

Belfairs & Blenheim Park

FOCUS



Liberal Democrats

Summer 2020

www.southendlibdems.org.uk

Southend Airport – fewer night flights!

For months now residents all over Leigh and beyond have been suffering sleep deprivation due to the overnight movements at the Airport in connection with Amazon flights.



The dipping in and out of sleep affects many people, while others are able to sleep through it.

It is a question of striking a balance to help those worse affected.

Back in 2011 the then Tory administration, against Lib Dem opposition led by Cllr Peter Wexham, signed an agreement with the Airport allowing night time movements to a maximum of 120 monthly.

This hadn't been a real problem until last year with the onset of Amazon flights during the night.

Led by Carole Mulroney, your Lib Dem Councillors, working with other groups in the Joint Administration, sought changes from the Airport, not just in terms of night flights but also their overall environmental effects. Although we have consistently opposed night flights, we want the Airport to work for everyone because it brings many benefits to the Borough for residents, businesses and visitors, and a balance has to be struck.

After much conversation with the Airport, it was this group of councillors who suggested the spacing of the flights to allow for unbroken sleep and we are delighted to say that this has borne fruit and the flights have been reduced and spaced out with no flights between 00:20 and 06:45 each night. That is just for Amazon flights, and there may well be some times when there will be exceptions to this. And, because it is not possible to write this into the agreement, things could change, but we will be monitoring activities very closely.

Lib Dem group leader Carole Mulroney says "We will always put our residents first, whether this is over night flights, or the Environmental Action Plan the Airport has agreed to at my request. This shows that through negotiation the Airport can change and can move forward to work for everyone. I look forward to seeing the Airport's draft Environmental Action Plan and hope that we can now continue on a more collegiate working relationship."

The Liberal Democrats will use any personal data we collect in accordance with our privacy policy at www.libdems.org.uk/privacy. To exercise your legal data rights, email data.protection@libdems.org.uk

BELOW: Liberal Democrat Councillors working for you for a better Southend



What did the Council do for us during the coronavirus crisis?

Southend Council's Joint Administration, that includes Liberal Democrat councillors, has been working non-stop throughout lockdown and now as we ease back towards normality to do the best it can for the people of Southend.

- Southend Coronavirus Action supported **over 1,100 households** with tasks including delivering emergency food parcels, shopping and medication
- Over **120 rough sleepers** found emergency accommodation
- £35 million in grants paid out to **small businesses**
- **200, 000 items of PPE** sourced and distributed
- Support given to known previous sufferers of **domestic abuse**
- Supported local **COVID testing** at Southend Airport
- Your **waste collections** maintained throughout lockdown
- and much more.

We want to say a huge **thank you** to everybody who has helped keep the country going during this incredibly difficult time – health workers, retailers, waste collectors and many others. Also a huge thank you to everybody who has followed the social distancing guidelines and helped prevent the situation from being even worse.

Can the trust be trusted?

On 1 April this year Southend Hospital became part of the Mid and South Essex Hospital Trust. We fear that many services for Southend residents will start being provided at Basildon or Broomfield Hospitals rather than here in Southend.

Already a significant number of critical care beds at Southend are being transferred to Basildon. Southend's 14 beds across the Intensive Therapy and High Dependency Units are already reducing and staff will have to work at Basildon on rotation at a new 'super-COVID' ITU accommodating up to 26 COVID positive patients in preparation for a second wave.

The worry for all of us is that Southend Hospital risks gradually being dismantled, as we feared would happen following merger, and that there will be a move to transfer blue light, A & E, renal and respiratory care to Basildon.

Your Liberal Democrat team will do our damndest to keep services in Southend wherever possible.

Like what you see?

Why not join the Lib Dems?

libdems.org.uk/join

Not ready to join yet? If you could help our campaigns by delivering some leaflets in your area please email:

info@southendlibdems.org.uk

Want to know more?

www.libdems.org.uk

Can we help you? Contact local Lib Dem leader Cllr Carole Mulroney

cllrmulroney@southend.gov.uk

07766 754073