

FOCUS



www.epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk
email town-focus@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk

www.surreylibdems.org.uk

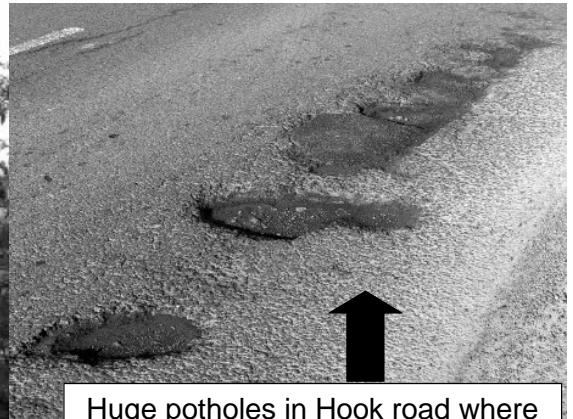
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WHAT PRICE OUR SAFETY?

Epsom's 11 Liberal Democrat councillors and FOCUS teams throughout the borough are taking action to get a better deal on parking, parking enforcement, traffic and road safety. Both the borough and county council are involved in these issues. Ask your local councillors and FOCUS team members for more details of the campaign.



Church Road where refuse lorries and cars struggle to get through as there's parking everywhere



Huge potholes in Hook road where residents suffer noise and vibration from HGVs passing by hundreds of times a day



Frequent abuse of yellow lines: This example from West Street on the boundary of Town and Stamford wards

**YOU CAN HELP
CAMPAIGN FOR
ACTION—SEE BACK
PAGE**

How to contact your Liberal Democrat Cllrs
Cllr Alison Kelly Telephone 01372 726504
Cllr Charles Wood Telephone 01372 747042
Cty Cllr Colin Taylor Telephone 01372 721336



NATIONAL & BOUROUGH NEWS

The national and local campaign against “back garden” development has contributed to at least two success stories locally. Plans for development in Drummond Gardens (Stamford ward) were refused permission by the borough council and developers associated with the Denham Road/Bridge Road scheme (College ward) appear to have lost interest.

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. Then 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 – where it was before the review!



The Borough Council has agreed, in principle, to begin **fortnightly collections of all recyclable materials and residual waste** from spring 2009, but Liberal Democrat councillors were only prepared to vote for the scheme on the basis that a Borough-wide consultation takes place before the changes – and this was agreed. 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 would collect green waste (as now), plus cardboard and plastics. The reality is that after recyclable material has been collected there should be very little left in the regular wheelie bin, probably just unrecyclable plastic. Contact your local councillor for more details of these proposals.

COUNCIL TAX WILL RISE BY 5.4% FROM APRIL

76% of your council tax goes to Surrey CC (their increase was 4.8%), and 13% goes to the Police (their increase was 9.7%) and **ONLY 11%** of your council tax goes to the borough council (their increase was 4.5%).

Fairtrade Fortnight takes place between 25th February and 9th March – look out for local activities. The borough council agreed to back Fairtrade status at a meeting in December, much to the delight of Lib Dem councillors who had started the Fairtrade Forum in Epsom and Ewell.



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.

The long-running saga of the proposed “hypermarket” in **Upper High Street** appears to be drawing to a close. The owners Helical Bar had lodged an Appeal against refusal of planning permission which was due to be heard in February 2008, but they have withdrawn this. We do not know what will happen to this site. We have asked council officers, once again, to make representations to the owners that the current appearance is unacceptable and is a blight on the local area.



TOWN WARD NEWS

- The **Rosebank** area is free of gas works and most of the grass has grown back except where cars have parked. Some of the wall was damaged by the contractors and it has now been replaced and the area is looking much tidier.
- You may have noticed that the **clock tower** face was not been lighting up at night. After FOCUS reported this to the council the clock face is now lit up at night.
- Network Rail has been clearing the embankments in **Adelphi Road** and **Horsley Close** and are currently arranging for the repainting of the Railway Bridges which are covered in graffiti. In order to paint safely they have to arrange for the roads to be closed and are currently seeking permission for this. A request from us to improve the appearance of the station area has resulted in a letter saying Epsom Station is scheduled for redevelopment. They will continue to remove graffiti when necessary.
- We continue to call for parking enforcement in many areas of Town, particularly in **Grove Road** and **Rosebank** areas. The Parade continues to suffer despite twice daily coverage.
- In addition to graffiti we have also been ensuring that gritting bins and the planters are kept in good condition. Unfortunately the greatest need seems to be litter picking, the officers respond promptly to requests and to keep the town clean we need your help to report issues directly to council on 01372 732000 or by contacting your councillors.

Project Updates— We are continuing to liaise with Surrey County Council and Epsom & Ewell to improve the **Stones Road** area. Work is continuing behind the scenes albeit more slowly than desirable however we are optimistic that a public meeting, possibly in the Town Hall, is at last on the horizon for early April. The aim is to find a date when all parties including the police can be available to explain the issues and some of the actions that they plan to implement. Despite the problems the Lower Mole Countryside Team has secured both funds and volunteers and anticipate working in the area in late February. This time there will be coppicing of the Hornbeams that have been overhanging the gardens.

Planning Update—The **Linton's Lane** development for student accommodation has been passed after the submission of a management plan. The students will not be allowed to keep a car in the area and will be asked to sign a behaviour contract as a condition of their tenancy. We have an opportunity to discuss issues that arise with the management team once the accommodation has been occupied for a year. Closer to that time we will be seeking your views so we can negotiate any changes necessary on your behalf.

The plan to redevelop the Baptist Church on **Church Street** was passed. They have met the tougher requirements for both affordable housing and sustainability. When the building is complete they will be able to offer better facilities for community use.

We also understand that **Sainsbury's** will be submitting plans shortly to expand into Halfords and further develop the site.

Confused? - The Residents' Party newsletter from its councillor in Town Ward claims "we know that most people want a weekly collection service for kitchen waste and we are committed to maintaining a weekly collection of kitchen waste".

Kitchen waste is classified as non-compostable food waste which is not collected separately at all at the moment. From spring 2009 though, this "kitchen waste" will be collected separately every week. The rest of your domestic rubbish which HAS to go in the wheelie bin because it cannot be recycled, will be collected FORTNIGHTLY. For a clear and unambiguous statement of the council's future recycling policy, read p2 of this **FOCUS** newsletter.

HELPING OUR CAMPAIGN FOR ACTION ON ROAD SAFETY

- Every time you see a car parked illegally on a yellow line, day or night, ask the borough council for parking enforcement action in that particular road. Contact 01372 732000, email contactus@epsom-ewell.gov.uk or write to the Car Park Services Manager, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, Town Hall, The Parade, Epsom, Surrey
- *Report potholes and blocked gullies to the county council. Use the website www.surreycc.gov.uk (go to Roads and Transport > Highway Problems > "G" for gullies and "P" for potholes, or ring 08456 009009 or write to Head of Highways, Surrey County Council, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston, Surrey or email contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk*
- If you think we need more parking wardens, tell the borough council : email sdavies@epsom-ewell.gov.uk or write to Mr S Davies, Director of Operations, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council (address above).
- Come to Local Committee meetings (the Local Committee deals with all highways matters), ask questions and demand action. Details of meeting dates and venues (which are local) and the procedure for asking questions are on www.surreycc.gov.uk or ask your borough or county councillors for details.
- *If you want to complain about the state of our roads, use the county council's website (finding your way to the right section in Roads and Transport), or ring or write to them.*
- If you want to complain about HGVs in our town write, telephone or email using the details in the second paragraph above.
- ***MOST IMPORTANTLY, when you've taken any of the actions suggested, let any member of your Focus team, your borough councillor or your county councillor know what you have done – we can reinforce the complaint and make sure it is progressed.***

THE MORE WE ALL COMPLAIN, THE MORE EFFECTIVE IS THE CAMPAIGN!

How to contact your Liberal Democrat Focus Team

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!)**