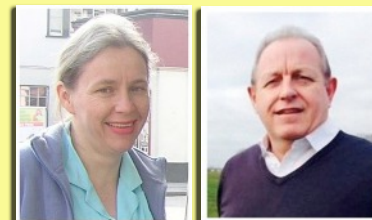


College ward FOCUS

News from your Lib Dem team



Alison Kelly
David Gulland

Steve Gee
Julie Morris

New Housing Targets



Epsom Downs should be safe

We believe the only way housing shortages can adequately be dealt with in Epsom & Ewell is by adopting the option outlined in the recent local planning consultation:

“A balanced approach where much of the need is met within the urban area but some is allocated to land currently within unused and secondary Green Belt”.

This would include some green belt land that no longer serves its original purpose. It would not include Parks, Commons or Downs.

This position was supported by 74% of those who responded to the consultation as the “least bad” option for the Borough.

Do you have a Grouse?

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

college-focus@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk
or by post at: 7 Bridge Rd, Epsom KT17 4AN



Keeping in touch



We are a local team, making local policies based on input from local residents, but we also keep in touch with the bigger picture, which is so important for getting things done.

Sir Vince Cable was the guest speaker at our recent Annual Dinner, where he shared campaigning issues with our local Focus teams, including College ward campaigners David Gulland (left) and Julie Morris (right).

Keep in touch with us:

Follow us on **twitter** at:

[@Epsomewellfocus](https://twitter.com/Epsomewellfocus)

[@Epsomlibdem](https://twitter.com/Epsomlibdem)

[@jorrisam](https://twitter.com/jorrisam)

See our **facebook** page at:

www.facebook.com/epsomlibdems/

Visit our local **website** at:

www.epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk

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

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Record Council Tax Increase

Our council tax is made up of three portions:

- Epsom & Ewell Borough Council gets 11%,
- Surrey County Council gets 76%,
- and the Surrey Police get 13%.

For 2018/19 the Borough Council has agreed to increase its portion by 3 %, the County by 6% and the Police by 5.3%. So the overall increase is 5.6%.

This is the biggest increase for years. Both councils blame the changes on government grants, but the Lib Dem opposition at County Hall says is also partly due to inefficiency and waste by the Conservative administration.

Aldi and Lidl



Aldi’s appeal against refusal of planning permission failed. Apart from repairs to the hoardings, there is no further news at the time of going to press.

There isn’t much news about Lidl either, but we do know that they are getting involved in sponsoring some community events. Good news!

South Hatch Stables



South Hatch (in Burgh Heath Road) recently staged an exhibition of its plans for development.

We went to look. 60 new horse boxes and some other equestrian facilities are planned, alongside an “enabling” development of 47 apartments.

No formal planning application had been submitted at the time of going to press and the impact on Green Belt land is not yet clear.

Alexandra Allotments



Double yellow lines have now been painted alongside the Bridle Road grass verge, but more importantly we want to see how the new Residents Parking Zones around the site will impact on plot-holders ability to park.

Julie has discussed with the council creating a parking area inside the site.

The Alexandra Allotments are 96% occupied, but vacancies could arise in springtime, so apply quickly at:

<http://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk>

The LibDem Fightback

How's it going? Quite well, actually!

Four by-election wins so far in 2018:

February 1st, Pallion (Sunderland):
54% of vote, **33%** swing from Lab.

February 15th, Worstead (N. Norfolk)
73% of vote, **32%** swing from Con.

Also February 15th, 2 seats from the Conservatives in Teignbridge:

- Chudleigh, **41%** of vote, **8%** swing,
- Dawlish, **71%** of vote, **23%** swing.

Can you help the LibDem Fightback?

Contact Julie or David.

Epsom Hospital



Unlike local Tory MP Chris Grayling, we want to see Epsom & St Helier upgrade their facilities, which will require new buildings for their more specialised services.

Their recent consultation received 80% support for consolidating acute care (some 15% of current services) on a single site.

This proposed acute centre would be a centre of excellence, with better specialist cover and a higher standard of care than can currently be provided on two sites.

They plan to continue running 85% of current services at Epsom and at St Helier, which would both have to be refurbished.

The location for the combined acute centre has yet to be decided. The options are Epsom, St Helier or South Sutton next to the Royal Marsden.

All of us living in Epsom & Ewell would prefer Epsom. The Sutton site offers the possibility of working with the Royal Marsden, though transport links need improving. We have expressed our opposition to siting it at St Helier.

Are you fed up with litter?



Well, we are. And your FOCUS team is making a point of reporting every area in College ward that needs attention.

You can help. Let us know where, or report it direct via:

contactus@epsom-ewell.gov.uk.

There are other areas; Sainsburys could do better within their own curtilage, as the photo shows.

The borough council is planning to increase its fine for dropping litter in 2018 from £80 to £100 – but we are not aware that anyone has ever actually been fined!

Maybe traffic wardens, who have cameras, could step up and ticket people who drop litter?

Oh those POTHOLES!

Around the ward, we've seen some lovely work – but also some desperately needed work. Can you spot the locations?

Let us know of potholes which need repairing and we'll report them for you.



Waste Disposal

With our "tip" now closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays by Surrey County Council to save money, there is even more bad news.

The Conservative controlled county council is abolishing its system of recycling "credits" which keeps the costs down when the borough council collects our recyclables.

Instead, they are proposing a flat rate of "credits" per area, all of which is going to cost the borough council much more than it has in the past. And we end up paying for that of course.

Needless to say, your Conservative ward councillor was not present at the borough council committee meeting where all this was discussed.