

"BRING BACK OUR TREES!"

Karl Lansley reports: "In January, I was contacted by a resident in Larke Rise who told me that in 2017, 38 mature trees – which provided security and privacy to the residents of Larke Rise and Bell Walk – were felled by Southend Council because they were diseased.

Ironically, it was possibly a stroke of luck for the Council that the trees were diseased, as they all lay directly in the path of a proposed filter lane coming off Prince Avenue into Rochford Road.

As well as the reduced privacy and security, the tree removal means that residents in these roads have to put up with higher levels of noise and air pollution from Prince Avenue (the busy A127). Since 2017, residents have received numerous promises from the Council that the area would be restored to something like its original state. These promises have never materialised.

As part of the proposed 'improvements' at the Bell Junction, I've contacted the Council about their plans for the immediate Larke Rise / Bell Walk vicinity – I've also suggested they should meet with residents so all parties can agree on how the area can be restored to the condition it was when residents purchased their properties.



Waiting for new trees – Larke Rise / Bell Walk residents and Karl Lansley

"I'm pleased to say the Council has given early indications that it will consult with the residents as the Bell Junction project progresses.

This is a positive start, but we need to ensure the Council takes on board all the residents' comments, makes proposals that are satisfactory to all parties, and that all promises made are kept. I plan to keep a tight watch on the case, and look forward to the tree planting in future."

Relief for Purley Way?

Karl Lansley and St Laurence LibDems are helping to get action for residents in Purley Way, who have been woken up by noisy late-night goings-on at what turned out to be an illegal car breaking & storage lot behind their flats. "Alerted to the problem by residents disturbed by bangs, crashes and spotlights during the night, we contacted Planning Officers at Southend Council," says Karl.

"The officers rapidly checked out the site and confirmed its illegality. If the owners don't clear the site voluntarily, they will be served with Enforcement notices. Purley Way should soon be able to sleep sound again."



Southend's Liberal Democrat Team

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We're here to help and to keep you informed. Working to make St Laurence a better place to live and work

Bell Junction

"I'm still collecting residents' views about the Council's plan to do away with the right-hand turn from the A127 (from Southend) into Rochford Road. If you use that right turn now, please get in touch!" Karl Lansley

St Laurence FOCUS



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BETTER**

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SOUTHEND COUNCIL ELECTION MAY 2nd



***St Laurence will
be voting for a new
Councillor!***

***VOTE for
Karl LANSLEY***

Karl Lansley



Karl Lansley says: In November 2018, I was extremely honoured to be chosen by the Liberal Democrats as their candidate for our ward in the May 2019 elections.

Little did I know what I was in store for! Immediately, I was made aware of a podcast made by the Labour candidate in the past, which allegedly contained racist, homophobic and misogynist material. The candidate himself admitted it could be viewed as 'offensive'.

As the widowed father of two young children, trying to raise them with a high standard of moral behaviour, the contents I read were neither clever nor funny but I chose to distance myself from them. Since then, our ward has been subjected to some highly dubious 'campaigning' with councillors' surgeries being hijacked, insults being traded and even the Police being involved!

I genuinely wasn't expecting this. Candidates will have different views and policies, and healthy debate is to be encouraged. However, there should also be a level of decency, respect and honesty and this has been sadly lacking in some quarters.

If you give me your vote, you will be helping to elect a councillor who will always act with integrity, and is even prepared to work with councillors from other parties to achieve positive results for our ward and the wider area of Southend.

Inside, you will find a list of pledges that the Liberal Democrats and I make for our town.

On May 2nd, please consider carefully both your personal concerns and the integrity of the person you would like to represent you.

"These are my aims for St Laurence and Southend"



Karl Lansley says: "These are some of the key concerns facing St Laurence and Southend. To find out more about what Southend Liberal Democrats stand for, read our 2019 local manifesto at www.southendlibdems.org.uk or go to my Facebook page."

Schools and employment As a parent, I'm actively concerned to ensure the quality and success of our local schools. Eastwood's 4 schools (Eastwood Primary & Nursery, Eastwood Academy, Heycroft and Prince Avenue) are suffering from funding cuts. **That fact should shame Southend's Conservative Councillors and the Government.** As a Councillor, I would work closely with Council Officers and the schools themselves to ensure that our school standards are maintained at the highest levels, be they academy or community schools.

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! As mentioned on page 1, candidates and councillors have all claimed responsibility for certain holes being filled (including the Liberal Democrats, who reported the now notorious Orchard Grove problems on 28th March 2018). In all seriousness, bad roads and pavements cause accidents, damage cars and bikes and hinder mobility. Please don't hesitate to tell me about any problems and I promise to push for prompt action.

Crime is a major concern. We're delighted that Eastwood Community Association brought Eastwood's needs to the attention of Essex Police who have increased their presence in the area and at the Community meetings. As reported in **FOCUS**, I'm in contact with our local Police Community Support team, and launched Neighbourhood Watch in my own road in January. Contact me, or Kevin Blake (Kevin.blake@essex.pnn.police.uk) if you'd like to do the same.



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 – **see my campaign to help residents of Larke Rise and Bell Walk (p4).**

Kent Elms has overrun in time and money and is a disgrace to the Tory Administration. Now we have to be vigilant that the right scheme is in place for residents at the Bell Junction and the right contractual conditions are in place to prevent a similar fiasco and overrun that is still going on at Kent Elms



I pledge to work to improve public transport, and am pleased to support my Eastwood Park colleague, **Paul Collins**, in his **"Bring Back the 23A Bus To Leigh" Campaign**, to restore the bus link between Eastwood & Leigh-on-Sea Town Centre.

WHAT'S HOLDING UP PETITIONS ACTION?

Karl Lansley and **Paul Collins** (Lib Dem candidate in next-door Eastwood Park), 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.



Karl Lansley and Paul Collins discuss the problem in Whitehouse Road

Airport Parking – Winners or Losers?

Karl Lansley writes: Our last **FOCUS** highlighted the ongoing problem of parking in the area surrounding Southend Airport, and how this would be a difficult issue to resolve on behalf of all residents.



➤ **Now the situation seems to be even more of a muddle.**

In January, proposals went to the Traffic Regulations Working Party for parking restrictions in Eastwoodbury Lane and Crescent plus Alton Gardens. Those proposals were not supported by residents or the council, which ordered a full review by September 2019. Then, in March, it was agreed that parking restrictions WOULD be put in place in Wells Ave and the 'service roads' in Rochford Road!

Trying to solve this issue 'piecemeal' was never ideal. However, it now looks as though each individual road or group of roads may be considered on its own – an option left open by the Cabinet Committee in March 2018, after a survey of 33 roads (including all the roads in question) produced varied responses. Few roads, if any, met the threshold of a 40% response rate and, of those, 70% of residents supporting controls.

We want to see a successful resolution for residents in *all* the roads affected by kerbside airport parking. But implementing schemes on a road-by-road basis before a full review is likely to shut off options for a wider scheme – some roads and residents could lose out.

In what seems like standard behaviour now, multiple political parties are claiming this 'success' although I'm not sure how much a success it is when it merely moves a problem from one road to the next.