

focus

Local Lib Dems Reporting Back



Councillor Jonathan Lees

Jonathan says “Thank You!”

Councillor Jonathan Lees wishes to thank all local residents who voted in May’s historic General Election.

There was a good turn out, as together we began to rebuild trust in British democracy.

Those of you who voted for me, helped establish the Liberal Democrats as the clear challengers in this constituency.

Together we increased the Lib Dem vote by over 4000, reduced the Tory majority and pushed Labour into a very poor third place.

Looking Ahead – 2010 to 2015

People have mostly been surprised by the way our political leaders have reacted to the verdict handed them by the British people on 6th May – but once recovered from their surprise, a good deal of support is evident for the positive steps taken to provide stable government through the Liberal Democrat - Conservative coalition agreement.

For the sake of the economy and the future well-being of the country, we all have to hope that this bold initiative will be given a real chance to succeed.

In addition, the Coalition agreement offers a great many advantages in its own right. Only those policies that the majority of people agree with can be implemented – no extremism.

As Liberal Democrats we are pleased to see so many of our constructive ideas in the agreed programme of the new government, whilst at the same time Conservative supporters are also pleased to see so many of their manifesto commitments included.

This does NOT mean that our parties are merging – far from it. We have fundamental differences. But from now until 2015 we have agreed to work together to govern and to tackle Britain’s severe economic problems.

Meanwhile, despite a few departures, the growth in net Lib Dem membership which surged prior to the election has continued apace. We face the future with confidence.

Freedom – Fairness – Responsibility

The Coalition – What does it mean locally?

The Liberal Democrat - Conservative coalition agreement applies only to WESTMINSTER. As before there will continue to be a variety of arrangements in councils where there is no overall majority, but this is not the case locally, either for Surrey County Council or Epsom & Ewell Borough Council.

At Surrey County Council the Conservatives will continue to form the administration and the Liberal Democrats will continue to be the main opposition party. Two by-elections are expected to be held later this year, to replace one councillor who has now been elected as an MP and one who has died.

The Residents Association group continue to control Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, with a reduced majority following the resignation of one of their councillors in protest at their plans to charge disabled people in council car parks. Here too the Liberal Democrats continue to be the main opposition, with the Conservatives forming the third party. Elections are due in May 2011.

Lib Dem COUNCILLORS will continue to offer constructive and responsible opposition.

Borough and County News

Manor Park – Adoption of the Roads and Sewers

The latest information, both from the Developers and from Surrey County Council, is that adoption of the roads and sewers on Manor Park is now expected by the end of 2010 at the latest.

The Developers have received prices from a contractor for the identified remedial works, including the changes to the bus link accepted by Surrey County Council. Work is expected to start shortly.

Meanwhile a fresh draft Highway Adoption agreement has been prepared and is with the Developers for comment and signing. The Developers are also making good progress regarding adoption of the sewer system within the Manor Park estate by Thames Water.

For further information, please contact Cllr Nigel Pavey, who is in frequent contact with the Developers.



West Park Development

Final approval was recently given to most of the final details for the proposed new housing estate on part of the site of the former West Park hospital. The plans are for 369 new homes, some newly built and others converted from the existing buildings on the site, including 4 apartments in the old water tower.

Negotiations continue on the important matter of the money payable by the Developers towards provision of the necessary infrastructure of local services. The outline planning consent given some years ago includes amounts payable towards the cost of additional school places and improvements to the local roads, notably the cross roads at Malden Rushett. It also specifies a contribution towards local community facilities, which the council wants to combine with its other funds for the development of the former Horton Chapel for community use.

At the request of Cllr Colin Taylor, the Planning Committee added a condition requiring the work on the water tower to be completed before the adjacent houses are occupied, in order to avoid the sort of problem that has arisen at Livingstone Park where converting the water tower was left until last. Councillors also called for further discussions on finding a suitable location for some allotments.

The committee heard that the Developers had so far been unable to find anyone interested in acquiring the proposed hotel and conference centre specified in the outline brief. A further attempt is to be made, but then it will become a matter of finding an alternative use – business premises being the next option.

Two parts of the site remain in NHS use, one comprising offices and a laboratory, the other being the site of the New Cottage Hospital and special residential units such as "The Meadows", whose future remains uncertain.



Conservatives reject Grit Bin proposals



Following the problems last winter, the Lib Dems called on Surrey County Council to provide more grit bins and to ensure all grit bins are repaired and filled before next winter, but despite these Lib Dem proposals getting cross-party support, the Tory administration rejected them.

Cty Cllr Colin Taylor said "We are dismayed. After the hardship endured last winter, residents cannot understand councillors not voting to provide sufficient grit bins ready for next time".

"It is simply not acceptable for residents to be stuck at home because grit bins are missing, broken or empty."

Community Speed Watch

Surrey Police are looking for active citizens who are willing to be trained to use "speed guns" to get evidence of traffic speeds at places where the members of the public have reported concerns about excessive speeding.

Measurements taken by Police Officers in uniform may be misleading, as drivers tend to slow down when they see them.

Volunteers working in pairs log offenders travelling at excessive speeds, who are then sent warning letters by the Police.

Teams have at least 6 members, who serve the community in this way for a minimum of 1 hour per week. For more information please contact Cllr Nigel Pavey, or contact Surrey Police directly.



Could YOU be a School Governor?

Did you know that School Governors are Britain's most numerous volunteers?

Governors serve in an advisory capacity, acting as "Critical Friends" and helping head teachers manage their schools effectively. The work is unpaid, but training is available and essential travel expenses can be claimed.

Besides committee work, training includes topics such as accounting, human resources, chairing meetings, interview techniques, monitoring, health & safety and more – all of which can also benefit Governors in their careers or as a preparation for becoming an elected councillor.

Most Governors, however, will probably tell you that they do the work because they find it so interesting and rewarding. It also gives them a rare chance to "put something back into the Community". It can also be a very responsible position, as it is the Governors who select and appoint the new head teacher when one is needed.

Vacancies for Governors arise from time to time and one is currently needed for a school in your area. For more information, or to express an interest in current vacancies, contact Cllr Colin Taylor.



Police Panel Meetings

Monday 6th September 2010 at 8.00pm

The Wells Centre, Spa Drive,
The Wells, Epsom KT18 7LR

Tuesday 7th September 2010 at 8.00pm

Holiday Inn, Langley Vale Road,
Epsom Downs, Epsom KT18 6EH

Thursday 9th September 2010 at 7.30pm

The New Room, Horton Country Park,
Horton Lane, Epsom KT19 8NX

Come and bring your concerns and questions for your local Neighbourhood Police team and your local Councillors.

The Epsom Freecycle Group

The Epsom Freecycle Group is part of the Freecycle Network which has groups and members across the globe. It's a grassroots and entirely nonprofit movement of people who are giving (and getting) stuff for free in their own towns and thus keeping good stuff out of landfill.

Membership is free and everything posted must be FREE, legal and appropriate for all ages. To view the items being given away or sought in Epsom, join the local group at:

<http://groups.freecycle.org/Epsom>

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Recycling in Flats

The provision of recycling bins for houses has been completed, but more can still be done to cut the £80,000 the council pays in land fill tax each year.



If you live in a block of flats that has large communal waste bins and you would like to join in with the recycling, the council can arrange for your block to have recycling bins. Hopefully space can be found for at least a grey bin, for plastics and cardboard.

The aim is to find a recycling champion for each block so the council have a contact for the future.

If you would like to help in this way, please contact Cllr Nigel Pavey to discuss the details.

Local Committee Dates

Surrey County Council's Local Committee in Epsom & Ewell will meet in public as follows:

Monday 7th June 2010 at 7.00pm

Council Chamber, Town Hall,
The Parade, Epsom KT18 5BY.

Monday 13th September 2010 at 7.00pm

Begonia Room, Bourne Hall,
Spring Street, Ewell, KT17 1UF.

Wednesday 8th December 2010 at 7.00pm

Council Chamber, Town Hall,
The Parade, Epsom KT18 5BY.

Monday 7th March 2011 at 7.00pm

Council Chamber, Town Hall,
The Parade, Epsom KT18 5BY.

Stamford ward focus team

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Councillors' Surgeries

Lib Dem Councillors' advice surgeries are held in the Rosebery Room in the Ebbisham Centre on the second Saturday of every month, from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.

These sessions are free of charge and open to all. No appointment is necessary.

The next three surgeries are due on:

- 10th July 2010,
- 14th August 2010,
- 11th September 2010.

Mobile Street Surgeries

We will be continuing our street surgeries around the ward. We walk down your street and deal with any issues that you raise.

We have dealt with trees, blocked drains, badly parked cars, speeding motor bikes, graffiti, litter and neighbourhood issues.

Cllr **Jonathan Lees** said "Street surgeries are an excellent way for us to visit every road in the ward and see the real problems!"

If we miss you, visit us in the Ebbisham Centre on the second Saturday of each month.

Got a Problem? 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. Add your name and address in the box below if a reply is needed.



Help us to help you

Stamford **focus** is a local community newsletter that is produced, financed and delivered entirely by volunteers. It keeps you in touch with what's going on, tells you what the **focus** team have been doing for our area and asks for your views. Would you be willing to help deliver **focus** in your road?

- I can deliver Stamford **focus** in my road.
- I'd like to get involved with the Lib Dems locally.
- I'm interested in joining the Liberal Democrats.
- I'd like one of my Councillors to visit me.

NAME

ADDRESS

Send to: Epsom & Ewell Lib Dems, (Stamford ward), FREEPOST, Epsom, Surrey KT19 9BR.

