

# College Ward

Liberal  
Democrats

# FOCUS

Local  
Election  
Special

## Your Lib Dem FOCUS Team for May 4<sup>th</sup>



**James Lawrence, Julie Morris and Julian Freeman**  
are your College Ward candidates  
for the Epsom & Ewell Borough Council elections

The borough council elections are held every four years. You have three votes, so **you can vote for all three of the FOCUS team candidates.**

If you want your candidates to be

local people who have already shown their commitment to working for the local community, the choice is clear - vote for **JULIAN, JAMES** and **JULIE.**

**Your vote can make the difference!**

**Use your local vote for the team that works for you**

# Our top 3 priorities for College Ward and Epsom & Ewell

## Protect our precious Green Belt - but still provide new homes



**No-one wants to build on our Green Belt,"** says **Julie Morris**, "but, until recently, the Conservative government had been insisting on it. They gave us an unrealistic housing target and told us that we had to build on the Green Belt if we couldn't achieve their imposed target by other means.

"The Residents' Association controlled council complied meekly with the government's orders and are only now starting to question that position.

"Both parties, Conservatives and Residents' Association, are now running scared of the public backlash at the forthcoming local elections and are changing their stance on the issue.

"Liberal Democrats have never agreed with everything in the Local Plan - you can read our full submission on our website. But we

have strongly supported consulting residents.

"Epsom still needs to build new homes, but we believe the target should be based on the most recent population projections. This would almost halve the number of homes required."

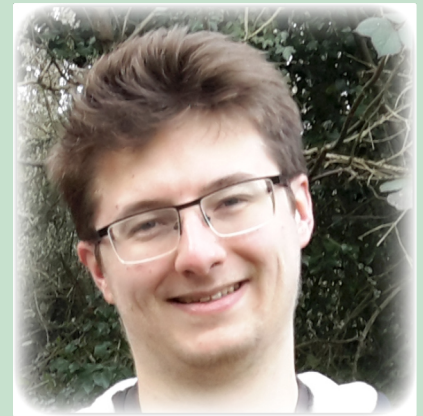
## Get serious about climate change and support green initiatives

**"It's time this Council got serious about climate change,"** says **James Lawrence**. "They don't have a budget for it and there aren't any serious policies for it in the Local Plan.

"Other councils have policies that encourage carbon-neutral development and that allow the council to refuse planning applications that are harmful to the environment. Why haven't policies like these been included in our own Local Plan?

"I'm a car owner, but I also cycle and walk - a lot! Our council should be providing for alternative and greener ways of getting round town. The terrible state of our roads is a real danger for cyclists.

"I support the principle behind ULEZ but it shouldn't hit the poorest people hardest."



## Expose Town Hall secrecy and fight for public participation



**"I've been shocked by the degree of secrecy in the Town Hall that has been exposed by the FOCUS team"** says **Julian Freeman**. "Some meetings are held in secret and councillors have not been informed when things go wrong.

"The Liberal Democrats have brought these to public attention and have also shamed the Residents' Association into reintroducing some of the opportunities for involving members of the public that the RA themselves had previously scrapped.

"This shows how important it is to have clear and competent opposition who are able to hold the ruling group to account.

"Liberal Democrat councils are way ahead in terms of public engagement and involving residents in local decision-making. We always keep in touch and ask for your views."

# .... AND SOME OTHER IMPORTANT ONES TOO

## Retain the character of our borough

Epsom is our small-scale high quality market town and Ewell is our historic village, so let's keep it that way!

## Help for those who need it

Housing for younger people, key workers and homeless people.  
Provide support for vulnerable residents during the cost of living crisis.

## Fight for better roads and pavements

The recent **FOCUS** leaflet highlighting the state of Burgh Heath Road drew an

unprecedented response. Lib Dems are the main opposition on the county council and we can exert pressure there.

## Provide value for money

Enough of wasting money on grandiose schemes and plans. We will fight for resources to be used on those things that residents value.

## Support College Ward residents

When there are issues in our ward, such as the **Chalk Pit**, we will be there to support our residents and guide them through the bureaucratic minefield at the Town Hall.

## Ensure residents are kept informed

We always promise to keep in touch, tell you what we've been doing on your behalf and ask your opinion via the regular **FOCUS** newsletter.

We provide a regular news service on our Facebook site which is updated almost daily. We can send you a monthly email with the highlights of what's been happening in and around Epsom.

**We are successful in local government. Just look around you at Kingston, Mole Valley, Sutton, Richmond, all run by the Liberal Democrats.**

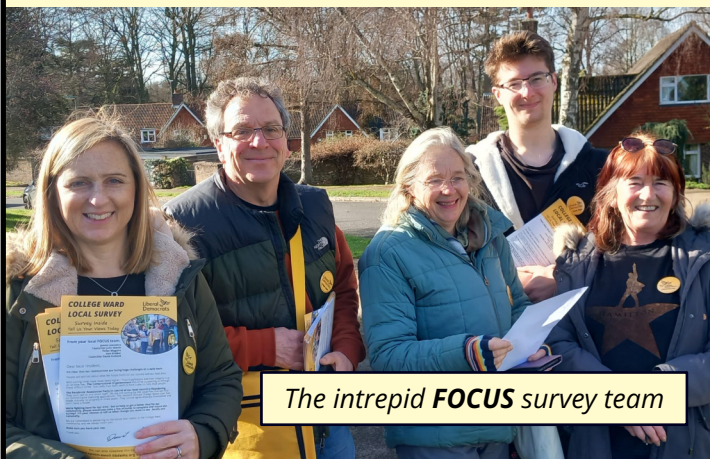
## HAVE YOU HAD YOUR SAY?

The FOCUS team has spoken to hundreds of College Ward residents and hand-delivered our survey to most of College Ward.



If we haven't managed to contact you yet, you can still have your say at [www.epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk/your-views](http://www.epsom-ewell-libdems.org.uk/your-views) or by using this QR code.

**Your views are important to us!**



The intrepid **FOCUS** survey team

## STOP PRESS

As we go to print, the council has paused work on our Local Plan. It will now wait for guidance from central government about using Green Belt land in order to meet their housing targets. More work will be undertaken on "brownfield" sites too. The Plan will eventually become a legally binding framework for development in our area up to 2040.

Cllr **Julie Morris** had asked the council to pause work last December after the strength of public opinion against Green Belt development became clear.

**Thanks to all of you who responded to the consultation!**

# THE BEST CHOICE FOR COLLEGE WARD



**Julian  
FREEMAN**

**Julian has lived in and around Epsom for 25 years.** He served for 12 years as a Councillor representing Worcester Park on neighbouring Sutton Borough Council. He has also been a **parent governor at Epsom & Ewell High School** and has chaired committees dealing with complex planning applications.

Julian's experience of **volunteer work with the homeless** in Central London led him to pursue a long and varied career in social housing, now leading on major transformation projects within housing for the local government and voluntary sector. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Housing.

**James** was brought up in **Worple Road** and **Chartwell Place** in College Ward, going to school at City of London Freeman's. After attending Cambridge University, James joined **Epsom College** to teach Physics..

James is a keen tennis player at **Alexandra Recreation Ground** most Sundays and, as a former dojo user, is following the progress of the new dojo there.

As well as being a keen follower of **planning issues**, James would like to see our borough council take a more proactive role in providing **housing opportunities** for younger people. He has been leading the recent survey of College Ward residents.



**James  
LAWRENCE**

**Julie has lived in College ward for 50 years** and has been a borough councillor for nearly 20.

She **has led numerous environmental campaigns**, including the campaign against the **Aldi supermarket** in Alexandra Road, a local campaign to stop builders developing **back gardens**, the campaign to preserve part of the **Mill Road railway cutting** as a wildlife sanctuary as well as helping the residents of many roads in College ward deal with **commuter parking** problems.

Julie works as a landscape gardener and has an allotment on the Alexandra site. She is a champion of Epsom town and its market place.



**Julie  
MORRIS**

**FREEMAN, Julian**



**LAWRENCE, James**



**MORRIS, Julie**



## To Contact Us



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