

F Livingstone Park FOCUS TEAM

October 2010



Issue 58 Putting local residents first, ALL YEAR ROUND!

www.epson-ewell-libdems.org.uk

www.surreylibdems.org.uk



Following extensive correspondence with owners L&Q (London & Quadrant Housing Association), they have confirmed that they are looking at ways of demolishing Horton Water Tower.

Your local Lib Dem councillors have been sending weekly emails pressing L&Q to respond to the residents' questionnaire sent out some months ago. Plans to stage a protest at L&Q headquarters were being finalised, when although the deadline had passed, the following response was received from an L&Q spokesperson: "L&Q are investigating the possibilities to demolish the water tower and replace with soft landscaping. This was by far the most favourable option based on the returned questionnaires completed by the local residents living in close proximity to the Water Tower on what they would like for the future of the Water Tower. We have appointed a planning consultant."

"After a long campaign by local LibDem councillors and the Water Tower Action Group, this is absolutely brilliant news", said Cllr David Buxton who represents the ward. **"This is the light at the end of the tunnel that residents have wanted for such a long time, but we won't assume it's all over until the residents get what they need, so we'll be keeping up the pressure on L&Q."**

"I think the council has learned it's lesson on this one - the water towers on the other estates need to be restored and developed BEFORE the surrounding houses are built, or else demolished straight away." County Cllr Colin Taylor added **"When the master plan for Livingstone Park was approved some years ago, I queried whether the council's plan to retain this water tower was viable. At the time mine was a lone voice, but it seems I may be about to be proved right."**

Horton Water Tower has a long history: built in 1902 as part of Horton Hospital, it then continued to supply the hospital through its name changes to Horton Asylum, to Horton Mental Hospital, back again to Horton Hospital in recent times. Planning applications have been submitted to the borough council in recent years but were refused. Residents new to the estate, now named Livingstone Park, have campaigned against its development declaring it a blot on the landscape. Last month youngsters broke into the tower, climbed up inside and the Police were forced to treat the incident, at least initially, as a potential suicide attempt. Nearby residents have also complained about loss of light and shadowing to their properties, particularly in winter.

NEWS IN BRIEF

LIVINGSTONE PARK LANDSCAPING ISSUE

As reported, we have been pressing the Chief Executive of the Council to act. She has now written to tell Persimmon, the developers, that the Council is preparing a Breach of Condition notice to be served upon them. She has asked the developers to respond by submitting a formal Planning Application with landscaping plans and Landscaping Strategy reflecting key areas (eg. fence, walls) as a matter of urgency.

LOOKING FOR COUNCIL CANDIDATES

In May 2011, there will be Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Elections. Have you ever thought of standing as a candidate? The local Lib Dems are a strong and growing Opposition and the only party which can sensibly challenge the current RA Residents' Party's control of our council. In order to do that we need to find candidates, ideally putting forward a good cross-section of the local community. Your immediate reaction may be "no", but many local Lib Dem councillors work and have young families, so being a councillor is not just for retired folk. If you would like to know more, please contact David Buxton or Julie Morris, 2011 Campaign Co-ordinator, on 01372 744297.

POSTAL VOTES

With Borough Council elections next year on 5th May, now is the time to consider registering for a Postal Vote. It is easy to organise, it saves a last minute rush if you might be busy on polling day, on holiday, or if the day itself is dreadful weather. Ring the Town Hall on 01372 732000 and ask to be sent a postal vote application form, email kblundell@epsom-ewell.gov.uk or contact David Buxton.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LIB-DEM COUNCILLORS

Cllr David Buxton

email: david.buxton@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk
tel: 07870 565837 (sms only)

Cllr David Morgan

email: david.morgan@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk
tel: 01372 741081

County Cllr Colin Taylor Surrey County Council

email: colin.taylor@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk
tel: 01372 721336

Or write to:

**Epsom & Ewell Liberal
Democrats (Court Ward),
FREEPOST KT3525**

Epsom KT19 9BR

(no stamp required but it saves us money if you use one).

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