



Alison Kelly
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Our Visitors Are Costing a Fortune!

That's what some residents in the new **College Road** section of **Parking Zone M** are saying. Residents who live in Zone M have to pay a £2 visitor permit charge to park on the road after 9am and before 8pm, six days a week. For some, with visitor permits limited per year, it's becoming too much and affecting their quality of life.

Julie Morris is helping survey some parts of Zone M to see if there might be the required 70% support to reduce the end time (maybe just in some roads) to 5pm.

Randolph Road and the lower part of **Burgh Heath Road** are almost certainly going to join Zone M. Let's hope they have big driveways or not too many visitors!

Is "Curfew" Parking the Answer?

And there are more problems with commuter parking! **Lynwood Road** is now suffering the knock-on effects of the recently introduced Residents Parking Zone in **College Road**, as commuters move further out in search of all-day parking.

It has been suggested to the County Council that residents might support "curfew" parking (where a restriction is in force for just one or two hours during the daytime, thereby removing the all-day commuter parking).

Windmill Close is in a similar situation and has also been suggested to the County Council for curfew parking. The long process between a suggestion and implementation is about 18 months so there is plenty of opportunity to have your say - especially if you are not in favour of the suggestions.

Bridge Road also has commuter parking problems and a survey is underway. Contact **Julie Morris** for further information.

Commuter Parking in College Ward



College Ward Action and News

R.A. U-TURN ON SOUTH HATCH STABLES PLANNING APP.

There has been an astonishing U-turn by College Ward Residents Association. Their initial position was to support the planning application for a new Racehorse Training Establishment at South Hatch in **Burgh Heath Road** plus an enabling development of 47 apartments. But now they have issued a new statement saying "In light of new information obtained, following further investigation and consultation, CWRA's position has had to change from full support to an objection primarily based on the proposed development using green belt land ..." Was there really any "new" information or did they just not read the proposals properly?

Your **FOCUS** team maintains the same position it has always held. We question:

- the scale of the development
- the number of dwellings proposed to enable the development
- the parking provision.

The plans will probably go before the Planning Committee in November or December.

A LIDL UPDATE

Having asked for a progress report on Lidl's plans in **Upper High Street**, the council's answer was merely that Lidl has three years in which to start building! Not very helpful really. Lidl are also after the A24 site at the junction of London Road and the Ewell bypass ... where KFC repeatedly had their proposals for a drive-through refused.



The local council's budget for 2019/20 has assumed an increase of 3% in council tax next year. The final decision will be made in February 2019.

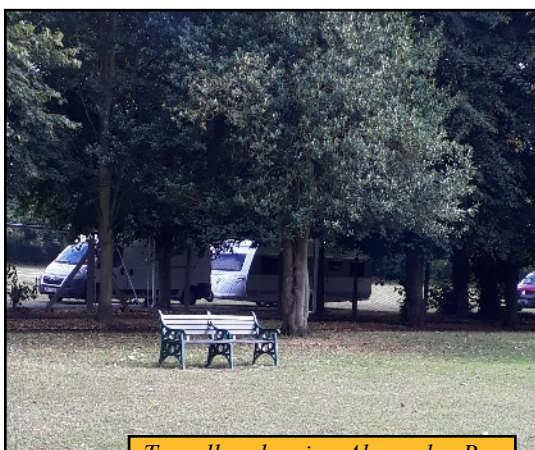


Hole in the Road

Did you spot this hole in the road? You had plenty of opportunity as it was there almost six months at the junction of **Ashdown Road** and **Links Road**.

Just as we went to print, the hole was miraculously filled in. We don't know whether the sudden action was due to our regular requests for information, but we are glad it has been sorted out at last.

TRAVELLERS INVADE ALEXANDRA REC



Travellers leaving Alexandra Rec

It's Friday 10th August ... and there's a big funeral about to take place in Ashted. Travellers invade **Alexandra Recreation Ground**, block the surrounding roads and force a Police presence. We are told that the day was saved by vigilant and fast action by the Council's refuse depot personnel and Ranger service. Travellers were moved on within a couple of hours.

In the meantime, the **FOCUS** team has been in touch with the council about commuters using the free (and unlimited) car park at Alexandra Recreation Ground. Surely something needs to be done to ensure park users can get priority there?

Global Values - Local Action

NEW RAILWAY CUTTING PLANNING APP

A new application has been submitted for this site in **Mill Road** (18/00271/FUL on the council's website). Regular **FOCUS** readers will know only too well of the campaign waged by local residents and environmentalists for the past nine years to minimise development on this site. It's now surrounded by green hoardings after the last planning application failed at the Appeal stage.

This photo was taken many years ago and shows the mixture of flora that then existed on the site. With about one third of the site preserved for wildlife (as demanded by both the local council and the Planning Inspectorate), a Trust will be set up to manage the wildlife area. The new application is for 31 units with some parking.

Residents have already expressed concern about the height of some of the buildings, parking provision and loss of trees. On the plus side though, these plans do seem far better than previous planning applications for the site.



Flora on the railway cutting

FUTURE40 PROVES THAT YOUR VIEWS MATTER

We were so impressed with the many ideas on improving Epsom that you suggested in our survey earlier this year that we asked the Council for a public meeting to discuss them. Now, 10 days after that request, the council has (coincidentally?) launched Future40 asking all residents to contribute ideas on how Epsom should evolve. Full details are on this website <https://www.future40.org> and we encourage everyone to take part in the survey on the website.

DID YOU SEE IT?

The Secret Life of Landfill : A Rubbish History,

was shown on BBC4 on 23rd August. It gave a fascinating insight



into how we deal with landfill, how Europe is "mining" old landfill sites to reprocess plastics and metals, and how new bacteria are evolving which might help deal with the vast quantities of waste buried in our planet.

There was also "**Inside Out**" on BBC1 on 17th September where the benefits (or not) of "mining" plastic already in landfill were discussed.

The BBC has a new programme "**Drowning in Plastic**" in October. "**Gardeners World**" is also hot on the case of plastic plant pots which cannot

be recycled. IS THE GOVERNMENT, AT LONG LAST, GETTING TO GRIPS WITH THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE CREATED? Epsom & Ewell Lib Dems were campaigning against single-use plastic bags in 2002 (as seen in the photo) but it took 13 years for the charge to be introduced.

Liberal Democrats are still campaigning all over the country to get our councils and government to take this problem seriously.

Lib Dem-run Sutton Council is planning to phase out single-use plastics. The plan will see the Council replace single-use plastics with sustainable or reusable alternatives where possible.



The Community Newsletter for College Ward

TOWN TRAFFIC CHAOS



By the time you receive this, we really hope that the town centre traffic chaos has subsided. **David Gulland** says that it is too early to tell how the new two-way system in South Street will work in the long-term. The works at the Hook Road, Spread Eagle and Chase Road junctions, coupled with the temporary traffic lights at Kiln Lane, have all contributed to the overall problems in the town. The latter has often resulted in 20 minute delays to get out onto East Street from Sainsbury's car park. The Kiln Lane works are scheduled to finish at the end of September.

EPSOM HOSPITAL LATEST



There's a disagreement about Epsom Hospital's proposals to sell some surplus land on the Woodcote Green Road side of the site, the proceeds of which would fund the backlog of repairs and maintenance to other parts of the hospital. The main building affected is Rowan House which is considered no longer fit for purpose.

We continue to support plans to retain 85% of services at Epsom and support the creation of a new critical care centre at either Epsom or south Sutton.

HORTON CHAPEL

FOCUS team member **David Gulland** is Treasurer of the Horton Chapel Arts & Heritage Society and tells us that the open day in September was a huge success with scores of visitors interested in its potential use as a community venue. For further information on the project and how to get involved please see <https://hortonchapelproject.org>



HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

If you have a problem that we can help with, please contact your College ward **FOCUS** team

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

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