

FOCUS



FROM YOUR LOCAL LIB DEM TEAM: Julie Morris, David Gulland, Andre Kubicek

TRIPLE SUCCESS FOR YOUR FOCUS TEAM!

In our Community and in the Council

Lib Dem councillors Julie Morris and David Gulland have been successful in obtaining council funds for two local community projects.

CCTV cameras are to be installed in **Alexandra Recreation Ground**. Julie has been pressing for these in order to curb anti-social behaviour.

And a section of **Rifle Butts Alley**, the track which runs from Epsom up to Epsom Downs, will be resurfaced after **David's** campaign.

Funding for both projects comes from the "Community Infrastructure Levy" and can't be used for delivering day-to-day services.

Soon after Julie and David were elected as councillors in 2019, they discovered to their dismay that the council had **abolished agenda-related questions from the public** at most of its council meetings. They made an official complaint about this.

Finally, operating at a snail's pace, the council set up a working group in January 2021 to look into the matter.

Julie and David will be watching progress with interest and will fight for residents' rights to be reinstated.



Julie Morris with local resident **Mat** who was instrumental in saving the only two trees which now remain on the site

AND SUCCESS TOO FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

The last two trees (a Walnut and a Silver Birch) on the development site at **Mill Road** were saved after residents stopped tree surgeons, literally with chainsaw in hand, from felling them.

The council's Tree Officer was called and confirmed that the trees were protected.

The site is scheduled for 31 units and work began in mid January. About a quarter of the site will become a Wildlife Sanctuary.

THIS YEAR'S COUNCIL TAX RISE

Our council tax this year will rise by **2.82%**. About 10% of this tax goes to the borough council, 77% goes to the county council and 13% goes to the Police.

THANK YOU, NHS

and key workers and volunteers

Thank you to everyone who has worked through the last year to save lives and keep us functioning in what has been such a challenging year for us all. Without the hard work and dedication of you all we couldn't have made it through these terrible times and we will always be incredibly grateful for the sacrifices that you have made to protect and support us.

A particular thanks to everyone at **Epsom Hospital** in supporting us all locally and still giving a fantastic service. We are also very proud to have one of the national centres at **Epsom Racecourse** and thank everyone who has volunteered to help there.

ELECTION GO-AHEAD



The Government has confirmed that County Council elections will take place on May 6th.

Cllr. Julie Morris says "I want our county council to be **GREEN AND LEAN**. No more wasting money on trying to abolish all the borough councils in Surrey. Instead, we need proper repair of potholes, better provision for carers, speeding up action on climate change issues and forward planning for school places."

PLANNING NEWS

Work on the new **LIDL** store is progressing quickly. It's a pretty big building from the back but the front is more in keeping with the rest of **Upper High Street**. It is scheduled to open in 2021, probably August.

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Epsom Hospital. New plans have been submitted, which have scaled down the development.

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The building of 20 dwellings at **Langley Bottom Farm** was refused by the Planning Committee on 18th February, largely because they "would be harmful to the Green Belt".

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The former care home at 1 **Burgh Heath Road** could become 9 flats with underground parking. No date has been set for discussion at the Planning Committee.

ANDRE'S AGENDA



The regular column by Andre Kubicek on environmental issues

Since our last report, the Council says there's been less contamination of recycling (green) bins. So that's good and thank you. It's a problem everywhere it seems. A report in the i newspaper in January quotes a bin man operating in the East Anglia area "It's horrible but I'd say there's about 100,000 used nappies put into recycling a year round here" which his crew has to go through and pick out by hand. He also talks about lithium batteries inside electronic devices put into recycling bins which sometimes catch fire and set the bin lorries alight! PLEASE RECYCLE CAREFULLY



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Return to: 7 Bridge Road, Epsom, KT17 4AN

Contact your local **LIB DEM** councillors:

Cllr. Julie Morris

Tel: 01372 744297

Cllr. David Gulland

Tel: 07801 573431

Email: focus-town-downs@epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk

Website: www.e-e.lib.dm

Facebook: [epsomlibdems](https://www.facebook.com/epsomlibdems)

Twitter: @jorrisam