

# YOUR VOTE DOES COUNT!

This year's Council election in Eastwood Park is shaping up to be very exciting! Liberal Democrat **Paul Collins** is well positioned to challenge the Tories. And it's a two-horse race between the Lib Dems and the Tories – no other candidate has a chance.

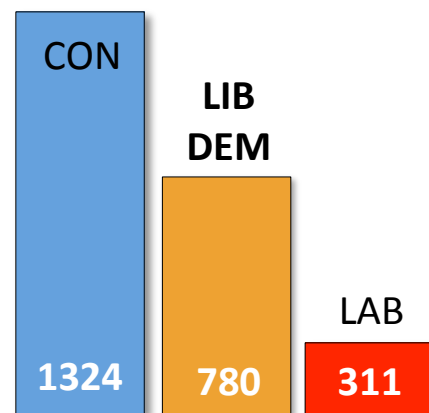
## Eastwood Park Tories in turmoil

Eastwood Park's previous Tory Councillor is not standing for re-election – at least, not for that party. After resigning from the Conservatives, he told the *Echo* the local Tories had let the people down, prompting the Tory Council Deputy Leader to comment "it is like he is criticising himself."

The new "Conservative" candidate is an ex-Socialist Mayor who lives in Kursaal – in 2015, she told her voters her aim was to serve according to Labour Party values. Then she switched parties while a serving Councillor, now she wants to find a 'safe' home.

"Beware candidates that switch parties and allegiances, purely to maintain their political career. Don't allow your vote to be taken for granted," says Paul Collins. "I'm determined to stand up for Eastwood Park and make sure we are represented by someone who cares about Eastwood first and is a key part of our Community."

Look at the result in Eastwood Park in 2018



## Eastwood Park UPDATE - Paul's current activity

- ★ Action has been taken to serve a notice to stop selling secondhand motor vehicles outside the former McColl's Site
- ★ The "Bring Back the 23A Bus To Leigh" Campaign has received support from Leigh Town Council and the Southend Area Bus User Group, and Arriva has called for the survey completed by Residents – see full story on p3!
- ★ Paul has challenged the Council to ensure the road works along Rayleigh Road at Rochford Corner cause as little disruption as possible to the local shops & residents
- ★ Below: Paul joined the Snow Wardens in Southend to help residents in Eastwood



## DEMAND BETTER!

### Southend's Liberal Democrat Team

#### Eastwood Park: Paul COLLINS

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**We're here to help and to keep you informed. Working to make Eastwood Park a better place to live and work**

# Eastwood Park FOCUS



# DEMAND BETTER

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## SOUTHEND COUNCIL ELECTION MAY 2nd



**Eastwood Park  
will be voting for  
a new Councillor!**

**VOTE for  
Paul COLLINS**

Paul Collins



I understand Eastwood Park well – I've lived in Eastwood for 26 years, raising our three boys with my wife, Donna, serving as Governor of Heycroft School for the past 19 years and being one of the proud founding members of the new Eastwood Community Association.

I commute to London from Eastwood and know what it's like to spend many hours travelling every week. But I still want to invest my time in our neighbourhood to improve it for all. I'm concerned about our roads and the challenges of getting across the A127 every day, either by bus or car.

**DEMAND BETTER!** This election on May 2nd is all about the direction Southend-on-Sea is going to take over the next few years. You can expect to see a number of references to Brexit, but this Election will not have any impact on that. I am – again! – the only Candidate on your Ballot Paper that lives in Eastwood and not parachuted in from the Kursaal, as the Conservative Candidate has been.

"I am frustrated with the local Conservative administration where they have put people off visiting Southend High Street with high parking charges and proposing buildings that may or may not be of benefit to the High Street. I understand people are now frightened to go to Southend because of the knife crime epidemic" – those are not my words, but those of the outgoing Eastwood Park Conservative Councillor! What a terrible commentary on his own Party's actions and inactions, supposedly when he was a senior member.

I want to stand up for Eastwood and Southend, and I urge all my fellow Eastwood residents, leave National Politics behind and **DEMAND BETTER from Southend Council!**

# "These are my aims for Eastwood Park and Southend"



**Paul Collins says:** "These are some of the key concerns facing Eastwood Park and Southend. To find out more about what Southend Liberal Democrats stand for, read our 2019 local manifesto at [www.southendlibdems.org.uk](http://www.southendlibdems.org.uk) or go to my Facebook page."

**Crime** remains a great concern and we were delighted that the Eastwood Community Association brought the needs of Eastwood to the attention of Essex Police with their increased presence in the area and at the Community meetings.

**Transport** We need a strategic review of access to our town, together with central government and other local authorities and an integrated transport policy to address the increasing congestion problems we all experience, and the rising concern of air pollution linked to traffic.

**Kent Elms has overrun in time and money and is a disgrace to the Tory Administration.**

**I pledge to work to improve public transport, and to promote the "Bring Back the 23A Bus To Leigh" Campaign, to restore the bus link between Eastwood & Leigh-on-Sea Town Centre**

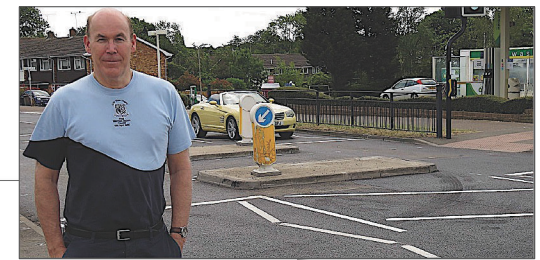


**Employment opportunities** As a local School Governor, I am tasked to ensure our local children are prepared for our working environment. I want to work for local, secure employment. This is a key point for me and when elected, I will be working with the Council Officers to make this a priority for our young people.

Meanwhile, Eastwood's 4 schools (Eastwood Primary & Nursery, Eastwood Academy, Heycroft and Prince Avenue) are suffering from funding cuts, **a fact which should shame Southend's Conservative Councillors and the Government.**

**Housing** As our population continues to expand there is an increasing demand for social and truly affordable housing in the town. We need to ensure that developments utilise existing 'brown field' development areas and provide a range of housing to meet the needs of all our residents and remain vigilant of our Green Belt land

**Highways - Fill in our pot holes!** I was pleased Rayleigh Road (right) was one of the first roads repaired after my intervention last year. I'm aiming for Green Lane to be done next!



**Oakwood Pelican Crossing:** This picture also shows the Pelican Crossing close to the Oakwood in Rayleigh Road that was out of action for weeks due to a power failure. Because councillors seemed unable to help, residents asked **Paul Collins** to step in. Paul negotiated a work around solution with Council Officers to have the power restored by redirecting the electrical supply from a lamp post.

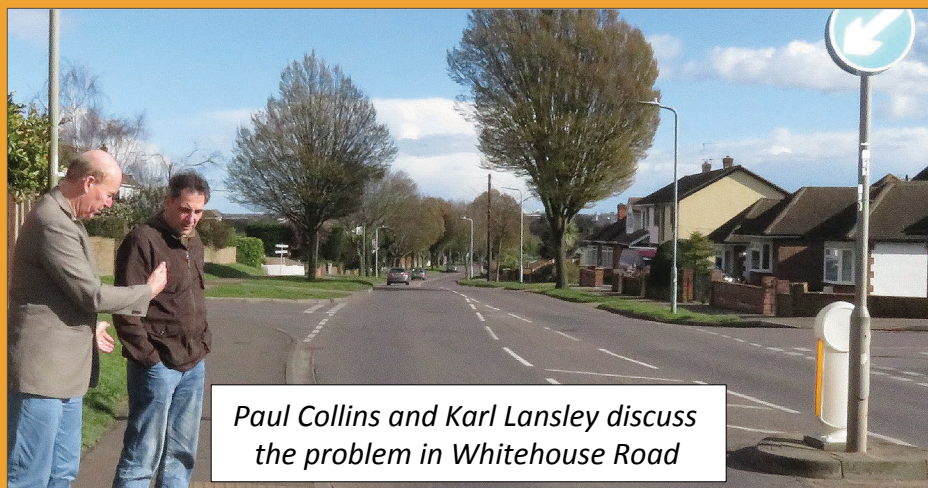
## WHAT'S HOLDING UP PETITIONS ACTION?

**Paul Collins** and Karl Lansley (Lib Dem candidate in next-door St Laurence), report back on the two petitions submitted to the Council by Lib Dem Cllr Carole Mulroney on behalf of local residents. Over 500 names were included in the petitions regarding the Western Approaches crossing and improvements to the safety of Whitehouse Road.

Conservative & Eastwood Park Councillor Cllr Moring is allegedly "sympathetic", but since the remit of the Traffic Regulations Working Party (which he chairs) was changed after the petitions were submitted, there is now apparently no forum for requests which don't meet the newly-agreed criteria. (Ed: We have no idea what this actually means, other than NO ...)

It's said not to be a financial matter, but the Council believes that any crossing in the Borough will generate an average of 1 accident a year. This may be due to late stopping where a crossing has very limited use and local drivers become accustomed to no-one being there. This can result in accidents where previously there were none, which is why the threshold is set.

Paul and Karl, along with Kev Malone and Cllr Carole Mulroney, will not give up – they will keep up the pressure on the Tory Administration. Perhaps they don't understand the dangers of crossing Western Approaches by the Surgery and Whitehouse Road by Blatches Chase.



Paul Collins and Karl Lansley discuss the problem in Whitehouse Road

## Residents' fury as Tories try to hijack campaign

**A peaceful campaign by local residents on Saturday 30 March attracted more attention than they expected!** A meeting in Rayleigh Road for photos with LibDem campaigner **Paul Collins** to support his call to "**Bring Back the 23A Bus To Leigh**" was suddenly invaded by 5 Tory Councillors from different wards – plus one Independent – all eager to be included in the pictures!

This bad behaviour upset some of the group, who waited until the intruders departed before posing with smiles.

**Paul Collins** said: "It was great to see residents take the time to come out to support our 'Bring Back the 23A Bus' campaign. It's further proof of how much local people would like to travel to Leigh more easily.

"Leigh Town Council and the Southend Area Bus User Group have given their support, and Arriva is looking at the residents' survey. We welcome genuine support from all or any other political parties – as long as it is good-tempered!"

