



# Town Ward

Issue 93



# FOCUS

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# GOVERNMENT GRANT SLASHED BY 16.5% to deal with Labour's legacy

## Grant cut worse than expected - and there's more to come next year

Council officials expected up to 10%, but the awful reality is a cut in government grant of 16.5% for this financial year and a further 10% next year.

FOCUS team member **Tony Axelrod**, who lives in Station Approach, said "small district and borough councils have fared really badly out of the Coalition's strategy to deal with the huge debt left by Labour. Those in Surrey have definitely been hit. Our community must work together on this to protect vital services and, if we have to make cuts, they must be on the non-essentials."

At the council's budget-setting meeting in February, Town Ward Councillor **Alison Kelly** will be arguing the Lib Dem case that the council must also be looking for ways to increase its income so that it can carry on providing services which are important to local residents.

"Better use of Hook Road Arena and sharing some council services with other boroughs are just two simple ways of improving income," says Alison. "There are plenty more that I will be suggesting. It's a shame that the Residents' Party can't come up with these ideas."

More than 90% of Town Ward residents told us in the FOCUS survey that it is "Important" or "Very Important" that the council consults with you on how your council tax is spent. The Residents' Party has consistently refused to consult residents prior to setting its budget.

But now **Alison Kelly** has persuaded the council to look at Budget Simulation software, which would allow residents to express a preference via the internet on services provided and to see the effect their choice would have on other areas of council spending.

## Survey Feedback

**MANY THANKS TO THE HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTS WHO FILLED IN THE FOCUS SURVEY FORMS.**

Your responses show that the policies put forward by the Liberal Democrats are

supported by the vast majority of residents.

"Important" or "Very Important" to Town Ward residents are consulting on Council Tax (92%), Keeping Epsom Hospital in the NHS (86%), Protecting the Green Belt (95%)

and Recycling (93%).

You also think parking and enforcement are important and want action on anti-social behaviour in the town centre.

Town Ward residents aren't so keen on returning South Street to two-way traffic and only

about half of you think that there should be more yellow lines.

*You also gave us some great ideas about using our open spaces and council buildings and saving money at the Town Hall.*

# Local residents working for local residents

# TOWN WARD NEWS

## "SECOND CHANCE" WASTE LORRY CAMPAIGN

Over 95% of respondents to the Town Ward **FOCUS** survey think that the huge Britaniacrest waste lorries should be rerouted away from Epsom town centre and its residential roads. Town Ward Lib Dems have started a petition to add weight to their campaign on this issue and have been collecting signatures in the High Street. "We have suggested alternative routes to Surrey County Council, who are responsible," said Town Ward **FOCUS** team member **Lesley Neville**, "but they don't do anything about it."

More than half of the waste is being transported in from four other Surrey boroughs, only to be transported out again. "Epsom has become a convenient dumping ground for the county council," said Lesley. "Up to 90 lorries a day travel along **Hook Road** alone. Perhaps this time the weight of opinion will persuade the council."



*Lesley Neville with Tony Axelrod and Alison Kelly, collecting signatures in Epsom town centre.*

### **COUNTY COUNCIL TO CHARGE TO PARK OUTSIDE LOCAL SHOPS**

*Surrey County Council have announced that they intend to introduce charges for parking in **Upper High Street, Waterloo Road, The Parade and Kiln Lane** later this year. Could this jeopardise the viability of valued smaller shops in our town?*

*Let us know what you think about a short free period so that people can nip into local shops without having to buy a parking ticket. If you have any comments on SCC's proposal, write to the Cabinet Member for Transportation at [i.lake@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:i.lake@surreycc.gov.uk).*

### **WORKING TOGETHER ON NIGHT TIME ISSUES**

**FOCUS** team member **Tony Axelrod** and town centre residents have been working with the police and late night venues to reduce anti social behaviour and night time noise in the town. The police now overlap shifts at weekends and patrol on foot until 4am. Tony and other residents have also met with venue managers.

"The town centre has become more residential and a balance must be struck between the rights of residents and the operation of late night venues. Regrettably the council have to date taken no steps to bring the parties together.

*"If you are affected, please do attend **Police Panel** meetings, the next taking place at 10.30am on 10th March at the Town Hall, and at 7.30pm on 13th April at Epsom Police Station, or contact me" said Tony.*

### **PLANNING ISSUES**

Despite being turned down by the planning committee, the applicants have won an appeal to add a fourth storey to Wilberforce Court, the new student block in Heathcote Road. Lib Dem councillors suggested that the new block should only be accessible via the main University entrance (not via Heathcote Road) but RA councillors voted against..

*Although the planning committee refused the request for night-time working at Epsom railway station, some works are being carried out because the land is owned by the railway. Anything that relates to Network Rail is apparently exempt from planning legislation.*

A new application was received in January to demolish Pickard House in Upper High Street and build flats to accommodate 67 students.

### **WANT TO TELL US SOMETHING? SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE US TO HELP WITH?**

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

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**Cllr Colin Taylor**, County councillor, 01372 721336, [colin.taylor@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk](mailto:colin.taylor@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk)