



The Liberal Democrats

BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTION SPECIAL

ON 6 MAY ELECT KATIE X KURILECZ

A second strong voice to speak up for YOU!

TO WORK WITH BETH HOOPER



SHAKE ON IT: Beth Hooper and Katie Kurilecz

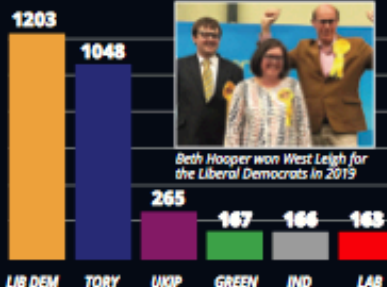


COMMUNITY SPIRIT: Katie on one of her regular litter picks around West Leigh

IT'S A TWO HORSE RACE in West Leigh – either the Lib Dems or the Tories.

At the last election, in 2019, this was the result – Labour came 6th. Meanwhile the Lib Dem vote surged and we won West Leigh for the first time.

This year, let's make it another Tory loss and Lib Dem gain. Vote Katie Kurilecz.



Beth Hooper won West Leigh for the Liberal Democrats in 2019

IN the last local election in 2019, Liberal Democrat Beth Hooper was elected as the new Councillor for West Leigh, defeating the Conservative by 155 votes.

And over the past two years, we've benefited from Beth's hard work, perseverance and non-stop campaigning on our behalf.

Local people say they really notice the difference.

On Thursday, 6 May we have the opportunity to elect Katie Kurilecz as another Liberal Democrat Councillor to work for all of us alongside Beth, and do the best for West Leigh.

Beth says: "We've achieved a great deal, but there's always a lot to do to make sure West Leigh gets its fair share of resources, funding and investment – and to speak up for you on local issues."

"With Katie and me working together, we can provide an even stronger voice."

"I recommend Katie to you without reservation. She is already working hard with me to get the results that matter to you."

On Thursday 6 May please vote Katie Kurilecz and help elect another hard-working Councillor to West Leigh."

Carole Mulroney, Lib Dem leader on the Borough Council, adds "Katie will be a great addition to the Lib Dem team on the Council, a team that always works hard for residents."

A strong voice for Leigh and West Leigh

BUDGET BUILDS FOR THE FUTURE, YET STILL REPRESENTS GOOD VALUE

SOUTHEND Borough Council's Joint Administration, where Liberal Democrats play a major part, has put together a careful budget that delivers on key priorities.

Part of the small rise in Council Tax over last year – less than 4% – is a direct result of the Government shifting more of the cost of social care onto local councils. Don't take our word for it:

'... much of the increase is down to the fact that ministers have passed on responsibility for raising funds for England's social care system to town halls, rather than increasing grants.'

Daily Mail, 25 March 2021

No-one wants to pay Council Tax, but Leigh and West Leigh families pay LESS than if they lived in

neighbouring towns. Band D in Leigh / West Leigh (including £50 for Leigh Town Council) is £1,827.72 for the coming year compared to £1,856.79 in Castle Point, £1,902.24 in Basildon and £1,915.79 in Rochford.

Even so, Southend is investing in our future. "Residents want much more from their Council than Conservatives' neglect and mismanagement in the past," explain Cllr Peter Wexham and Katie Kurilecz.

"The Lib Dem Councillors, working within the Joint Administration, have agreed a budget which improves our environment, cares about vital local services and housing, will repair our roads and pavements and invest in much, much more – even new trains for our famous Pier."

Don't let the Tories cut services again!



A strong Lib Dem team, working together for you!
Cllr Ashley Thompson, Katie Kurilecz, Cllr Corole Mulroney, Cllr Peter Wexham, Cllr Beth Hooper

The Lib Dems say ...

GREEN PRIORITIES STAY TOP OF THE AGENDA

A TOPIC close to the heart of all Liberal Democrats – especially Leigh's Peter Wexham and West Leigh's Katie Kurilecz, a keen cyclist – we regularly report back to you in FOCUS and on Facebook on tree planting in our local parks, open spaces and at the roadside, as well as measures affecting Two Tree Island and the coastline.

Working with Cllr Corole Mulroney, we're pleased to lead on the Council's commitment to increase tree canopy cover across the Borough by planting hundreds more trees and thousands of new shrubs this year – all helping to reduce air pollution alongside other strategies around biodiversity and waste recycling. The new budget adds to this, committing to:

- Southend's Green City Action plan contains innovative projects to improve the environment and give us a Pathway to Net Zero Carbon
- PlastiCity, a project working with our European neighbours in France, Belgium and the Netherlands to increase the amount of plastic that is recycled
- £1.8million capital investment for other initiatives to help the environment, like air quality measurement, electric vehicle (EV) projects and solar panels
- £3.9 million capital investment for Southend's coastal defences and cliff stabilisation.

Our Lib Dem Councillors are also championing School Streets to make the school run safer for residents, parents and pupils and are progressing with proposals to pilot 20mph zones in residential streets.

The Lib Dems say ...

WE'RE GETTING RID OF POTHOLES

A 'GAME-CHANGING' £50million is being invested over 5 years to upgrade roads and pavements across Southend.

"This much-needed new investment will help reverse the neglected state of our pavements, verges and roads" says Cllr Peter Wexham. "Unbelievably, one Tory councillor recently had the nerve to suggest potholes helped road safety by stopping speeding!"

"We know a lot about neglected pavements, roads and verges in Leigh & West Leigh, but we don't make silly excuses to avoid getting the job done," comments Katie Kurilecz.

"Working alongside our Leigh & West Leigh Councillors, I've seen for myself just how many repairs and resurfacing jobs have already been done in roads right across the two wards (not forgetting the major upgrade and safety measures for Hadleigh Road, pushed through by my West Leigh colleague, Cllr Beth Hooper). Please tell us of any issues in your road so we can ensure it's on the action list."

The Lib Dems say ...

CRIME AND SAFETY MATTERS

SADLY, we've seen a rise in crime. Even before recent tragic events in Old Leigh, plans were under way for more security and to reassure residents and visitors.

Temporary CCTV is already in place, with plans for more cameras by summer. "A new frontline base for the Old Town inside Leigh Heritage Centre opened in mid-March and will help Community Safety Officers and police to patrol" reports Peter Wexham.

We know how worried residents are about crime and we're pushing for more resources after years of cuts under the Tories – police numbers in Essex have been CUT by over 300 officers since 2010. There has been money in the Council Budget since last year and it is still there waiting for the police to draw on it.

But policing is ultimately the responsibility of the Government and the Conservative Police Commissioner, not the Council. Judge the Conservatives by what they do, not what they say.

The Lib Dems say ...

PARKING: STILL FREE IN FOUR KEY LOCAL CAR PARKS

WE'RE pleased to announce that the following local car parks, essential for residents and businesses, will stay FREE to use at all times: Hadleigh Road, Leigh Hill Car Park, Uttons Avenue and Sutherland Boulevard.

What about the new Southend Pass? A great innovative idea by the Joint Administration!

Katie Kurilecz explains: "The Pass costs £8.50 a month by direct debit and allows everyone to park for up to three hours free in any Council car park or street parking bay across the Borough, every day. If you want to stay longer, just 'top up' by paying the normal rate. All car parks will now be free of charge after 6pm, great for going to an evening film or show at the Odeon or Cliffs Pavilion, a meal at a restaurant on the seafront, or catching waves on the beach."

She adds: "With the Pass, you can move between car parks in different zones. So you could park for three hours in Leigh then the Central High St car parks to shop, then park on the seafront or go to any of the other zones, all for no cost."

Most main car park charges will stay the same or go down. The main change will be the 'Central Seafront Zone', although charges are in line with many other seaside towns (and cheaper than some). With the Southend Pass,

seafront parking from midday for the rest of the day would cost just £6.50. "Not a bad bargain," says Katie.

In line with many major seaside resorts, visitors staying in participating hotels qualify for a 50% reduction.





ELECT KATIE KURILECZ TO WORK FOR YOU IN WEST LEIGH

**Vote
Lib Dem for a
strong voice in
West Leigh and
a second active
Councillor!**

KATIE KURILECZ moved to Southend with her husband in 2017.

She can trace her connection to the area back to her grandfather who was born in Westcliff in 1916 and was one of the troops evacuated from Dunkirk by the 'little ships' like Endeavour. She has made her home here with her husband, daughter and cat – her mother and stepfather also live in the area.

Katie was born and grew up in America, moving to the UK for university (she has full British nationality). After graduating from Newcastle University with an LLB Honours in Law, Katie went on to earn a Masters in Law from King's College London.

Katie has a cross-sector background – she's worked in the corporate, political and charity sectors. Having started her career as a business analyst, she is currently the Direct Marketing and Supporter Care Manager for All We Can – an international development charity, rooted in the Christian faith and focused on serving the world's most marginalised communities.

Katie uses her professional skills and experience to help campaign for local causes and charities.

"I'm a 'doer' and believe actions speak louder than words," she explains. "I'm passionate about making the town a greener place to live and work, including making it friendlier and safer to cycle."

"With your support on 6 May, I look forward to joining Beth Hooper and the rest of our Lib Dem team on Southend Council. If elected, I'll be there to work and speak up for you."

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