

Eastwood Park FOCUS

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Liberal Democrats



APRIL 2021
SPECIAL ISSUE

On 6 May

SOUTHEND BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – EASTWOOD PARK

ELECT ROB TO WORK ALONGSIDE PAUL



Cllr Paul Collins

+



Rob McMullan

=

**A Second
Strong
Voice to
Speak Up
For YOU!**

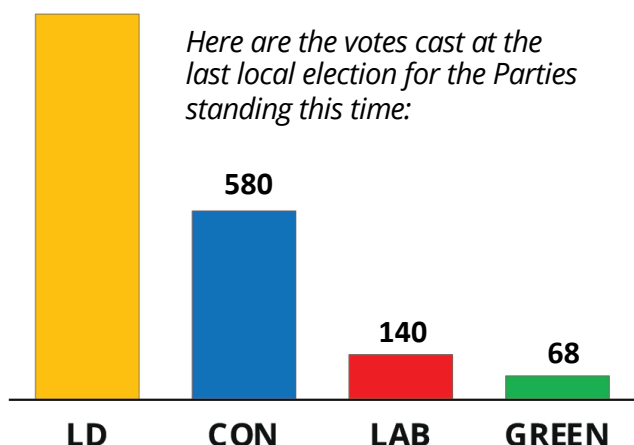
In the last local election in 2019, Liberal Democrat Paul Collins was elected by a huge majority as the new Councillor for Eastwood Park. And over the past two years, we've benefited from Paul's hard work, perseverance and non-stop campaigning on our behalf. Local people say they really notice the difference!

On Thursday, 6 May we have the opportunity to elect Rob McMullan as another hard-working Lib Dem Councillor to work for all of us, alongside Paul, and do the best for Eastwood Park.

It's a 2-HORSE RACE!

Only LibDem Rob McMullan or the Conservative can win.

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Here are the votes cast at the last local election for the Parties standing this time:

Cllr Paul Collins says: "There's always a lot to do to make sure Eastwood Park gets its fair share of resources, funding and investment – and to speak up for you on local issues. With Rob and I working together, we can provide an even stronger voice, as you deserve."

"I've known Rob for over 30 years and recommend him to you wholeheartedly. He is already working hard with me to get the results that matter to you. On Thursday 6 May, I hope you vote for Rob McMullan and help elect another hardworking Councillor for Eastwood Park."

IF ROB WINS, YOU WIN!

On 6 May

Vote for Rob McMullan

Liberal Democrat

A strong voice for Eastwood Park – and he won't disappear after getting elected

WE DEMAND THE BEST FOR EASTWOOD PARK AND SOUTHEND

Southend **Liberal Democrats**
Investing in a **greener future**

GREEN PRIORITIES STAY TOP OF THE AGENDA

Eastwood Park Lib Dems regularly report back to you in FOCUS and on Facebook on tree planting in our local parks, open spaces and roadside, say Cllr Paul Collins and Rob McMullan.

Working with Cllr Carole Mulroney and the town's other Lib Dems, we're pleased to lead on the Council's commitment to increase tree canopy cover across the Borough by planting hundreds more trees and thousands of new shrubs this year – all helping to reduce air pollution alongside other strategies around biodiversity and waste recycling.

The new budget adds to this, committing to:

Southend's Green City Action Plan, which contains innovative projects to improve the environment and give us a Pathway to Net Zero Carbon

PlastiCity, a project working with our European neighbours in France, Belgium and the Netherlands to increase the amount of plastic that is recycled

£1.8 million capital investment for other initiatives to help the environment, like air quality measurement, electric vehicle (EV) charging projects and solar panels

£3.9 million capital investment for Southend's coastal defences and cliff stabilisation

Our Lib Dem Councillors are also championing School Streets to make going to school safer for residents, parents and pupils and are progressing with proposals to pilot 20mph zones in residential streets.



Budget builds for the future, but still best value!

Southend Borough Council's Joint Administration, where Liberal Democrats play a major part, has put together a careful budget that delivers on key priorities.

Most of the small rise in Council Tax over last year – less than 4% – is a direct result of the Government shifting more of the cost of social care onto local councils. But don't take our word for it:

'... much of the increase is down to the fact that ministers have passed on responsibility for raising funds for England's social care system to town halls, rather than increasing grants.' Daily Mail, 25 March 2021

No-one wants to pay Council Tax, but **Eastwood Park families still pay £138 LESS than if they lived in neighbouring Conservative-run Rochford (AND our streetlights stay on all night for added safety)!**

Even so, Southend is investing in our future. "Residents want much more from their Council than the neglect and mismanagement of the Conservatives in the past," explain Rob McMullan and Cllr Paul Collins. "The Lib Dem Councillors, working within the Joint Administration, have agreed a budget which improves our environment, cares about vital local services and housing, will repair our roads and pavements and invests in much, much more – even new trains for our famous Pier."

Don't let the Conservatives cut services again!

PARKING – STILL FREE IN 2 KEY LOCAL CAR PARKS!

Thanks to prompt action by Cllr Paul Collins, plans to introduce charges at Eastwood Park's Rayleigh Road and Pargat Drive car parks were nipped in the bud – **both car parks, essential for local residents and businesses, will stay FREE to use.**

What about the new Southend Pass? A great innovative idea from the Joint Administration! **Rob McMullan explains:** "The Pass costs £8.50 a month by direct debit and allows everyone to park for up to 3 hours free in any Council car park or street parking bay across the Borough, every day. If you want to stay longer, just 'top up' by paying the normal rate. All car parks will now be free of charge after 6pm, great for going to an evening film or show at the Odeon or Cliffs Pavilion, a meal at a restaurant on the seafront, or catching waves on the beach."

Rob adds: "With the Pass, you can move between car parks in different zones. So you could park for 3 hours in Leigh then the Central High St car parks to shop, then park on the seafront or go to any of the other zones, all for no cost." Most main car park charges will stay the same or go down.



The main change will be the "Central Seafront Zone", although charges are in line with many other seaside towns (and cheaper than some). With the Southend Pass, seafront parking from midday for the rest of the day would cost just £6.50. **"Not a bad bargain", says Rob.** In line with many major seaside resorts, visitors staying in participating hotels qualify for a 50% reduction.



GETTING RID OF THE POTHOLES

A 'game-changing' £50 million is being invested over 5 years to upgrade roads and pavements across Southend.

"This much-needed new investment will help reverse the neglected state of our pavements, verges and roads" says Cllr Paul Collins. **"Unbelievably, one Conservative councillor recently had the nerve to suggest potholes helped road safety by stopping speeding!"**

"We know a lot about neglected pavements, roads and verges in Eastwood Park, but we don't make silly excuses to avoid getting the job done!" notes Rob McMullan. "Working alongside Cllr Paul Collins, I've seen for myself just how many repairs and resurfacing jobs he has succeeded in having done in roads right across the ward. But there's always more to do! Please tell us of issues in your road so we can ensure they are on the action list".



Rob McMullan and Paul Collins are also pushing for overdue action on dangerous driving and speeding in Green Lane and Whitehouse Road. "We'll keep up the pressure to have this sorted. We have started with a large number of junction protections put in across Eastwood."

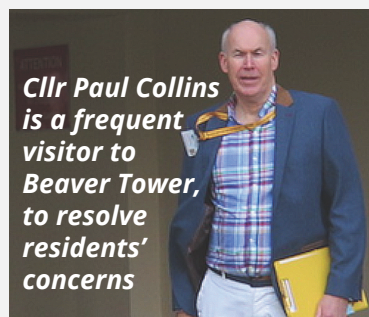
Crime & Safety

Here in Eastwood Park we are working with the Police to tackle crime. We've secured CCTV for Beaver Tower and increased police patrols around the area.

We know residents are worried about crime and we're pushing for more resources after years of cuts under the Conservatives – police numbers in Essex have been CUT by over 300 officers since 2010.

There is money in the Council Budget, waiting for the police to call on us. But policing is ultimately the responsibility of the Government and the Conservative Police Fire & Crime Commissioner, not the Council. Please judge the Conservatives by what they do, not what they say.

STOP PRESS: Lib Dem Rob McMullan and Cllr Paul Collins are working with the Council leader for Community Safety Officers to find a base for their staff in the Eastwood area. Go to our Facebook Pages for regular updates on this important news.



Elect Rob McMullan to Work For you in Eastwood Park

Rob McMullan knows Eastwood Park like the back of his hand!

He went to Eastwood Primary School and lived here for over 25 years. "My mum lives in Eastwood Park so I'm always here and know the problems that many of our older residents face," says Rob.

As a city commuter – at least, outside of lockdown – Rob McMullan currently lives closer to Leigh station for early morning starts. But Eastwood is "home", as his many friends across the ward will agree.

Says Rob: "In my spare time I've been a long-suffering Southend United season ticket holder for over 20 years. I'm also a private pilot flying from Southend Airport so I get to enjoy a unique view of the area. I can see the benefits that a thriving Airport brings although am aware we need to address the environmental aspect and impact of night flights."



"I've seen how Paul Collins' hard work for Eastwood Park is bringing about so many positive changes here – a real improvement on Conservative Councillors who people say disappear from view once they're elected. With Lib Dem Councillors like Paul at the heart of the Joint Administration, Eastwood Park is no longer the forgotten corner of the Borough. I'm looking forward to joining Paul on Southend Council, to speak up for local people."

"With your support on 6 May, I will work alongside Councillor Paul Collins to be a strong voice for Eastwood Park in the ward and the Council chamber."

R: Campaigning against the 66-foot 5G mast, Rochford Corner

L: Inspecting pavements for repair, Tudor Road

Rob McMullan says: "I'm already working with Cllr Paul Collins on improvements to our local parks, on street tree planting, and to have poorly maintained pavements and roads repaired – and I played an active part helping local residents fight the 66-foot 5G mast proposed for Rochford Corner."



Rob's prompt action at Rochford Corner gets results!

"I'm delighted to have had the damage made by lorries to the verge and slip road running up to Rochford Corner sorted out as a matter of urgency."

"Thanks to local residents for alerting me without delay!"

R: Paul Collins inspects the thorough work prompted by Rob McMullan's intervention



IF ROB WINS, YOU WIN!

**On 6 May
Vote for Rob McMullan
Liberal Democrat**

**A strong voice for
Eastwood Park – and
a second active Councillor!**

WE'RE FOLLOWING ALL THE RULES! This leaflet was paid for by Eastwood Park Liberal Democrats and delivered by volunteers and supporters, complying with all Covid protocols. During lockdown, we published FOCUS leaflets online. Some letters to individual households were delivered by a professional delivery company (as allowed by the Government Guidelines). The cost was covered by our own fundraising.

Eastwood Park Liberal Democrat Team – Here to Help!

Find us on Facebook: **Cllr Paul Collins & The Eastwood Park Focus Team OR Rob McMullan For Eastwood Park**



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