wilkinsons are now selling canvas bags which fold up so they are quite small when not in use. M & S and other stores have taken action. The Lib Dems successfully put a Motion to the borough council which has given the subject higher priority. Campaigning continues during the summer – if you'd like to help get in touch.



Tim Murphy, Cllr Dave Morgan and Cllr Christine Key received widespread support for their anti plastic bag leaflet

10p TAX FIASCO

In June 2007 after abolition of the 10p tax rate was first announced, the Lib Dems and a small group of Labour backbenchers proposed an amendment to the Government's Finance Bill which would have led to compensation for people on low incomes who would end up paying more under Labour's tax grab plans. Where were the Conservatives? "We cannot support it," said Conservative Theresa Villiers MP during the parliamentary debate. Only one Conservative MP voted for compensation, and he has since resigned!

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ANNUAL REPORT 2007/8

At the borough council elections in 2007, 11 Liberal Democrat councillors were elected to serve Epsom (3 in College, 2 in Town, 3 in Court and 3 in Stamford wards). Below is a small selection of the work done on your behalf during the past year. If you would like to cross reference with our election manifesto, this is available on www.epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk.

- ◆ Lib Dem councillors have arranged public meetings on the Lintons Centre planning application, persuaded the council to host the Stones Road community meeting and attended numerous meetings with groups of local residents on a variety of issues
- ◆ A campaign was started to make Epsom and Ewell a “plastic bag-free” borough and the council was persuaded to investigate the benefits of a separate budget for climate change issues
- ◆ Councillor surgeries were extended (particularly in Court ward), monthly “walkabout” surgeries continued and comments were submitted to central government on ways in which residents could get more action from their local councillors. Cllr Elaine Britten has driven forward extended councillor surgeries
- ◆ Lib Dem councillors supported better sports provision for youngsters on Hook Road arena, actively assisted public consultation on teenage recreation areas and persuaded the council to specifically mention 11 – 19 year olds in its targets
- ◆ Parking and traffic concerns have been top priority : questions on residents’ parking have been put to the Local Committee at every meeting, local residents have been encouraged to take action, HGV operators have been contacted about vehicle speeds and noise pollution. Waste transfer operators have been asked not to use Epsom’s residential roads. Police Panels have been attended and parking wardens have been asked to visit areas where restrictions are abused. Cllr Anna Jones is borough councillor nominated to the Local Committee
- ◆ The excesses of the ruling Residents’ Party have been publicised and opposed – £450,000 on improving an alleyway and the 14% pay increase for local councillors being two examples. The Lib Dem group has attended civic dinners but not at tax payers’ expense as they reimbursed the council directly for the costs
- ◆ Lib Dem councillors begun a campaign against back garden development and delivered a petition to central government whilst the Upper High Street hypermarket issue faded to the background, part of the site now sold on (by Helical Bar) to Tesco
- ◆ Fairtrade status for Epsom & Ewell has *almost* been achieved. More shops still need to sell and serve Fair Trade products. Lib Dem members continue to sit on the Fairtrade forum and support other local environmental and voluntary groups
- ◆ Epsom will probably have some Christmas lights in 2008 after a formal “motion to council” by the Lib Dems kicked the ruling Residents’ Party into action!
- ◆ Despite enormous pressure from the Lib Dems, doorstep collection of recyclable materials WILL be extended but not until spring 2009 at the earliest. Although it has been forced to improve, our council still rates as one of the worst for recycling.
- ◆ Lib Dem councillors continue to be actively involved on the Epsom Hospital issue



The team in Town Ward who organised public meetings. L-R Cllr Alison Kelly, Cllr Charlie Wood and Julia Kirkland

TOWN WARD NEWS

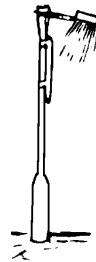
Year in the life ...of your Councillors Alison Kelly and Charles Wood

- **FOCUS** has asked your Town ward councillors their views of the last year, some of the highs and lows. The following is a selection of the issues followed up on your behalf;
- Working with Network Rail, with whom we have developed a good relationship, to cut back trees to improve visibility, graffiti removal on bridges and deal with litter.
- Working with Rosebery Housing Association in the Rosebank area so that garages are kept in good order. There we also fought hard to get the gas works remedial work done. We don't have a start date for the new houses, despite several emails.
- Getting graffiti cleaned up around the Grove Road and Church Road area. The council jetter we are told has too short a hose to reach all of the length of the alley!!
- Currently in progress is work with Environmental Health on the Railway Guard PH as there have been several reports of noise nuisance.
- Your councillors have been concerned by the number of couples who have separated and are faced with losing their rented accommodation because only one person is required to terminate the agreement. We have achieved some successes in persuading the housing associations to allow the remaining tenant to stay especially when children have been involved.
- After a number of comments made during our regular street surgeries residents won't be surprised to hear that the road works on Chase Road and Waterloo Road will have to be re-done at no extra cost.
- Recent air quality tests show that the Town centre levels of noxious gases is rising because of the number of stationary vehicles. Four new monitoring sites have been created and adjustments are being made to the Spread Eagle traffic lights to see if this improves air quality.
- Look out for us at our monthly street surgeries.



Hook Road

Ever since 17 street lights failed in Hook Road in January, Cllr **Colin Taylor** has been chasing Surrey County Council to get them repaired. The problem was identified as a cable failure, necessitating 18 new lamp posts. Colin demanded a full explanation from the Local Committee in June. He was told it was a health and safety issue! Surrey Highways told him that all but 3 of the lights were connected and that EDF, BT, Virgin and SCC had to work together on the last 3 and this would take place on 7th July or thereabouts. Colin responded by saying that 12 lights are still not working, not 3! The saga continues.



Colin and Alison report that Hook Road will be subjected to "major maintenance" during the 2008/9 year after being declared worst road in in Epsom & Ewell! Colin has agreed to fund bollards in Hook Road from his county councillor allocation, which should stop lorries driving on the pavement. Colin, Alison and Julia are still campaigning for waste lorries to be re-routed away from Epsom.

Lintons Lane shock

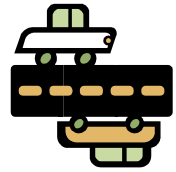
It was revealed at the June Local Committee that the student flats on the old Lintons Lane School site may not be built after all. It seems that the developer is negotiating with Surrey County Council to move the youth centre, either elsewhere on the site or off the site altogether. It is understood that the aim is to build retirement flats. This follows on earlier news that the youth centre had been deprived of heating. Cllr **Colin Taylor** pointed out that retaining this important Youth facility is included in the current Local Plan and expressed the hope that it will also be protected in the new one.

Yellow line parking restrictions

Additional yellow line parking restrictions were due to be advertised in mid-June. Roads affected include Adelphi Road, Church Road, Church Street, Grove Road, Mathias Close, Pitt Road, Stevens Close, Temple Road and Wyeths Road. Cty Cllr **Colin Taylor** reports that, apart from Church Road, Pitt Road and Stevens Close, only short lengths are affected. Your Lib Dem FOCUS team aims to see that local people directly affected are fully informed. Depending on the comments received, the signs and yellow lines are expected to be installed before the end of 2008. A number of other roads where yellow lines have been requested are expected to be advertised about this time next year, after which it is hoped that attention can be focussed on Residents' Parking Schemes.

Rosebank parking

After Colin funded a study into parking provision in Rosebank, the Local Committee is looking at a schemes to increase parking capacity for local residents but it must be put in place alongside a Residents' Parking Scheme, otherwise commuters will use the new spaces!



Conifer Park Travellers' Site

Cty Cllr **Colin Taylor** reports that work is now in hand to upgrade this site in Kiln Lane, including a new barrier to prevent access to the allotments in Stones Road.

Stones Road


The crumbling railway bridge linking Stones Road and Miles Road is due to be replaced with a tunnel under the railway line and Surrey County Council are about halfway through making the tunnel safe and useable. Cty Cllr **Colin Taylor** said "When this was first discussed a few years ago, Surrey Highways officers promised that barriers would be installed at both ends to prevent the tunnel being used by motor-cyclists and to force cyclists to dismount. Although the officers concerned have since changed, I intend to hold them to this." Cllr **Alison Kelly** recently chaired a public meeting where residents had an opportunity to put their views about issues in the area of Epsom and most importantly, they were advised by the Police to report ANY incidents, day or night, to 0845 125 2222.



How to contact your Liberal Democrat Focus Team

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|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Cllr Alison Kelly | 8 Whitehorse Drive, KT18 7LY | Telephone 01372 726504 |
| Cllr Charles Wood | 26 Horsley Close, KT19 8HB | Telephone 01372 747042 |
| Cty Cllr Colin Taylor | 32 Christ Church Mount, KT19 8NB | Telephone 01372 721336 |
| Julia Kirkland | 20 Monro Place, KT19 7LD | Telephone 01372 739430 |

Email town-focus@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk

 Please use this space to send us your ideas and grumbles : Epsom & Ewell Liberal Democrats (Town), FREEPOST KT3525, Epsom KT19 9BR (If you use a stamp it saves us money!)

