

LEIGH AND WEST LEIGH FOCUS

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Liberal Democrats



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BREXIT: DEMAND A FINAL SAY AND MAKE IT STOP *Nina Stimson*
Page 4



TREE CHEERS!

*Climate, litter, plastics.. how
we are making a difference*

Eco special: Pages 2 & 3

LET'S GO ECO!



How your Lib Dem councillors are leading the way in making local communities a safer and better place for our children

Climate

Amazon emergency shows why trees are so important ... that's why we are protecting our own

SHOCKING photographs of the Arctic sea-ice melting and the Amazon rainforest burning have put climate change near the top of the political agenda around the world and your Lib Dem Councillors are doing the same in Southend.

The Amazon rainforest is often referred to as the 'lungs of the world'. Trees (and plants) turn sunlight and carbon dioxide into oxygen through a chemical process called photosynthesis.

So, what has all this got to do with us? Well, judging by social media traffic, a lot!

As lead of the Council's

Environment and Planning agenda, Carole Mulroney is determined that we will play our part – no matter how small – in combating climate change.

She has acted swiftly to halt non-emergency tree felling in the area and initiated the preparation of a new and more robust tree policy for Southend.

The current tree policy, which dates back to 2003, has never been reviewed and is not fit for purpose.

That Carole has had to take this bold move says everything about the previous Conservative administration – not, it must

be said, the greenest of parties.

Carole has also proposed the planting of an additional 1,000 street trees over the next three years on top of the usual annual planting.

She has also met with a newly formed local group to assure them that the Council is happy to work with anyone in ensuring we have the best tree cover even if, from time to time, we cannot save a tree.

She will be working with experienced officers to work up the policy, which will be the subject of consultation with residents and groups and promote an enhanced tree donation scheme.

Climate change means we MUST cut our carbon emissions to zero

COUNCILLORS Carole Mulroney and Peter Wexham, supported by their joint administration colleagues, have pushed forward with a motion for the Council to declare a climate change emergency, as councils are doing up and down the country.

They are calling for the Borough Council to cut its own carbon emissions to zero by 2030, and will be

working with other agencies, organisations and businesses to achieve this Borough-wide.

It's a hard task but they are determined that nothing will stop this change. We will see improvements in air quality, recycling and overall greening of the Borough, making a cleaner environment for everyone.

This doesn't come cheap and there has to be cooperation between

organisations and local government to move this forward. The biggest barrier is lack of funding from central government.

Carole said: "I really hope that whatever government is in place, they start helping local authorities to achieve these targets.

"The administration and council officers are eager to move this agenda forward for a better Southend."



Litter

Fish sculpture is head-turner in war on garbage

LITTER and beaches don't mix.

Unfortunately, we have all seen photographs of the shocking state of our shorelines following busy weekends.

So, on a bright and sweltering August Bank Holiday Monday, Councillors Carole Mulroney and Ashley Thompson (above) donned Hi Viz jackets and made their way to Jubilee beach.

Their mission was to push the Council's environment-friendly agenda and increase beach-goers' awareness of the problems with waste on our beaches, particularly plastic.

They did some litter picking but also gave out rubbish bags to visitors in the hope of persuading them to dispose of rubbish in the right way or take it home.

They also had a new addition to the workforce: a giant metal fish (left), sculpted by local artist Dave Taylor. Although a work of art, the fish sculpture doubles as a huge bin – hammering home the town's anti-litter message. It was a big hit, particularly with children. Many people were even having their photo taken with it.

The fish will return to be a permanent structure on the seafront and there may be opportunities for similar sea creatures to appear in Leigh.

Plastics

Southend at the centre of Euro project to increase amount of recycled plastic

COUNCILLOR Carole Mulroney has recently taken part in the launch of an ambitious three-year, European-funded, research project, aimed at increasing the amount of commercial and industrial plastics recycled in the 2 Seas region – UK, Belgium, France and the Netherlands.

The project is called: *PlastiCity*, a name which describes exactly what this project is all about.

The initiative is led by the city of Ghent, Belgium, and Southend is the only town in the UK to be part of it, aided by the University of Portsmouth, who are assisting with research.

The *PlastiCity* project will develop strategies and solutions to identify, collect and process commercial and industrial plastics, providing opportunities for businesses to increase their recycling rates to 50%.

The Council is now looking for 'actors' – local businesses, restaurants, schools, civic buildings and more – to register their interest in the project, gaining support and guidance on how to responsibly recycle their plastic waste.

Carole says "On a global scale, the amount of plastic not being recycled is totally unacceptable and this strategic approach is a big step in the right direction.

"It is a great opportunity for local businesses to become actively involved in learning more about the consequences of not recycling plastics properly and how to improve their own recycling rates, whilst developing the prosperity of their own environmental profile."

So if you run a business locally that uses plastics, do get involved. Go to: www.interreg2seas.eu/en/PlastiCity

Leigh initiative encourages town businesses to focus on waste

CAROLE is also taking a leading role in a new 'green' initiative headed by local resident Amelia Slocombe to Keep Leigh Plastic Free.

Supported by Leigh Town Council, which has already pledged to phase out single-use plastic throughout its operations, the aim is similar to *PlastiCity* only on the more local scale – to urge businesses to reduce or stop

their use of single use plastic in particular, and recycle more.

This, though, has a cost for businesses, who have to pay for waste disposal, so it may be that some co-operative working is possible in sharing disposal costs.

Although this will be a difficult task, one way everyone can help is by reducing the purchase of items in plastic wrap and challenging our shops to dispense with it.

Brexit: We need vote to end chaos

THREE years after the referendum we're still split about how we leave the EU or if we leave at all. But opinions are changing.

Many of you are terrified of a no-deal Brexit – many want to Remain.

Our country's future at stake but Boris Johnson is causing chaos.

Conservative MPs have left to join the Liberal Democrats or sit as independents. Johnson sacked 21 of his own MPs for daring to disagree with him – even his own brother resigned.

Now he has shut down Parliament! That hotbed of revolution, the *Financial*

By
Nina Stimson
*Liberal Democrat
Parliamentary
Spokesperson for
Southend West*



Times, called it "constitutional cheating"; Scottish judges called it unlawful.

What about us? Millions are making their views heard, signing petitions, joining protests – trying to make change happen.

The Lib Dems are clear: stop a no-deal Brexit, let the people have a say. Many of you agree.

In just three months we have six new MPs including Chuka

Umunna, Sarah Wollaston and Luciana Berger (who left Labour over Jeremy Corbyn's failure to stop anti-semitism). Our membership is up by 30,000.

Here in Southend, we took more votes in the European elections than the Conservatives, Labour or Greens. We gained three more councillors in May and, led by Cllr Carole Mulroney, we're a key part of Southend's joint administration. New members are joining weekly.

A General Election is coming, but whether we Leave or Remain, YOU deserve the final say. Let's make it happen.

➤ SPEEDING in built-up areas is a killer.

So, it's no wonder that many West Leigh residents are concerned about it.

Hadleigh Road is a particular worry as Beth Hooper discovered when she was campaigning to be your councillor this year.

To curb this daily threat, the Council came up with the idea of laying speed 'cushions' along the road. However, action would only be taken only after consulting residents.

Unfortunately just 12 residents submitted responses to the Council.

This small sample meant the speed cushion proposal was likely to be thrown out by the Traffic Regulations Working Party.

But Councillor Hooper asked for a deferral to widen the scope of the proposals to include other major roads in the ward. For example, Western Road would be adversely affected by traffic calming measures only being imposed on Hadleigh Road.

This was agreed by the Working Party and Council officers have been working on a scheme.

What is now proposed is speed cushions in Hadleigh and Western Roads and also a crossing near St Michael's School to help slow traffic.

This scheme will be consulted on and we need residents to respond to the new consultation document.

The results will be considered at a future Traffic Regulations Working Party. Councillor Hooper urges

residents to engage with this consultation but to make sure they send responses to the officer in charge of the consultation at Southend Borough Council. This will ensure they are processed correctly. Don't do it through a third party.

Watch out for notification letters and street notices.

➤ LIBERAL DEMOCRATS working as a team have helped to make roads in Leigh and West Leigh safer – for everyone.

The Council has agreed to consult residents about putting in double yellow lines opposite the school entrance on the bend in Canonsleigh Crescent.

Parking on the bend has made it difficult for emergency services to gain access.

A dangerous dip in the carriageway along Marine Parade has been a cause for concern for some time, forcing vehicles to swerve towards the middle of the road.

But this problem has now been fixed as part of general road repair work in late August.

The Lib Dem group has been pressing for this to happen for some time, so West Leigh Councillor Beth Hooper is delighted to deliver some positive news.

Speeding: Have your say on new safety measures

➤ ALTHOUGH the road to administration was rocky the joint working arrangements between your local Lib Dems, Labour and Independents is working well – the Tories can't fathom out why and are resorting to the usual mudslinging.

The reason things are on track is because we talk – and listen – to each other.

Since June the new coalition hasn't stopped working.

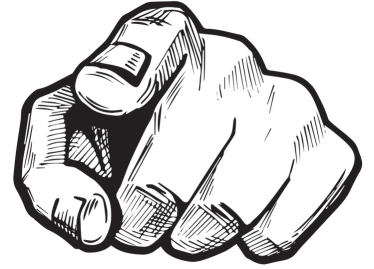
We've scrapped the Tories' Blue Badge penalisation of out-of-Borough disabled people. This was a manifesto promise from your Lib Dem councillors.

Also, we've halted all non-emergency tree felling so we can deal with the gap the Tories have left in the care for our trees.

Following complaints by residents, we are investing in a programme of additional street lighting on a priority basis, which the Tories voted against earlier this year. Another Lib Dem pledge.

In Southend we are working with the police to tackle anti-social behaviour and your Lib Dem councillors are doing the same to improve the situation that also exists in Leigh.

THE LIB DEMS NEED YOU!



WE are proud to be the leading anti-Brexit party. And we are also proud of our Leigh and West Leigh councillors, who daily make a difference to the lives of local people.

But we need help ... and that's where you come in.

Don't sit on the sidelines. Come and join us to support our team as they carry on making Leigh special.

Whatever your skills or time issues we will make you welcome and find a worthwhile role for you.

Email Councillor Ashley Thompson: dajthompson@hotmail.co.uk

It's time to get involved!

LEIGH'S LIB DEM TEAM Always at your service

Meet your Lib Dem Councillors on the second Saturday of the month at Leigh Community Centre between 9 and 10.45 am.

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