

# Clare Clark

*The best choice for Epsom West*

Many residents will be voting by post very soon. Here's a reminder of some of the priorities and issues that I intend to be involved with as your new county councillor. These are all topics for which Surrey County Council is responsible.



- ✓ Sufficient places at schools close to our homes
- ✓ 20 mph limits outside schools and where children play
- ✓ Improving the repair of roads and footways
- ✓ Residents Parking (but only where residents want it)
- ✓ Proper provision of social care
- ✓ Support for voluntary organisations that provide social care
- ✓ Longer opening hours at youth centres
- ✓ No charges for recycling residential waste from DIY

**STOP PRESS:** In answer to a Lib Dem question, a government spokesperson in the House of Lords has confirmed that Surrey's charges for DIY waste are illegal.



*I will also continue to support these other important local issues that are not county council responsibilities.*

- ✓ Keeping services at Epsom Hospital
- ✓ Bringing Epsom Station into Oyster Zone 6
- ✓ Extending Crossrail 2 to Epsom
- ✓ Protecting the Green Belt

## Health & Social Care – the Lib Dems say they must be joined up

We want everyone to have more control over their own care. Personal budgets would allow people to choose care services to fit their individual needs.

The Tories running Surrey have missed their chance to convince the government that funds for Social Care must be based on local need, not an arbitrary formula.

Surrey residents need a strong opposition who will listen to people, fight budget cuts and restore grants to organisations like Age UK that support social care.

**Surrey needs a Strong Opposition**

**Surrey needs the Liberal Democrats**

# Epsom West Focus

Survey  
Feedback  
April 2017



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

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

## A personal message from your Lib Dem council election candidate Clare Clark



**“Thank you so much for your phenomenal response to our recent survey. During March our Focus team called at over 800 homes in all parts of Epsom West and hundreds of you took the time to give us your thoughts on our local area.”**

*❖ The survey results are set out inside. Your key concern was Health and Social Care at 61%, followed by Education at 43%.*

**Social care and education are topics on which Surrey County Council (SCC) has a BIG say.**

*As a party, we have strong and considered policies on these issues. Our vision for health and social care is set out on the back page. SCC is making dramatic cuts to welfare. We live in one of the richest areas of the country; we have to get better at looking after our most vulnerable.*

**Under the Conservatives, children, disabled people, those who are ill and elderly people are all being left behind.**

Membership of the Liberal Democrats shot up yet again in the week when Article 50 was triggered – people are rejecting the Tories' vision and are disillusioned with the lack of opposition provided by Labour.

**Clare Clark says “People are inspired, as I was, by the sense in the Liberal Democrats’ policies, their pragmatic attitude and their principled and vocal opposition where it matters”.**



The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a  
**fair, free and open society**  
in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of  
**liberty, equality and community**  
and in which no one shall be enslaved by  
**poverty, ignorance or conformity**

**Vote for me on 4<sup>th</sup> May. I will act upon what you've told me, as part of a strong Opposition to the Conservative dominated county council.**

**I will keep you informed via 'Focus' and you will always be able to contact me at:**

[clare.clark@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk](mailto:clare.clark@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk)

May  
**4**  
Thursday

# Clare Clark



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## Some results from my 60 second survey

### Highways

As well as telling us about unsafe crossings, streets where speed restrictions are needed and the need for new bus routes:

- ❖ 73% said pot holes are a real problem
- ❖ Only 33% thought it was OK to turn off street lights during the night
- ❖ 66% were concerned about safety as a result!



Road repairs are the responsibility of Surrey County Council – but decades of a Conservative dominated council have seen chronic under-investment in our roads and pavements.

**Now many of the problems you are facing on a daily basis are being made worse by turning off the street lights at night.**

**We will work hard to solve the problems you've highlighted and to explore the suggestions you've raised. We don't believe in short-term fixes. Our aim is to change SCC's approach to road maintenance and make your streets better and safer, for longer.**

### Your county councillor

- ❖ 80% didn't know who the present Epsom West county councillor is
- ❖ 92% had never heard from your current Conservative councillor
- ❖ Only 20% felt that he is doing a good job

**We don't think this is good enough. Councillors must be available, accountable and responsive. Lib Dems want to be sure that when they attend council meetings they go as your representatives, ready to fight your corner on things that matter to you.**

Surrey County Council spends 76% of your annual council tax bill – you need to be confident about how your money is being spent.

**If you elect Clare on 4<sup>th</sup> May, she will be in touch regularly to get your opinion and keep you informed about what's going on at County Hall.**

You can contact Clare by e-mail at: [clare@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk](mailto:clare@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk)

What would make you vote for the Lib Dems?

**"Take the time to listen to residents"**



Key concerns recorded in Clare's 60 second survey

### Schools

In Epsom West, nearly half the families with children under 18 were concerned about the availability of sufficient places in local schools or playgroups:

- ❖ 48% are worried that it will be hard to get their children into their local school

For those involved, the school run is stressful enough without having to worry about going extra miles laden with buggies and bags and younger siblings to make it in time for the school bell.

**Your Lib Dem FOCUS team have a wealth of experience and knowledge in this area, with practical ideas for making admissions fairer for everyone, avoiding the risk that some families do not get places in nearby schools. Epsom West is not alone, this problem arises elsewhere, so with a strong opposition voice at County Hall, we can make change happen.**

We believe in opportunity for all. We do not support the Tory policy of diverting funds from state schools into new selective schools. We want to reduce inequality and there is no evidence that selection at 11 plus leads to a fairer society or increases social mobility for more than a few.

**The Lib Dems are proud to have introduced the Pupil Premium – the additional funds that support pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds – when we were in Government, and our policy is to increase funding for our squeezed state schools.**

## More from Clare's 60 second survey

### Surrey's 2017 council tax rise

At first the Tories threatened a 15% council tax increase, but following the Lib Dem petition against it, they delayed the council meeting and then reduced the rise to "only" 5%.

- ❖ 39% said a 5% tax rise is fine
- ❖ Some added "only if the money goes to social care"
- ❖ 8% thought even 5% was unacceptable

**The Lib Dems refused to accept the Tory budget because it includes £123 million of unspecified cuts.** The council's services need to be properly funded and the Tories must be held to account for their financial mismanagement. It is not fair to expect council tax payers to keep plugging unexplained black holes. **We need to ensure that the threat of a 15% hike is not allowed to return next year.**

On 21<sup>st</sup> March Cllr David Hodge survived a call for his resignation as Leader of Surrey County Council (SCC), but on the 22<sup>nd</sup> he resigned as leader of the Local Government Association (LGA). Then on 24<sup>th</sup> March he gave notice that SCC will be leaving the LGA and 3 other organisations that help councils lobby central government for proper funding and resources.

We are appalled by his decision to remove Surrey from the top table without consultation. Only a strong and cohesive opposition at county hall can put an end to his secretive style of governance.



### Epsom town centre

While 88% use the town centre, 79% think it needs improving, ideas including the mix of retail offer, parking, local amenities or traffic congestion. Comments included: "Dominated by traffic", "Close High Street past clock tower".

**For 'Plan E', RA councillors rejected Lib Dem ideas for freeing the Market Place from through traffic.**

We will liaise with the borough council to make sure that you are listened to. We will lobby for more child-friendly parking spaces, for lower costs and for illegal obstructive parking to be tackled.

Working together on this, regardless of party, is the only way to build a better town for everyone.

### Brexit

Our local MP Chris Grayling was a prominent campaigner for leaving the EU. Yet in our survey:

- ❖ 61% support remaining in the EU
- ❖ 57% say the single market is essential for prosperity
- ❖ 74% want a vote on the final deal - and this includes many of those in favour of Brexit.

Our MP, like the rest of the government now executing Brexit, has to start listening. Article 50 has been triggered, but the Lib Dems do not believe that this government has a mandate for a "Hard Brexit" (leaving the single market).

It is vital to protect the rights of EU citizens who already live and work here, similarly for UK citizens in Europe.

 **EU Nationals can vote at Local Elections**  
**You have 3 million votes**  
**Show us how you feel**



Tim Farron