

## GOOD NEWS FOR KENT ELMS JUNCTION

Cllr Rob McMullan reports: The Council has agreed to some changes to make the Kent Elms Junction safer. This is following pressure from local residents and Eastwood's Lib Dem Councillors. The "3 into 2" merge lanes, Southend bound, outside Essex Ford are being scrapped. The inside lane approaching the traffic lights from London will be made into a dedicated left turn lane into Rayleigh Road. Dave Poulton and myself have a commitment from the Highways Department to have all the road markings approaching the junction repainted. However, there is still more to do, and we are pushing for a dedicated green filter light for traffic turning right out of Rayleigh Road onto the A127 towards London.



Cllr Rob McMullan with Dave Poulton at Kent Elms junction

# Eastwood Park FOCUS

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SPRING 2024

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## DAVE POULTON STANDING TO BE EASTWOOD'S NEXT COUNCILLOR

**Good News for Whitehouse Road.** Flashing solar powered speed limit signs will be installed along the road to warn speeding drivers to slow down and will help cut the number of vehicles speeding along Whitehouse Road.

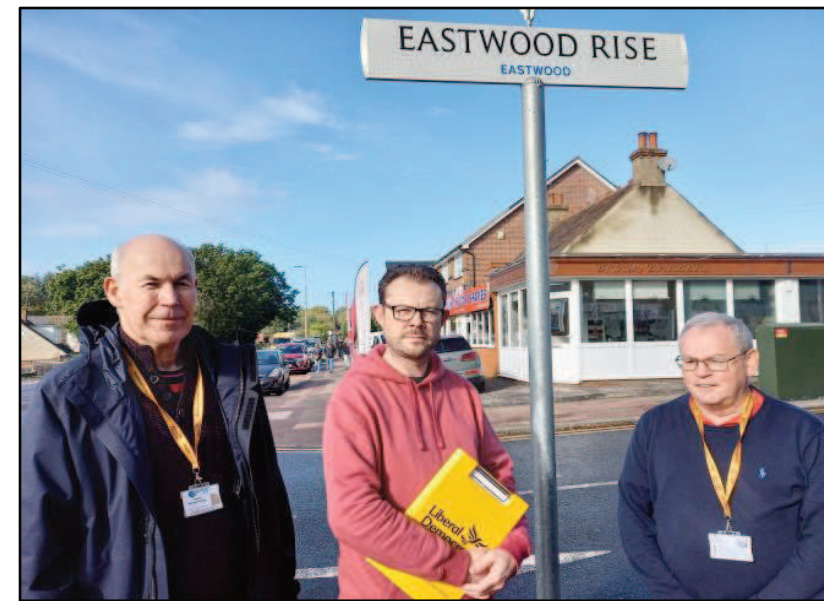
**Green Lane and Wren Avenue.** Speed surveys are being carried out along these roads after pressure from Dave Poulton and your Eastwood Park Liberal Democrat Councillors, following requests from local residents.

## Dave Poulton – Working for Eastwood Residents

Dave is standing for election on May 2nd, and over the past year he has been helping Eastwood residents and Community with their problems. Now he needs your support - Will you be voting for Dave? Please let him know.

Contact details are below. Can you support Dave by helping to deliver our Focus leaflet or putting up a window poster for him?

**Eastwood Park Liberal Democrat Team: Always here to help!**



This is how Eastwood voted last year

<b>Paul Collins</b>	
<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	<b>1786</b>
Conservative	626
Labour	133
Green	54
Confelicity	40



New rules were introduced last year by the Tory Government which mean that we must all show a form of identity, with a photo, when we go to vote! A passport, driving licence, pensioner's bus pass or similar will do - or there's a new Voter Authority Certificate form you can apply for.

Last year a significant number of people were turned away from Polling Stations due to not having an acceptable form of ID.

If you are going to be away, or can't get to your Polling Station on the 2nd May, you can also apply for a Postal Vote.

Phone the Council's Electoral Services Office on 01702 215010 or [Email elections@Southend.gov.uk](mailto:elections@Southend.gov.uk) for information and assistance. **ACT NOW - we don't want to see you banned from voting!**

Eastwood Park Liberal Democrats are delighted to announce that local resident and campaigner Dave Poulton has been chosen to be our Candidate in the forthcoming City Elections following the remaining Conservative Councillors' decision to step down. Dave has been working with Eastwood's two existing Liberal Democrat Councillors, Paul Collins and Rob McMullan on a number of local issues including speeding and road safety, campaigning to keep our library and Family Centre open, and defending our Parks. Paul and Rob said "We are delighted that Dave is standing to join us in representing you on Southend City Council and to speak up for the people of Eastwood. He is a brilliant campaigner and will make an excellent Councillor. Please support Dave Poulton in the Council Election on Thursday May 2nd."



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### FOCUS EDITOR DAVE POULTON

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### Eastwood Park Lib Dem Surgeries / Meet Your Councillor sessions twice each month!

2nd Saturday: Kent Elms Library, 10-12 noon  
4th Saturday: The Oakwood, 10-12 noon

You can always contact us about issues, or report them directly on the Council website at "MySouthend" (but let us know so we are aware and can follow up your problem)

Can you help deliver our Focus leaflets in your neighbourhood? Would you like to join the Liberal Democrats? Please contact Paul, Rob or Dave!


**SEE INSIDE – FOR ISSUES THAT DAVE POULTON HAS BEEN WORKING ON**

# SUPPORT DAVE POULTON & STRENGTHEN THE LIB DEM TEAM IN EASTWOOD

## CONSERVATIVE BUDGET PUTS PRESSURE ON PARKING CHARGES

Southend's Conservative-led Council is proposing to put up the cost of the hugely popular Southend Pass by a whopping 25%! They will also charge an extra 10% for permits in Resident-only Zones and car park season tickets are going up by 10% too. Eastwood residents who use the Southend Pass can park for up to three hours in car parks across the City. Rayleigh Road car park will remain free for one hour (remember to get a ticket from the machine). But the Tories will make it more expensive to park in ALL CAR PARKS for Southend Pass AND season ticket holders. All this to allow the Tories to boast they are keeping seafront parking charges unchanged. Why are local residents being asked to subsidise out of city visitors and to keep the Tories' friends, the seafront traders, happy?



UP  25%

## CONSERVATIVE PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS FOR 2024

Cllr Paul Collins writes "The Conservative administration's proposed Budget for 2024 has a line for Branch Library review with a reduction from five to three open Branch Libraries across the City. Kent Elms and Leigh Libraries were being looked at as becoming the only one Branch library open in the west of the City. Your Councillors and campaigners made strong representations to the Council Officers tasked with these Draft Budget proposals and made it clear that it would be a disaster to lose either one for our community. I am pleased to report that this proposal is now shelved for the moment, but it is still a threat for the future. Your Lib Dem Councillors will remain vigilant and watch future Budget proposals, just in case!"



Cllr Paul Collins with Dave Poulton at Kent Elms Library

**PAY MORE ££££ FOR LESS WITH THE CONSERVATIVES**

## Threat to our Parks from the Tories

Southend's Conservative-led Council is proposing to slash £250,000 from the Parks Budget from April. Dave Poulton said "I am really worried that we'll see far less work done in our Parks as a result of these cuts.

Will we see fewer flowers and trees planted and maintained? Will our play equipment and fences go unrepaired?"

No details have been given of how the cuts will be made, only vague comments from the Tory Cabinet Member of hoping to keep the impact to a minimum. It's almost certain that jobs will be lost.

"We are proud of Eastwood's parks and green spaces – they deserve more investment. Not less!" says Dave

In opposition the Tories had promised to plant more and protect our parks and green spaces.

**Another broken Tory Promise!**

*The Eastwood Park Liberal Democrat Team L to R*

*Cllr Rob McMullan  
Dave Poulton  
Cllr Paul Collins*



## TORIES TO CUT FAMILY CENTRES? Dave Poulton writes:

Following a review of services across Southend, the Conservative administration have proposed a number of changes to the Family Centres with cuts of up £420,000 per year. These Centres provide vital support for pregnant women and families with children under five. They also deliver the Healthy Start programme and address issues such as food poverty and emotional well-being.

Eastwood's Family Centre, which operates out of Eastwood Primary School, is one of the Centres under review. I attended a Consultation meeting in January and had the opportunity to look at the scheme in greater detail, as well as ask questions. It is clear that following this meeting there are significant cuts planned to Family Centres across Southend and these cuts may affect Eastwood with support reduced or even withdrawn.



I raised concerns that if services were moved to another Centre, such as Blenheim, then parents may struggle to access these services due to the inadequacy of direct public transport from Eastwood. The Tory Cabinet have made it clear that the results of the consultation will not be binding.



## Conservatives' U-Turn on rubbish collections

Last year, when in opposition, Southend's Tories promised to continue weekly rubbish collections and to keep the current bags. Now, they are in control of the Council, they have announced a complete U-Turn and will introduce fortnightly collections and move over to Wheelie Bins from next year. The Conservatives were so opposed to this in opposition that they forced a number of blocking votes at Council that delayed the process of choosing a new waste collection contractor after Veolia had given notice to quit the contract from October 2023. The result in the delays meant that the Council had to pay out an **extra £1.3 million** a year of your money for a temporary extension to the current contract to ensure that waste collections continued until a new waste contractor is appointed.

Dave Poulton says "The Tories have let the residents of Southend down with their broken promises! Can you trust them?"

Now is the time for all Councillors to work together to ensure an affordable and efficient new waste contract is in place to minimise any disruption that this will cause to residents.

## TORY ELECTION PROMISES – BROKEN!

### 1 KEEPING WEEKLY WASTE COLLECTIONS

Southend Conservatives have opposed the introduction of fortnightly waste collections. If we regain control of the Council, we will keep weekly collections in any new contract.