

WEST END FOCUS

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LIBERAL
DEMOCRATS

Spring
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Your Number One REGULAR Newsletter

Editor : Cllr David Goodall

No.115

Government Planning Inspector backs council decision

Success with Planning Inspector



Cllr Bruce Tennent reports: On the Local Area Committee we have seen appeal decisions go against our views as your local councillors. In particular the decision by the Whitehall appointed inspector to allow the building of a crematorium at the end of Bubb Lane near the junction with Tollbar Way.

So we were pleased recently when the inspector backed our decision not to allow a normal home towards the far end of Moorgreen Road to become a children's day care centre.

At committee we considered that the proposal would:-

- Detract from the amenities of nearby residential properties because of the increased noise and disturbance arising from the increased intensity in the use of the site and the very nature of the use proposed.
- Introduce an unacceptable use within designated countryside, to the detriment of the amenity and character of the surrounding area, as the site straddles the urban and countryside boundary.

The planning inspector backed our decision this time. It is a pity that the inspector did not back our decision that the crematorium, just down the road, would also effect the community by closing the gap between West End and Hedge End. Still at least **we** are consistent !!

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With concern over the phasing out of bus tokens - what is the the future of ...



Concessionary Travel

Policy Point



Cllr David Goodall reports: At Eastleigh Borough Council we have a legal duty to offer a concessionary travel scheme to the residents of the Borough. The only statutory requirement on the Borough Council is to provide:-

- The National Free Bus Pass between the hours of 09.30 and 23.00 on Monday to Friday plus all day (up to 23.00) on Saturday, Sunday and Public holidays.

However we do not believe this is enough to meet the needs of our elderly and disabled residents, so we provide the following concessionary travel service:-

- The National Free Bus Pass - all day everyday within the Borough and cross boundary if no change of bus is required.
- Hospital Taxi services - subsidised Taxis to various hospitals & clinics, for example, £9 to Southampton General or £8 to the Royal South Hants.
- Allowing the National Free Bus pass to be used on four services operated through One Community i.e. Dial-a-Ride, Eastleigh Voluntary Transport Scheme, Hedge End Park Minibus Scheme, and ParishLink.
- A voucher scheme to purchase the Senior Rail Card for all over 60 years of age, as an alternative to the National Free Bus Pass.
- Companion Pass - for disabled people who require extra assistance to travel on buses it is possible to get a companion bus pass.
- Free TV license for the completely housebound under the age of 75.

The future depends on the costs of the current schemes in the future. However by phasing out the bus tokens it possible to increase the Dial-a-Ride service with an extra bus and increase the number of destinations for the Hospital Taxi services, as well as introduce the companion pass above.

Eastleigh Dial-a-Ride is available to anyone who has a mobility or sensory impairment which means that they are unable or experience difficulty or discomfort in using bus services. The vehicles used are specially adapted & equipped to carry disabled passengers, with or without wheelchairs. This service currently has over 1,000 registered users, and handles over 28,000 passenger trips a year.

Changing services, like the change from bus tokens to bus passes plus hospital taxis and Dial-a-Ride, is always going to be concerning to those affected. However I believe the full new range of concessionary travel services are of far greater benefit than the old £32 a year bus tokens could ever be.



£40 million refurbishment with all the trimmings:



£2,000 taps

Cllr Carol Boulton reports: The refurbishment of the County Council offices to improve the working conditions of the staff is necessary, but this level of expense is not.

There is no better illustration of this than the purchase of six designer taps which cost £2,000 each. They do provide hot, cooled and filtered water, but should have been possible to provide hot and cold water to the staff without the £12,000 price tag for just six taps.

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At Eastleigh Borough Council for the sixth year running:

Council Tax increase 1% below inflation



Cllr Joyce Sortwell reports: Council Tax bills for services provided by Eastleigh Borough Council will increase by only 1.8% this year.

That is the pledge of Council Leader Keith House following the announcement that the rate of inflation for December was 2.8%.

Since 2004 the Council has fulfilled its promise that limits any Council Tax increase to 1% below the December inflation figure for retail price indexes. On announcing the increase this year Keith House said :-

“This is the sixth year running that we have kept Council Tax below inflation. Eastleigh has had one of the lowest levels of Council Tax increases in the country over the last five years. We will continue to honour our promise to the community and stand by our commitment to keep Council Tax low. This will be of real benefit and help to our residents during the present financial credit crunch”.

This is despite high budget pressures on the council, for example:-

- £244,000 - Projected Reduction Planning Fee Income due to the reduced building activity.
- £140,000 - Projected Reduction Land Charges Income also due to the reduced building activity.
- £ 827,000 - Projected drop in investment income due to lower interest rates.
- Only a 1.1% increase or £86,000 increase in the grant from central government that forms more than half of the council income.

Despite all this the we will continue to keep the unfair council tax as low as we can whilst still maintaining a high level of service. Thanks must go to the council staff for their many efficiency initiatives and hard work.

Liberal Democrats Keeping in Touch

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West End Parish Council

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Kitchen Waste Collections



Cllr Bruce Tennent reports: After successful trials elsewhere within Eastleigh Borough, kitchen waste collections will come to West End this year.

These weekly collections will take all the waste - fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, bones, cooked food, uncooked food, leftover food, bread, pasta, cereals, rice, tea bags, coffee grounds, dairy products, eggshells and even shredded paper, out of the grey bin to be composted to produce a soil conditioner.



- **The kitchen caddy and kerbside bin for kitchen waste.**

What can we do for YOU?

Now 4 ways to contact your West End Liberal Democrats

On Issues, Ideas, Information to Help us - Help you

- ① write to West End Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST, Eastleigh, SO50 9AA
- ② visit the website www.davidgoodall.org.uk
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West End Improvements



Cllr Tony Noyce reports: After public consultation last year there are a number of improvements around West End. These include :-

- 21 cycle stands
- Dropped kerbs
- New seats
- New bins

In addition all the bus shelters in Townhill Way have been renewed and extra spring bulbs planted.

Also the programme of improving the street name plates has continued. The backlog of replacing old and broken signs is complete so the focus is now on improved name plates with no through road and access information on the plate too.

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