

# FOCUS

## On Chalkwell



Winter 2019



## Demanding Better for Chalkwell

Chalkwell Liberal Democrats have chosen well-known local campaigner **Jill Allen-King OBE** as their candidate for this year's local elections.

Locally born and bred, Jill has lived in Westcliff for 56 years. Awarded the OBE for her voluntary work in 2012, one of her proudest achievements is playing a leading role in the introduction of tactile paving at pedestrian crossings.

Jill is currently working for local residents on local train and bus user groups, and hopes to be able to use her skills and experience to fight for Chalkwell residents on Southend Council.

## Bus users left behind in Chalkwell

**Jill Allen-King** is calling for better bus services for Chalkwell. She wants to see:

- Regular bus services to Chalkwell and Westcliff Stations
- Regular buses along Chalkwell Avenue and the seafront
- A direct service to Southend Hospital



The seafront at Chalkwell. Take a good book if you're planning to catch a bus — no buses until the summer!

This was her response to Essex County Council's current consultation about bus services. Jill says '*we need better buses in this area. 27% of households in Chalkwell, like mine, have no access to a car. And we must be the only seaside resort in the country without regular buses along the seafront!*'

## Have *your* say

Everyone is welcome to contact Essex County Council with their views. The consultation is open until 22 March 2019. The easiest way to take part is online at [www.essex.gov.uk/local-bus-consultation](http://www.essex.gov.uk/local-bus-consultation) - you can also find a consultation letter in your local library or ask for one by phoning: **0345 743 0430**.

You can also have your say by joining the Southend Area Bus Users Group. Membership is just £4 per year. If interested Jill Allen-King is on the current committee: contact her on the details overleaf.

### Help Jill's campaign!!

Could you help Jill's campaign by:

Delivering some leaflets in your road?  
Displaying a poster at election time?

Please get in touch – contact details overleaf.

### Join the Party!!

Like what you see?

Why not join the Lib Dems?

[www.libdems.org.uk/join](http://www.libdems.org.uk/join)

### Overleaf

- C2C update
- More about Jill
- Pavement Problems
- Council's property gamble

£20m property punt is astonishing and reckless!

Tory Council Gambling with your services



Tory-led Southend Council plans to borrow over £20 million to speculate in the commercial property market. They hope to earn profits to make up for the loss of Government grant. But the only way they can earn returns higher than their borrowing costs is to take on extra risks. This move is very surprising as the Government has recently warned Councils not to risk tax-payers’ money in this way.

Recent Government Guidance was “very clear that local authorities must not borrow more than or in advance of their needs purely in order to profit from the investment of extra sums borrowed”. **Local Liberal Democrat leader Councillor Carole Mulroney** says: *“Although some years ago this was thought to be a way forward, in these uncertain times it is astonishing that the Tories should be so reckless as to ignore recent Government warnings. What do they know about the commercial property market? If money is lost on these investments it will be the Council tax payer and our services that will suffer.”*

Let’s get the basics right

Jill says *“I had a nasty fall on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and am still recovering. I was relatively lucky and needed no NHS treatment, but often people do fall on uneven pavements and, as well as suffering pain, can cost the NHS thousands of pounds. I would like to see the Council spend less on grand projects and more on the basics, like repairing uneven pavements.”*

You can contact Jill :-  
by phone on 01702 477899  
By e-mail to [jill.allenking@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jill.allenking@tiscali.co.uk)  
Or write to Jill at :  
59 Silversea Drive, Westcliff on Sea, SS0 9XD




C2C in line for improvements

News from the C2C passenger panel

Barking and Fenchurch Street stations are both scheduled to be refurbished later this year. It is planned that most work will take place at weekends during the summer – with services diverted to Liverpool Street on those days.  
Grays and Ockendon stations are also due to be refurbished soon.  
The Department for Transport is still looking at plans for a new lift at **Chalkwell Station** – we will of course let you know as soon as there is any definite news.  
**Jill Allen-King** is currently Chair of the C2C Passenger Panel; please contact her with any suggestions.

Jill Allen-King OBE – The Best Choice for Chalkwell

About Jill



- Born and bred in Southend
- **Lived in Westcliff for 56 years**
- 7 years working as a chef in London
- Went blind in 1964
- 7 years housebound before getting 1<sup>st</sup> guide dog following her daughter’s birth
- Launched Southend branch of National Federation of the Blind in 1974
- Founder member of Southend Access Committee
- Rep with Royal National Institute for the Blind for 30 years
- Worked with Department for Transport for 20 years, **playing a key role in the introduction of tactile paving at pedestrian crossings and low floor buses**
- Chair of European Blind Union Commission on Mobility and Guide Dogs for 16 years
- Trustee of Research Institute for Disabled Consumers for 15 years
- **Patron of Trustlinks**, the local mental health charity
- Produced a tape magazine for blind people on mobility and transport for the charity Living Without Sight for 15 years
- Awarded MBE in 1983
- **Awarded OBE in 2012**
- Well-known local campaigner
- Experienced working within Government
- Proven history of action and results

Jill says, *‘I would like to use my skills and experience to fight for the people of Chalkwell. Please consider supporting me in this year’s election.’*

CAN YOU READ THIS?

If you, or someone you know, has difficulty reading our leaflets, please let Jill know and we will provide an audio version.