

College  
Ward

# FOCUS

News from  
your local  
Lib Dem  
team

SPRING  
2019



## The War on PLASTIC Council must lead by example



Plastic is used in almost every part of daily life but there is a growing awareness around the world now that things will have to change if we are to safeguard the future of our seas and oceans. Local Liberal Democrats are asking the council to:

- undertake a full survey across all borough services to see where, and how much plastic is used in the production of those services
- work with industry experts and others to explore what sustainable alternatives may be used instead
- ask council colleagues to adopt a detailed plan to either reduce, or replace, the use of plastic within the borough
- visit local shopkeepers to encourage them to abandon the use of plastic bags and offer 20p paper bags, even in preference to Bags for Life. (Morrisons supermarket is starting to do this.)

We have to start somewhere and **our borough council should be setting an example and leading the way.**

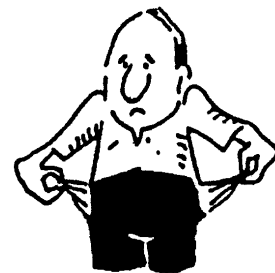
### **COUNCIL TAX UP AGAIN AND TIMES ARE TOUGH!**

**Our council tax is likely to increase by 3% in 2019-20.**

The council tax we pay is split four ways:

- about 10% goes to the borough council,
- about 13% goes to Surrey Police
- about 77% goes to Surrey County Council  
(source EEBC 2018-19).

With central government funding having been slashed in the last few years, the borough council's Environment committee recently approved its entire capital programme for 2019-20: little more than extending the Hope Lodge car park and upgrading some Pay & Display machines. The council needs to explore more ways to earn money so that standards and local services can at least be maintained.



**Local Action - Global Values**



A proposal to create half an hour free parking in all Epsom & Ewell car parks, specifically to assist parents of young school children, received no support at a council meeting on 29th January.

The idea was described as "ill conceived" and "badly thought through". The suggestion that this would solve the problems of school parking by giving parents the opportunity to park free, walk their youngsters to school, see them in and then get back to the car park within half an hour, was ridiculed.

A potential loss of income of £240,000 was considered unacceptable by the ruling Residents' Party.

The debate saw Conservative councillors disagreeing with each other - it seems that doesn't only happen at national level then!

The Petition from residents living on the **College Road** side of Residents Parking Zone M has been submitted to the county council. They have requested that RPZ hours of operation be reduced to 9am - 5pm and Saturdays taken out of the scheme entirely.

A meeting of the **Downs Road Estate Association** (mostly **The Ridings, Milburn Walk, Walnut Close**) has decided to canvass views on the possibilities for curfew parking and some additional double yellow lines, which will stop the all-day and obstructive parking problems on these roads.

## Will Our Garden Waste Service Change?

Well, not at the moment, although there's a 9% increase in the cost to residents who use the brown bin service, starting in April 2019. However, central government recently published its new waste strategy "Our Waste, Our Resources : A Strategy for England" and will consult on providing free garden waste collections. There's no such thing as a free garden waste collection of course, because the costs would have to come out of our council tax, so everyone would be paying for this regardless of whether they have a garden or not. Contact Julie for more information.

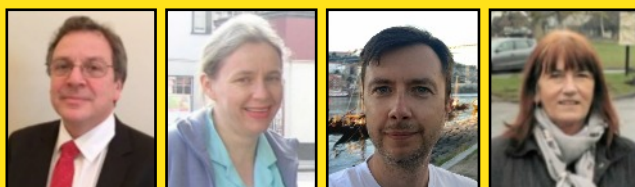


## Epsom's Views on Brexit



Andre, David and Julie were out in the High Street during January asking people for their views on Brexit. It seems that our borough, which voted 'Remain' in the 2016 referendum, is still of the same opinion. Very few supported Theresa May's deal and not many wanted 'No Deal' – most wanted neither. There was almost overwhelming local support for the people to have the final say on deciding our future.

## Contact the team



**David Gulland**      **Alison Kelly**      **Andre Kubicek**      **Julie Morris**

The local Lib Dem FOCUS team want to hear from you on any issue, big or small, that you'd like help with.

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