

Ruxley ward FOCUS

By-election 15th February 2018



Julia Kirkland chosen by Liberal Democrats

Epsom & Ewell Liberal Democrats have selected Julia Kirkland as their candidate for the borough council Ruxley ward by-election.

Julia lives in Ruxley ward, having made Epsom her family home in 2001, after deciding to leave London when her daughter was very young. Her son was born in Epsom hospital and both her children were educated in local schools.

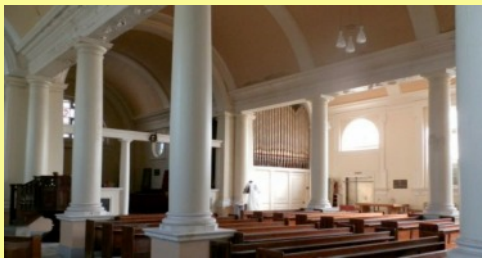
Julia has taken a keen interest in local matters as a school governor, first at Southfield Park, where she became chair of governors, then joining the new governing body at Epsom & Ewell High School.

Julia heads up a consultancy business based in central London. She has a keen interest in the local environment and local amenities.

Julia already has experience of dealing with both borough council and county council issues, having worked with the Lib Dems in Court, Town and West Ewell, besides Ruxley ward.



Horton Chapel



Having pressed the council to find a viable use for Horton Chapel, Julia is thrilled that the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded £300,000 development funding towards the restoration of this listed building, so it can be run as a not-for-profit arts and heritage centre.

This will enable the Horton Chapel Project to call for the council to unlock the £1.45 million it holds for refurbishing the Chapel.

The next step is a final tender to the Heritage Lottery Fund in March, with a decision expected in June.

Housing Crisis

The Lib Dems believe Britain needs to build 300,000 new homes a year to defeat the housing crisis.

Epsom & Ewell must contribute its fair share if we are to provide a decent future for our children.

With waiting lists for rented homes spiralling, far more affordable rented housing must be included.

Although much of the demand for new housing should be met within the urban area, some green belt land that no longer serves its original purpose will also have to be used.

We will support this, provided that the affordable rented housing that local people need gets included and that pressures on local services like the NHS and schools are properly addressed and funded.

Priority must be given to building the type of homes that we need.

Epsom Hospital



We care passionately about securing the long-term future of specialist care at Epsom Hospital.

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 can be provided on two sites.

Local residents working for local residents

A personal message to voters from Julia Kirkland



I've lived in Ruxley Ward for 16 years and seen a lot change over that time. At the same time lots of things haven't changed.

My reasons for being a candidate in this by-election centre on the future of Epsom & Ewell, as we progress further into the 21st century.

- ❖ Where are our children going to live, if they remain in the borough, and what jobs will be available for them?
- ❖ Is our provision for social care sufficient to meet the demand of our ageing community?
- ❖ How will we cope as the boundaries of London expand and more people want to move here to take advantage of our proximity to the capital?
- ❖ Will we get a fair balance between the things that make Epsom & Ewell a great place to live and the changes and sacrifices we'll have to make sure everyone benefits?



If elected, I intend to bring challenge to the council's decisions, to ensure that policies are developed to focus on these questions.

I know our council is under pressure from central government cuts – but equally I also understand the local issues, through my work as a governor at Epsom & Ewell High School, my spouse's work with youth on the Watersedge estate and connections to the Epsom Food Bank.

I'm standing as your Liberal Democrat candidate to always ask the question: "Is this fair and balanced for the residents of Ruxley?"

To help Julia's campaign, contact: julia.kirkland@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk

Making Epsom & Ewell an even better place to live and work

Almost every step forward in recent years has originated from **Liberal Democrat** opposition councillors: – reduced evening charges in car parks, free weekend parking in the run up to Christmas, short-stay free parking outside shops, better use of car parks through season tickets, no phone masts near children's playgrounds, coordinated street cleansing and repairs, higher rates of recycling, Christmas lights in Epsom High Street and other shopping centres, weekday markets, a town centre manager, residents parking schemes, public speaking on planning applications, public questions at committee meetings etc.

We need more Liberal Democrat councillors – they have better ideas!



Julia Kirkland

