

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

Your Liberal Democrat councillors have voted against Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's Local Plan because Horton Farm, a virgin Green Belt site for 1250 new homes, is included. They argued that we needed to build higher and closer together in the urban environment in order to protect precious Green Belt. RA councillors voted to support the document at a full Council meeting on 10th December.



It's a bigger story than just Horton Farm though. Lib Dems have never agreed with the methods used for calculating housing targets, nor did they agree with the "mix" of some homes on this and other sites which had been allocated for housing.

Time is now running out to get this Local Plan adopted. A statement from the Minister of Housing on 12th December appears to give old-style Local Plans a maximum of 3 months from that date to be submitted.

Adoption is important because, although the Local Plan is far from perfect, it does at least create some local planning policies with which to defend some opportunistic planning applications. The Plan is also not just about housing.

Your Lib Dem councillors persuaded Labour and Conservative councillors to support them in calling for an Emergency Council Meeting (ECM) to send the Local Plan onward to central government as quickly as possible. This could avoid it being judged "non-compliant" with the new housing targets set by the Labour government (which are that we must build 817 new homes per annum).

"If the Local Plan is found non-compliant and submitted too late, the RA Mayor might rue the day he refused to hold an ECM" said Julie Morris.

WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY



It's a bit of a shambles at the end of Tintagel Close, but James Lawrence has been getting the county council to clean up. Work in progress is shown in the photo but James reports that "it really shouldn't have been too difficult and taken so much time and effort to get a response to a simple problem".

Julie Morris put two neighbours in touch so that overhanging foliage could be sorted out.



The new pedestrian lights at the Epsom College junction have been installed at last. The campaign began when Julie and former Liberal Democrat councillor David Gulland were contacted by a wheelchair-bound resident, telling of the difficulty of crossing at this point. A petition was organised and presented to Surrey County Council in 2021. It took a while to find the money, but the work is now complete.



Get in touch with the team



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REPORTING BACK

2024



INSIDE ALL YEAR ROUND HARD WORK

Cllr. JULIAN FREEMAN
Cllr. JAMES LAWRENCE
Cllr. JULIE MORRIS
HELEN MAGUIRE M.P.
and the COLLEGE WARD
Liberal Democrats

CHALK PIT RUMBLES ON



James Lawrence has met with local residents as we continue to receive complaints about noise and dust pollution from the **Chalk Pit in College Road**, now operated by Reston Waste.

We are currently waiting for the County Council to determine the various planning applications that have been submitted for the site.

The borough council is responsible for certain types of enforcement but it is an uphill struggle and though the site is in an adjacent ward, it is College Ward residents who suffer.

MORE WOOF IN NONSUCH



The Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee, including its former chairman **Julian Freeman**, has launched a 12-month pilot Commercial Dog Walking Licensing Scheme.

"We have made sure to involve professional dog walkers right from the outset," says **Julian**. "Not only were they open to the principle of the scheme, they positively endorsed it."

An annual licence will cost £200 and limits the number of dogs to a maximum of six. Dog walkers must provide proof of public liability insurance, risk assessments and sign an agreement. This does not, of course, apply to private dog walkers.

RA COUNCIL ABANDONS EPSOM



The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge against new developments to provide new or better facilities for local residents.

Your College Ward councillors helped with several bids for improvements in the Epsom area, but not a single one was approved by the Residents Association Council. In fact, there wasn't a single successful bid from the "strategic" CIL fund that will benefit Epsom.

- ▶ For the second time in 3 years **Julie** put forward a bid for **new notice boards for allotment sites** (see photo above). The bid failed. But persistence has paid off and the Council has now funded new notice boards from a different pot. They will be installed this winter.
- ▶ At the suggestion of a young resident aged 11 (see photo below), **James** and **Julie** made a bid for **cricket nets** in Alexandra Rec.
- ▶ A bid for a new building for the **Martial Arts Dojo** in Alexandra Rec failed to get final approval by one vote, after an RA Councillor voted in favour of the bid at one meeting, then against at another. We will try again next year.
- ▶ Bids to resurface, clean or re-line **tennis courts** around the Borough were rejected. We did manage to secure cleaning of the courts in Alexandra Rec after players started slipping over.

ALDI RUMBLES ON TOO!



Aldi has submitted its Appeal against a second refusal of planning permission on the old dairy site. **Julie Morris** has fronted the opposition for a large group of objectors since 2016. (The photo is from that date.) No date has yet been set for the Appeal. Meanwhile, a group of local residents is gathering evidence on the hazardous junction here.

Congratulations to Michaela and Erik, owners of Park View Cafe in Alexandra Rec. They won the Epsom & Ewell Overall Business Award this year. Your Councillors say: "You work incredibly hard and provide us all with a simply great cafe. Thank you from College Ward residents!"



BIKES ON PAVEMENTS



"Surrey County Council owns the pavements and roads in the town centre, so it should find dedicated parking places for these bikes," says **James**. "We highlighted this problem two years ago and still nothing has happened. There are county council elections in 2025, so residents can say what they think of the current administration."

KEEP IT SECRET



Your councillors continue to battle against **Town Hall "secrecy"**. We have consistently refused to support agenda items being debated in private. However, we do now seem to have persuaded the ruling RA group that the specific reasons for discussing matters in private should be published and made absolutely clear to all those either attending or listening to the meeting.



"We're not going to give up on getting a fair deal for College Ward" said Julie. "It took two attempts to get CCTV for Alexandra Rec. We will be bidding for funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy pot again next year for this scheme."

*All credit to **Christopher Steedman** (left), who suggested the installation of cricket nets in Alexandra Rec. We will be bidding for funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy pot again next year for this scheme.*