

# Eastwood Park FOCUS

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**Liberal Democrats**



Spring

DELIVERED FREE TO HOMES ACROSS EASTWOOD PARK

2019

## KENT ELMS NOW INTO YEAR 3

Happy New Year everyone as we move into 2019 and the Kent Elms junction improvements move into a third year, says Paul Collins.



Anchor points are in place on the south side for the new Footbridge, which is good news. Work on the foundations for the footbridge started again on 2nd January outside Kent Elms Health Centre.

While the work is going on, the Southend-bound carriageway lane 1 will remain closed for safety reasons. However, at the start of January there was a dangerous pavement reduction on the north side - thankfully improved just before schools returned, after I emailed the Council Officer for urgent action.

"I believe the three lanes into two exiting along the A127, both ways, looks far too short and I wonder how long it is before it is decided to widen again, especially in the Southend direction," says Paul. "However the contractors, Eurovia, are taking years to complete the plans and the Conservative Executive Councillors seem unable to get this project finished any time soon."



Flashback to 2nd January:  
Kent Elms north pavement!

## Another vital Community service lost in Eastwood?

Eastwood Post Office at Jones Corner is set to **CLOSE** at end of January 2019.



So many Eastwood residents and businesses use this vital community link. It houses the last inside cash point in Eastwood.

PAUL COLLINS has been in communication with the Post Office Ltd and they have placed an advertisement to replace this community service. The Post Office has been on this site for many years and it has come as a shock to us all as it is a well-supported business and the Post Office Counter services are well thought of.

The Community has lost its last bank in the last 18 months and a number of residents and small businesses have used the Eastwood Post Office for their banking requirements.

**PAUL will keep up the pressure on the Post Office Ltd - for further updates follow this story on Facebook or Twitter.**

# M127 THROUGH EASTWOOD?

## Leading Southend Tory calls for upgrade of A127 to MOTORWAY

**THE A127 should become a motorway, with junction improvements just the start, according to the Tory leader of Southend Council!**

The *Echo* reported that leading Tory Councillor, John Lamb, revealed his ambitions for the major route as the Cabinet agreed to move ahead with a £5million scheme for the Bell junction during a meeting in November 2018. He said: "What we want to see is the whole road upgraded to a trunk road, which would mean it would be maintained by Highways England who have a lot more money to keep the road up to the standard it should be."

**Conservative Cllr Lamb stated: "We want to see investment and we'd like to see it brought up to a motorway."**

Local Eastwood Park & St Laurence Lib Dem campaigners Paul Collins & Karl Lansley are very concerned – our residents do **not** want a Motorway through their neighbourhood. Paul and Karl say: **"Air and noise pollution is bad enough now! The local Tories want to make that worse by upgrading the A127 to Motorway standard. The A127 already is difficult to cross at the best of times, we must consider what a Motorway may do to our communities. Would there be junction closures, such as Bellhouse Road? We believe that Southend should be promoting better public transport and the use of green transport, such as cycling."** *If you agree, please get in touch with us (contact details on p4).*



**A127 – Making this a motorway would mean increased noise and air pollution for local residents. It could bring traffic even closer to housing, and might see junctions closed. And "motorway" traffic is likely to be much faster than 40mph from the Borough boundary!**

## RAIL FARES GO UP AGAIN!

**The life of an Eastwood Rail Commuter becomes more expensive.**

Train fares were increased in January and an Annual Season Ticket has increased by 3.16% to £3,516 – from Chalkwell/Leigh to Fenchurch St. A lot of upset has been caused over the last two years that the Annual Season Ticket has increased by 6.8% in total.

It's all over the news – the Conservative Minister blaming the Unions for too high pay increases and the Labour Party blaming private businesses for profiteering.

**The truth is that Annual Season Ticket rises are controlled by the Department of Transport (the Government).**

From Rayleigh to Liverpool St, the season ticket price rose to £4,028 for the year, over £5,000 if that includes going further into London or Docklands.

**Paul Collins and Karl Lansley** – both c2c commuters – say: "We don't call for a return to BR; that was a poor experience, with no investment in the railways and withdrawal of labour by the Unions far too frequently.

"We need increases to be fairer. And if you have to suffer long-term disruption, as travellers on the Liverpool St line have done, you shouldn't face any increase at all!"



## Teddy Hewitt Foundation

**Karl Lansley says "In 2018, Teddy Hewitt sadly passed away with a neurological condition aged just 2 years. In something I can personally relate to, Teddy's parents – St Laurence residents – chose to set up a charity Foundation."**



Teddy's mum, Nikke, says: "I worked within recruitment as a manager and intended to return to this after my maternity leave. When Teddy was born it became clear that would not be possible. Medical-led childcare is beyond expensive so the decision was made as a family to reduce outgoings and leave work to care for Teddy full time.

"When Teddy passed away the income that the family relied upon was immediately taken away – I had to return to work after just 2 weeks. This just isn't possible for some. There are families that end up in financial hardship due to the pressures on them during this incredibly difficult time. Often heartache is further compounded by these financial pressures. In the worst cases, some families lose their homes.

Our Foundation aims to help these families return to the workplace in a reasonable amount of time with the assistance they need. The **Teddy Hewitt Foundation** was set up to assist families in need of financial and physical support following the passing of a child, when one parent is financially reliant on the disability living allowance and carer's allowance in the 3 months following the child's death. We are initially limited to families living in Essex but we hope to increase geographic cover.

To find out more of what the family are trying to achieve through the Teddy Hewitt Foundation, please go to [www.teddyhewitt.org.uk](http://www.teddyhewitt.org.uk)

## Eastwood Park News Updates: Paul Collins Reports

★ **Do you want an ex Socialist Mayor, who lives in Kursaal, as your next Tory Councillor?? Eastwood Park Tories do!**

I'm determined to stand up for Eastwood and make sure you are represented by someone who cares for Eastwood and is part of our Community. #paul4eastwood

★ **Local man Lee Webster**, an Eastwood Community Association Committee Member, led the way over the New Year to rebuild a Charity Shop in Southend. **Well done Lee!**

★ **The popular Re-Cycle Centre in Progress Road** has had to CLOSE. This Council-supported charity recycled bicycles for the community.

Despite being lauded as supporting the redevelopment of road schemes, such as Kent Elms & the Bell, the Tory-led Council has withdrawn its support. **So the Re-Cycle Centre and its partner the Comfy Saddle in Southend has to close.**

★ **Eastwood Academy is rated Outstanding** in all categories by OFSTED after a visit just before Christmas. **Well done to Staff, Governors and of course, the pupils.**

### KEEPING YOU INFORMED!

## PAUL CAMPAIGNS FOR RETURN OF THE 23A

Paul Collins writes: "There's strong support for the return of what was once a regular bus service between Eastwood and Leigh-on-Sea, which was lost to privatisation of bus services across the country."

"Increasingly, Leigh-on-Sea is becoming car bound and despite being part of the same borough, moving North to South in our Town remains a challenge for users of public transport and, at busy times, for car drivers."

Use of the 23A could be envisaged for both commuting and leisure. The c2c rail service remains more popular for commuters going out of the Town, due both to the cost and the quicker direct service.

Paul has been lobbying Bus Companies, Eastwood Community Association and the Leigh-on-Sea Town Council, as he believes all these bodies are key to get this vital service back. Paul has opened an online survey to collect the strength of support and you can find this survey here: [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KSTHTKT](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KSTHTKT)

**Contact Paul if you want to support his campaign to bring back the 23A bus to Leigh!**



### Eastwood Park & St Laurence Liberal Democrat Team

*Working together to make Eastwood Park & St Laurence a better place to live and work*

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