

# Stamford FOCUS

December 2017

News from your Lib Dem team

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## Wells Centre – “This Will Not Be Forgotten”

The RA intends to replace the Wells Centre with 25 homes plus a social centre of 1500 square feet - the same area as 12 car parking spaces.

Allowing for the porch, kitchen and toilets, the remaining space would be too small for most of the activities that used to be held there.

Is the idea to offer residents a plan they will reject, so the council can build even more homes on the site?

The council blames the Conservative government's imposed quota of 579 new dwellings in the borough each and every year for the next 20 years.

However, the biggest issue is money. The government's funding cuts are forcing councils to make or save money wherever they can.

Closing the Wells Centre and using the site for new homes will save the council significant amounts of money.



“Making decisions behind closed doors without consulting local people, forcing closure of their much-loved community facilities, foisting new development on residents, providing an inadequate replacement for the Wells Centre - this will not be forgotten by local residents,” said Paul Linscott, a Wells resident.

Stamford ward's three RA councillors are clearly unable to stand up for local people against the determination of the Residents Party leaders.



Colin Taylor  
Julie Morris



Clare Clark  
Steve Gee



## Mini-cab nuisance



A Stamford resident has told FOCUS that mini-cab drivers are ‘laying over’ in the West Hill car-park when the space could be taken by shoppers.

We wrote to the council to ask what waiting facilities are investigated prior to granting a licence. The answer was that they don't take it into account at all - but they will get parking officers to monitor the problem.

Mini-cabs have been abusing marked parking bays in roads off West Hill for years, but move off as soon as police or parking officers appear.

## Keeping in touch:

Follow us on **twitter** at:

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See our **facebook** page at:

<http://www.facebook.com/epsomlibdems/>

Visit our local **website** at:

<http://www.epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk>

Register on our website for **news updates**.

## Do you have a Grouse?

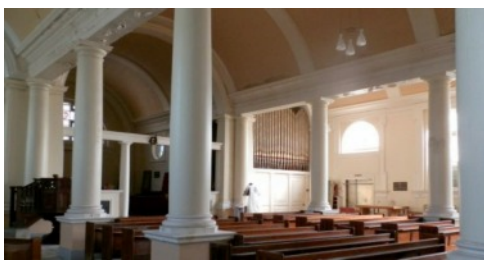
If you have a problem that we can help with, please contact your Stamford ward FOCUS team by **email** at:

[stamford-focus@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk](mailto:stamford-focus@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk)

or by post at: 7 Bridge Rd, Epsom KT17 4AN



## Horton Chapel



Terrific news for the future of Horton Chapel - the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded £300,000 development funding towards restoring this listed building so that it can be run as a not-for-profit arts and heritage centre.

As well as paying for environmental and structural surveys, it will enable the Horton Chapel Project to call for the council to unlock the £1.45 million it holds for refurbishing the Chapel.

We wish the Horton Chapel Arts and Heritage Society every success.

## Old Moat seeks helpers



The *Old Moat* garden centre in Horton Lane is run by a charity that helps people with mental health problems.

A group of volunteers coordinated by Epsom Rotary is restoring the large walled garden to make it available for community use. There are tasks to suit everybody: planting, weeding, mowing, building a compost area etc.

Volunteer sessions are once a month, Saturdays 9.30am to 11.30am.

For information on helping contact:

[stevesharkey80@gmail.com](mailto:stevesharkey80@gmail.com)

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## Lidl approved — Aldi pending



Lidl's plans for a medium-sized food store on the former Allams and Iceland sites in Upper High Street have been approved.

This satisfies the council's official Development Brief, as first proposed by Lib Dem councillors, following a long series of unsatisfactory plans for a large supermarket.



Meanwhile Aldi have been trying to get approval for a similar store just up the road on the site of the former Dairy at the Church Road junction on a site scheduled for housing.

This wasn't considered suitable and was refused, but Aldi appealed and a public inquiry was held. The outcome was pending when we went to press.

## Epsom Hospital



We care passionately about our local hospital and took an active part in the NHS Trust's consultation on how best to secure the long-term future of specialist care at Epsom Hospital.

Based on the evidence, we believe the best plan is to retain 85% of the current services at Epsom Hospital, supported by an acute unit located either in Epsom or else adjacent to the Royal Marsden in Sutton, with adequate transport links provided.

As a centre of excellence, the acute unit would offer a higher standard of care and better specialist cover than could be provided on two sites.

## Tip opening times cut – Fly-tipping concerns



From January 2018, Surrey County Council's tip in Blenheim Road won't open on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

The free daily allowance for rubble, plaster-board, soil etc was also abolished from December 2017.

The Tories' original plan to close some of the tips completely has been



dropped due to the public outcry.

But these changes, which make it harder for residents to dispose of their waste responsibly, may lead to a large increase in fly-tipping.

The Liberal Democrats will continue to campaign for increased opening hours and for counter-productive charges to be scrapped.

## Epsom town centre

The promised break over Christmas will provide some relief during the long-delayed road works needed to make South Street two-way.

Once complete, this will speed travel from West Street to Dorking Road.

Will it help to solve Epsom's other traffic problems? We don't think so.

## Vince Cable will lead the fight to change the direction of Britain

**Concern grows about the impact of a botched Brexit on prices and jobs.**

Vince has set out his priorities for a better future for Britain as the new Leader of the Liberal Democrats.

Vince Cable - widely respected for his economic expertise and experience - wants to lead on Brexit, education, the economy and the NHS.

"I am ambitious for Britain, and I want the Liberal Democrats to represent the many millions of people who share our values," Vince said.

"The Conservatives are in disarray - they are more focused on infighting than leading the country.

"And Labour are backing the Tories all the way on Brexit. They support leaving the single market.



"With the economy approaching the Brexit iceberg, only the Liberal Democrats will make the case for taking the country in a new direction.

"And we must make sure Brexit does not mean we lose sight of other vital issues like securing fairer funding for the NHS, especially mental health and social care.

**"The Liberal Democrats would put 1p on income tax to raise an extra £6 billion a year for our NHS.**

"And with our schools under severe financial pressure, we will lead the fight for extra teachers and for extra funding aimed at supporting those who need it the most.

"The Liberal Democrats offer a compassionate, positive vision for the future. Investment in public services, support for businesses to create jobs and a fairer deal for young people.

**"To anyone who shares our values and our aims, I say come and join us and help to make them a reality.**

**"With your help, we can effect real, positive change for Britain."**

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