

F Court Ward FOCUS TEAM



Putting local residents first, ALL YEAR ROUND!

June 2008

www.epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk

Issue 42

MOVING TOWARDS A PLASTIC BAG-FREE BOROUGH

Epsom & Ewell Liberal Democrats' campaign for a plastic bag free borough gathered momentum in April. Nearly 1,000 leaflets were handed out to local shoppers in Epsom Market Place whilst the Farmers' Market was in full swing. Sainsburys 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. See a photo - one of your local Court Ward councillors, **David Morgan**.



Your local Lib-Dem councillors 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, please get in touch.

LATEST ON PARKING AND 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 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.



10p TAX FIASCO

In June 2007, after abolition of the 10p rate was first announced, the Lib-Dem MPs and a small group of Labour benchmenchers proposed an amendment to the Government's Finance Bill which would have led to compensation for people on low income who would end up paying more under Labour's tax grab plans.

Where were the Conservatives? "We cannot support it," said Conservative Theresa Villers MP during the parliamentary debate. Only one Conservative MP voted for compensation, and he has since resigned!

UPDATE ON EPSOM HOSPITAL

Cllr Jonathan Lees, our parliamentary spokesperson on Epsom Hospital, informed that consultations are on-going and the first Darzi Report will be published in June. A Women's and Children's Services Review is taking place. Visit www.surreyhealth.nhs.uk/about-surrey-pct/the-epsom-programme

YOUR LOCAL LIBERAL DEMOCRAT COUNCILLORS' COURT WARD NEWS

Horton Chapel

Cllr Elaine Britten, member of the Hospital Cluster Group, reports that work on finding a user for Horton Chapel has been held up. The borough council's legal staff had to be diverted to deal with two problems created by the county council. First they withdrew support for the Children's Centre and Day Nursery in Hollymoor Lane. Then they delayed a decision on the future of the Mansion in Nonsuch Park for over 15 months, resulting in a lot of extra work. It is now hoped to invite tenders from interested parties later this year.

Old Bus Stop Pole Removed

Horton Estates Action for Residents (HEAR) asked **Cllr David Buxton** to action the removal of the old bus stop pole (Long Grove Road) as it had been there for several years even after the bus service had ceased. This is potentially very dangerous for people walking on the pavement who may walk into the pole, especially if there is poor visibility or they have a visual impairment. David campaigned three times to get Surrey County Council to remove the pole. Eventually they agreed to remove it in May. **The below photo shows that your local Lib-Dem councillor has taken action.** Second old bus stop pole in Hook Road has also now gone!



Making Longmead More Safe

News of a major crime in the Longmead area has prompted a discussion between your Lib-Dem councillors as to what more could be done to make the area safe. Clearly a visible presence by Police always helps to make people feel safer. **Your local Lib Dem councillors attended the special meeting and always attend the regular Court Community Partnership meetings to hear the views of residents and the police first-hand.** The Lib Dems have been pressing for the funding for the co-ordinator to be continued by SCC. Regular 'walkabouts' by Lib-Dem councillors have given the area a higher priority – for example, graffiti and abandoned vehicles have been reported and dealt with quickly. People living in the Longmead area need to feel safe and proud of their surroundings: **please send us your suggestions and ideas, however small – even small changes can sometimes make a big difference.**

Hook Road Lighting

Ever since 17 street lights failed in Hook Road early in January, **County Councillor 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. Promised completion dates came and went. So at the June Local Committee Colin demanded a full explanation of the apparent lack of urgency. It seems that the problem is one of danger to the EDF workers struggling to make the necessary electrical connections in the narrow footways, not just from traffic but more from the tangle of other buried services, especially those for telephones and cable TV. Surrey Highways said that all but 3 of the 18 new lights had now been connected, but the last three required staff from EDF, BT and Virgin to work together under SCC supervision and this cannot be arranged before 7th July. Colin pointed out that actually 12 street lights were not working, not just the 3 mentioned. It seems the others have failed for different reasons. Colin has provided a detailed list of the 12 unlit lamps and SCC have promised to deal with the other 9 separately.

An example of more action.....

- * Livingstone Park Bus Stops - **graffiti cleaned away and broken glass replaced.**
- * Problem raised with the Police about speeding in **Hook Road**
- * **"Walkabout" Councillor Surgery** - Bahram Road and Bloomsbury Close in June
- * Visited **Longmead Centre** to meet older residents and the centre manager
- * Arrangement made to meet **Tomlin Court residents** over security concerns later this month

YOUR LOCAL LIBERAL DEMOCRAT COUNCILLORS' ANNUAL REPORT

At the Epsom & Ewell Borough Council elections in May 2007, 11 Liberal Democrat councillors were elected to serve the Borough - 3 in College ward, 2 in Town ward, 3 in Court ward and 3 in Stamford Green. Here is a small selection of the work done on your behalf during the past year. If you like, you can cross reference this with our 2007 Election Manifesto, which is available at

<http://www.epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk/pages/manifesto-2007.html>

- Lib-Dem councillors 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.
- The Council was persuaded to investigate the benefits of having a **separate budget for climate change issues**.
- The Police have been asked to deal with **obstructive and pavement parking**. Traffic wardens have been asked to patrol areas where parking restrictions are abused.
- **Councillor surgeries and also "walkabout" street surgeries** have been continued and extended to Court ward.
- The excesses of the ruling Residents' Party on the Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, such as a **14% pay increase for councillors and spending £450,000 on improving an alleyway** have been publicised and opposed.
- Comments were submitted to central government on ways in which residents could **improve upon communication with their local councillors**.
- **HGV operators** have been contacted about vehicle speeds and noise pollution, and to ask them not to use Epsom residential routes to transfer waste.
- Lib-Dem councillors have supported **better sports provision for young people on Hook Road Arena**, actively assisted public consultation on teenage recreation areas and persuaded the Council to specifically mention 11 to 19 years olds in its targets.
- Questions on **residents' parking** have been put to the Local Committee at every meeting.
- Local residents have been **encouraged to take action**.
- A campaign has been started to make **Epsom & Ewell a "plastic bag free" borough**.
- Lib-Dem councillors have attended **civic dinners**, but not at taxpayers' expense - instead they have reimbursed the Council directly for the cost.
- Lib-Dem councillors began a campaign against **back garden development** and delivered a petition to the central government.
- **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 Lib-Dem councillors kicked the ruling Residents' Party into action!
- Lib-Dem councillors continue to be actively involved on the **Epsom Hospital issue**.



However, despite enormous pressure from the local Lib-Dem councillors' group, **doorstep collection of recyclable materials** will not be extended until Spring 2009 at the earliest. Although it has been forced to improve, **Epsom & Ewell Borough Council still rates as one of the worst in the country for recycling**.

Local Liberal Democrats get RESULTS All Year Round !

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LIB-DEM COUNCILLORS

Cllr Elaine Britten (Court Ward), 12 Cavendish Walk, Epsom KT19 8AP
email: elaine.britten@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk tel: 01372 728474

Cllr David Buxton (Court Ward), 4 Norris Close, Epsom KT19 8BF
email: david.buxton@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk tel: 07870 565837

Cllr David Morgan (Court Ward), 30 Pound Lane, Epsom KT19 8SB
email: david.morgan@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk tel: 01372 741081

Cllr Colin Taylor (Surrey County Council), 32 Christ Church Mount, Epsom KT19 8NB
email: colin.taylor@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk tel: 01372 721336

COURT WARD COUNCILLOR SURGERIES 2008

Your local Lib-Dem Councillors' **Court Ward Advice Surgeries (10am to 12 noon)** will be held at:

Longmead Centre, Sefton Road
11th October, 13th December

Concorde Hall Air Scouts, Horton Footpath
12th July, 13th September, 8th November

These sessions are **FREE OF CHARGE** and open to all. No appointment is necessary.
COME AND MEET US!



Asking for our help and/or supporting your local FOCUS Team

GOT A PROBLEM? Please use this space for any local issues, complaints or ideas that you want your local Court Ward FOCUS Team to take up. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Tel No: _____ Email: _____

I would like to:

- display a window poster during the election time
- deliver FOCUS leaflets around where I live
- become a member of Epsom & Ewell Lib-Dems
- make a donation of £ _____ (to Epsom & Ewell Liberal Democrats)

Send to *(no stamp needed but it saves us money if you use one):*

Epsom & Ewell Lib Dems (Court Ward), FREEPOST, Epsom KT19 9BR