

LEIGH AND WEST LEIGH FOCUS

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THREE CHEERS: Your new Lib Dem councillors (l-r) Ashley Thompson (Leigh), Beth Hooper (West Leigh) and Paul Collins (Eastwood Park)

THANKS..WE WON'T LET YOU DOWN

Your votes carry our candidates to victory

Full story of the Council Elections: Page 2



SEAT OF POWER: Southend Council offices

Lib Dems sweep to victory ...

ALL over the country Lib Dems were winning seats. The local elections on Thursday 2nd May proved one thing ... we are back as a force in UK politics. The Lib Dems gained 706 council seats across the UK, surging to victory after victory. The Tories and Labour had a horror night, taking terrible losses. Lib Dems were celebrating up and down the land and we joined in as Ashley Thompson gained the seat in Leigh, Beth Hooper took West Leigh while over in Eastwood Park, Paul Collins won us a third victory. Our councillors are at your service, no matter who your voted for.

ASHLEY says: "I was obviously delighted to be elected as your new Borough Councillor for Leigh Ward on Thursday 2nd May 2019 in the latest round of local elections. I was impressed during the campaign by the passion shown by so many of the residents, to keep Leigh special and make it an even better place to live. 1,052 of you trusted me with your vote, and now the hard work really begins. Thank you for your support!"

| | | | |
|---------|----------|---------|-------|
| Bernard | Arcott | CON | 701 |
| Daniel | Garrun | GREEN | 228 |
| Jason | Pilley | PFP | 51 |
| Hilary | Scarnell | LAB | 413 |
| Romney | Sheilds | UKIP | 155 |
| Ashley | Thompson | LIB DEM | 1,052 |

BETH says: "During the campaign I spoke to many residents in West Leigh about the future that they want for our ward and town. Thanks to you continuing to get in touch I have met many more. I would also like to thank everyone who gave me the opportunity to find out more about the issues that they face locally, even if we didn't all agree during the election campaign."

| | | | |
|----------|-------------|---------|-------|
| Tony | Ayre | IND | 166 |
| Michael | Ekers | LAB | 163 |
| Leonie | Fleischmann | GREEN | 167 |
| Beth | Hooper | LIB DEM | 1,203 |
| Lesley | Martin | UKIP | 265 |
| Georgina | Phillips | CON | 1,048 |

NEW COUNCIL LEADERS ...NEW POLICY AGENDA



TAKING THE LEAD: Carole Mulroney has an important role on the Council

FOLLOWING the Council elections, the Tories lost control of Southend Council and a new Joint Administration has been formed, led by Labour Councillor Ian Gilbert, Lib Dem Carole Mulroney and Independent Ron Woodley. As part of the new administration Carole is Cabinet lead on Planning and the Environment. She will be overseeing the production of the new Borough Plan as well as matters relating to energy saving, air pollution, waste recycling, parks, biodiversity, climate change and a whole range of environmental matters. Here are the new policy priorities for the town..

i Housing

- Building new social and key worker housing.
- Measures to improve standards in the private rented sector including more rigorous enforcement and moves towards a new, selective licensing scheme for landlords.

ii Public Safety

- A two-year programme of additional street lighting infill to deliver around 100 new lighting columns.
- More CCTV cameras to fight crime.
- Pressing the Police and Fire Commissioner for additional policing throughout the town.

iii Highways, Road Safety

- Stepping up the pace of pavement and road repairs.
- More 20mph zones in appropriate residential streets.

iv Parking

- Reassess parking charges.
- Review residents-only parking policies.
- Provide a multi storey car park at Tylers Avenue and increase the capacity of car parks in Leigh.

v Public Transport

- Support public transport and seek to improve mobility and access for all residents.

vi Environment

- Improve sea defences in the light of global warming.
- Improve street cleaning.
- Increase the town's recycling volumes.
- Preventative measures to deal with dog fouling.
- Protect water and beach quality.
- Improve biodiversity.
- Improve air quality.
- Promote effective and efficient energy saving and environmental measures.

vii Employment

- Promote ethical employment practices, pay the real living wage to directly employed Council staff and work towards full living wage accreditation.
- Increase and promote apprenticeships throughout the Borough.

viii Social

Children

- Review and improve childrens' centres by increasing the range of services and greater community involvement.
- Support local schools to attain and retain the highest Ofsted ratings.

Health and Adult Social Care

- Provide Extra Care beds.
- Promote the provision of Shoebury Health Centre and a health centre in the west of the Borough.
- Support the local NHS to ensure the retention of Southend University Hospital and its services.
- Take further concrete action to address health inequalities in the town.

Shambles means we must exit from Brexit

IT was close. Just over half of those who voted in the Brexit referendum chose to leave the European Union. But in the three years since the vote we have learned that nothing promised by the Leave side is going to be fulfilled. Nothing. There are no 'sunlit uplands' as Andrea Leadsome pledged, the German car manufacturers are not riding to our rescue as David Davis confidently forecast and, far from creating confidence and jobs, Brexit is already taking both away. It is a complete shambles, brought upon us by Theresa May's stupid red lines, which gave us no wriggle room and ignored Irish border issues. What we are all facing is a No Deal disaster .. and the Tories are charging straight towards it, led by both leadership contenders, Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt. A No Deal Brexit will destroy our manufacturing base, our car industry and farming. Brexit has gone from being something that was mis-sold to the electorate to something akin to a cult, where the only reason for pursuing it is that 'it's what people voted for.' Even though that's not true. Nobody voted for neighbours to lose their jobs and for the economy to tank. Lib Dem MP Tom Brake has always been in the vanguard of the anti-Brexit fight. He said: "The day after the EU referendum, then Liberal Democrat Leader Tim Farron announced that our party would campaign to give the people the final say on whatever deal came out of the Brexit negotiations. "This final say would ensure that people were happy with the deal and that if they weren't, we could stay in the EU. Since then we have campaigned tirelessly to secure that "People's Vote". "Our growing number of members and supporters have been passionate and inspirational in their resolve. "Our party is unapologetically pro-EU and we have fought tooth and nail for the last three years to keep the UK's place in Europe."

CHRIS BAILEY

IT is with great sadness that the Leigh and Southend Lib Dem teams report the untimely passing of Chris Bailey. Chris has been a stalwart of Liberalism within Leigh since the early 1970s and was at one time a Councillor for Leigh. He was also chairman of the Endeavour Trust, a keen Rotarian and involved in many other organisations and activities. Known and respected throughout the political arena in Southend, Chris' high standards and devotion to the cause ensured that your Liberal Democrat Councillors and activists represented the community which they served to the highest standard. We will miss him as a co-worker, mentor and friend and extend our deepest sympathies to Judith and the family at this sad time.



Sorting out minor work is major task

REPLACING street signs, the state of our pavements, blocked drains and broken street lights are all small but important local issues.

Stretched resources mean these matters are often neglected.

As a newly-elected councillor, Ashley Thompson has begun work to push these higher up the Council agenda, so increasing the chances of funding.

You may have seen some of his campaign highlights on social media.

Cllrs Peter Wexham and Carole Mulroney have battled over the years to get some of this work done and Ashley has taken up the cudgels.

By the dogged reporting of these basic problems Ashley hopes to see continuing improvements in our street scene.

His contact details are on this page.



» LONG heralded, at last we are getting close to setting CCTV up in the Library Gardens. This area has been a focal point for disruption and anti-social behaviour for

a while, but your Lib Dem team has pushed this forward and recently agreed with officers on the best placement of the CCTV for the maximum coverage and usefulness.

New flats are shown the door

LOCAL residents were relieved and pleased when Southend Council turned down a highly contested development on London Road.

A property developer wanted to shoehorn more flats on the already congested Highlands Court site by developing on what is now a well-used block of garages.

Local LibDem Councillor Beth Hooper said "After listening to residents' concerns and being made aware how small the piece of land that planning permission was sought on, it was hard not to see this application as a cynical attempt to make money without regard to how it will impact on the quality of life of those who live on or near Highlands Court."

CRIME: LOCALS GRILL POLICE

AT a meeting arranged by Lib Dem Cllr Carole Mulroney at the Community Centre on 26 June, a lively audience raised their fears surrounding recent increases in criminal and anti-social behaviour in Leigh.

The audience questioned Jane Gardner, the Deputy Commissioner, plus other high-ranking officers from the Police and Fire Brigade as well as Southend Council's Director of Public Protection and Community Safety Manager.

Cllr Mulroney writes: "It was a very open discussion and many issues relating to anti social behaviour on the Cliffs and other areas were raised as well as drug related concerns and the recent spate of car thefts and other crimes.

"People were concerned about the lack of visible policing, community policing and response times.

"Jane Gardner and Chief Inspector Neil Pudney gave

reassurances regarding the new increases in policing which have been announced and how these would be deployed.

"The meeting was very supportive of the police and other services, realising what a difficult job they all perform for our benefit.

"I was pleased that Jane confirmed that the Commissioner welcomed such meetings and would definitely be coming back to Leigh in the future."

Fresh action on Marine Estate 'racetrack' woes

THE new Joint Administration has instructed council officers to look at the problem of speeding traffic on the Marine Estate and put forward a comprehensive scheme in the autumn.

For years residents have complained about dangerous

traffic speeds, particularly on Hadleigh Road, Marine Parade and Western Road.

But in the past the Council has taken a sluggish, piecemeal approach which risked making the problem worse in other roads.

West Leigh Lib Dem

Councillor Beth Hooper says "We have asked the officers to look at imaginative, new solutions to this growing problem and we want to see early action.

"We must stop our residential roads being used as a racetrack."

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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