

# focus

Local Lib Dems Reporting Back



[www.epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk](http://www.epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk)

[www.surreylibdems.org.uk](http://www.surreylibdems.org.uk)

[www.libdems.org.uk](http://www.libdems.org.uk)



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 6<sup>th</sup> 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

### Planning Matters

**Upper High Street:** Tesco withdrew their application after Planning Officers recommended refusal on 16 counts.

**Epsom Station:** This was passed, mainly because there already is a scheme with planning permission. They will build on the land in front of the station, moving the taxis onto Station Approach with the buses. The new building will not be visible from Horsley Close. The new parking area will be for flat owners not commuters. Cllr Alison Kelly got the conditions changed to ensure that deliveries to the new shops will not start before 7.30am.



**Taxi Ranks:** Two evening Taxi ranks for black cabs have been approved, one near the Ebbisham Centre and one outside the Cinema. The plan is to help people leave the town centre as quickly as possible after a night out.

**Wilberforce Court:** A proposal to add an additional storey to Wilberforce Court has been turned down.

**Old Courts:** Plans to redevelop the old courts in The Parade and Ashley Road have been revealed, with alternative modern and traditional designs. The scheme includes flats, some open space and a doctors surgery.

### Rosebank Heights

This new housing development is due to be completed by the end of the year, at which point the developers have assured Cllr Alison Kelly that they will restore all the grass verges that have been damaged by their lorries. Rosebank is listed by SCC for repair, which should happen after the development is complete. Now that the missing cable has been fitted by BT, and so the queues in West Hill and South Street are not as long, the traffic lights at the bottom of the hill have met with local approval, as Rosebank residents can now leave more easily. Various concerns have been expressed about access to and from property in this arm of West Street, which County Cllr Colin Taylor is monitoring and will take up with Surrey Highways.

### Bits and Pieces

The state of both the Borough and the County finances are such that a number of our requests for improving the area get turned down.

Thus the ice rink that was the junction of Grove Road and Church Road won't be getting a gritting bin, whilst a request for a litter bin in Ashley Road, near the University of the Creative Arts was turned down because there is insufficient resource to add it to the emptying regime.



However we can at least report some success trying to find who owns the manhole covers in Hereford Close. Two manholes opposite each other turned out to belong to 2 different companies, BT and Virgin Media. We will leave it to local residents to work out which of them had the most efficient repair team.

Last but not least, success in reducing air pollution. As a result of a question to Council from Cllr Alison Kelly, agreement has been given by Metrobus to turn off the engines of buses on route 460 whilst they are waiting at their terminus on Epsom High Street for lengthy periods.



**WORKING FOR YOU ALL YEAR ROUND – NOT JUST AT ELECTION TIME**

## Stones Road

The SSSI pond is open on 19<sup>th</sup> June from 10.00am to 12.00noon. Local residents are welcome to view this pond, which is home to the rare Great Crested Newt and is managed by the Lower Mole Countryside Project. The open morning will include details of their plans for future site management.



Great Crested Newts are protected by law



Meanwhile Cllr Alison Kelly has been working with the Farriers Estate management to get the beech trees cut back that were overshadowing gardens near the SSSI. Unfortunately due to years of neglect of what was originally a beech hedge, the trees are still quite tall. However we have been assured that a new maintenance regime for the estate means that this shouldn't happen again.

## Footbridge Replacement

The footpaths connecting Stones Road with Blenheim Road and Miles Road via the footbridge across the railway are due to be closed temporarily from about 5<sup>th</sup> July to about 15<sup>th</sup> October.

The footbridge has reached the end of its useful life and will have to be demolished. A new bridge would have to have access ramps for disabled people and bicycles, which would be impractical. Instead the old subway or "tunnel" under the railway will be re-opened.

The subway was strengthened four years ago, but it needs a walking surface added. The footpaths leading to it should be resurfaced at the same time and lighting replaced.

A temporary diversion will be signposted via Hook Road, East Street and Victoria Place.

The work was deferred from 2009 to 2010 to protect the Great Crested Newts from the Stones Road Pond SSSI. Their habitat includes the area between the bridge and the Conifers travellers site in Kiln Lane. Part of this area is intended to be allotments and the rest is needed as a temporary yard during the construction work.

The work area had to be enclosed with newt-proof fencing and searched and any newts returned to the pond under the supervision of a licensed person. This could not be done during their hibernation season.



## Noise Nuisance – Help Wanted

A recent meeting between residents, councillors, police and licensing officers discussed reducing the noise level in the Town centre late at night, after patrons leave the clubs and bars. Residents from Hudson House, Oaks Square, Capitol House and Chelsea Court will work together to log noise nuisance and to persuade the police to make this a priority.



Residents can help by attending the Epsom Central neighbourhood police panels. At these meetings, the police work with the public to decide on local policing priorities. [For meeting details see the box below.]

It was agreed that councillors and representatives from the various blocks of flats in the centre of Epsom would attend and ask the police to increase evening patrols in Epsom Town Centre and Temple Road.

If you live in Central Walk, Marquis Court, St Andrews House or any other town centre apartment block with a residents committee or management team, and you are willing to help, please contact Cllr Alison Kelly.

### Epsom Central Police Panels

10.30am - 11.30am,  
Town Hall:

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov

7.30pm - 8.30pm,  
Police Station:

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Aug

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec

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

### Free News Updates by e-mail

Visit [www.epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk](http://www.epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk)

Click on "Get FREE News Updates".

Select monthly, weekly or daily digests.

Tick "consent to receiving news by e-mail".

Scroll down and click "Register".

### 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 plastic 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 Alison Kelly to discuss the details.

## The Town Ward focus Team

### Cllr Alison Kelly

Borough Councillor

01372 726504

[alison.kelly@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk](mailto:alison.kelly@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk)



### Cllr Charles Wood

Borough Councillor

01372 747042

[charles.wood@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk](mailto:charles.wood@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk)



### Cllr Colin Taylor

County Councillor

01372 721336

[colin.taylor@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk](mailto:colin.taylor@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk)



### Cllr Jonathan Lees

Parliamentary Spokesman

020 8394 1709

[jonathan.lees@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk](mailto:jonathan.lees@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk)



## 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:

- 12<sup>th</sup> June,
- 10<sup>th</sup> July,
- 14<sup>th</sup> August.

## 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 **Alison Kelly** says "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

Town **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?

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

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

- I can deliver Town **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.

