

College ward FOCUS

News from your Lib Dem team

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Do you suffer Selfish Parking?

The photo isn't actually what we mean, but it's a good example of a bigger problem!

It's people who take up two spaces on the street instead of one, leaving yards in front and behind the next parked car.

Upper High Street suffers from this - and so do sections of road where there is unrestricted parking with yellow lines at each end.

We have also seen really selfish parking within those Residents Parking Zones (RPZs) in which individual parking bays are not marked.

Some drivers even park across dropped kerbs (which actually constitutes an obstruction), that are there to make access to a driveway safer.

If you are in (or due to get) a RPZ, a polite notice on a windscreen is usually enough to remind people to park with consideration for others.



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

Keep in touch with us:

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www.epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk

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Spare him a thought



This poor chap was called out on a dreadfully cold and wet day, to remove a no entry sign and bollard that had been smashed down by a lorry and left in the middle of the road.



Allotment Holders can't park - Tory Councillors aren't interested

Alexandra Road allotment holders met in April to protest about new double yellow line parking restrictions alongside the Bridle Road boundary.

With now almost nowhere to park at the biggest site in the borough, everyone is passing the buck.

Conservative borough councillors didn't seem to know much about the new restrictions. The local Conservative county councillor says she didn't suggest them, yet she is the vice-chairman of the Committee that approved them.

A petition is planned to get these restrictions removed as soon as possible. If plot occupancy (currently a healthy 93%) falls off because plot holders cannot park nearby, this allotment site could become suitable for housing development.



Plans for Epsom Police Station

A planning application has been received to demolish the former police station in Church Street and build two blocks of flats.

The plan is for 29 flats in total : 11 x 1 bed, 14 x 2 bed and 4 x 3 bed, with 23 car parking spaces.

Yes 23, less than 1 per flat - but this is in line with the borough council's own parking standards!

Horton Chapel



One of the borough's historic assets is about to get a new lease of life.

The Horton Chapel Arts & Heritage Society have now received planning and listed building permission to convert the derelict Horton Chapel into a vibrant arts centre serving the local and wider community.

Well done to the volunteers who brought the project to this point. The final hurdle comes in June when they expect to learn whether their bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the funds needed to redevelop the building has been successful.

The LibDem Fightback

How's it going? Better and better!

Following our by-election gains earlier this year, spectacular wins in the recent local elections in Kingston and Richmond mean that the Liberal Democrats are the only party to gain control of more councils, as well as winning an additional 75 seats.

In addition to retaining control in Sutton, we have also gained seats in four of the six Surrey districts and boroughs where local elections were held this year.

Can YOU help the LibDem Fightback?

Contact Julie or David.

Zero income for county council services from Surrey's £298 million property investments



Liberal Democrat county councillors are concerned that Surrey County Council has not used any of the income from its £298 million commercial property portfolio on council services, as originally promised.

SCC has a wholly owned subsidiary company which holds 23 commercial properties, mostly situated outside the county, valued in March 2018 at £298 million. The council's original agreed strategy was to generate additional income to support delivery of its services.

However, a Lib Dem question to Cabinet has revealed that so far none of the income from this property investment has been used to support council services, contrary to previous assurances from the Conservative administration that the purpose of their investment strategy was to support the County Council's budget. Despite millions of cuts to services, this income is being used to purchase yet more property, instead of protecting services for Surrey residents.

The Lib Dem opposition at County Hall has called for the Conservatives to explain why this income has not been used for its original purpose and for the County Council to cease acting as if it were a private sector property investment company, when it is supposed to be a local authority providing public services to local people.

For more detail on this and other local council news see our website:

www.epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk

£754m to fix Surrey's streets



Liberal Democrat county councillors have revealed that it would take £754 million to repair Surrey's roads and footways to an "as new" standard. At their current rate of spending, it would take the Conservatives almost 50 years to complete this work.

The state of Surrey's roads and footways is not news, but the £754 million needed to fix them is shocking and only highlights the total inadequacy of the county's recently announced £5 million additional funding for road repairs.

Cycling UK recently rated Surrey as the worst authority for potholes in the UK, whilst a recent Freedom of Information request revealed that Surrey paid out £459,552 compensation in 2017 on 265 successful claims for damage or injury caused by road defects.

The County Council should do more to prioritise funding for improving the condition of its roads and footways.

Instead of spending millions of pounds on commercial property outside Surrey, the county council should invest in resurfacing Surrey's roads. This would save money on compensation as well as future repairs.