

WEST END FOCUS

www.eastleighlibdems.org.uk



Spring
2008

Your Number One REGULAR Newsletter

Editor : Cllr David Goodall

No.112

Council support for local centre £6,000 for Hildene Centre



- Cllr David Goodall presents the Hildene Community Association Chairman Ken Morris with the cheque

Cllr Tony Noyce reports: At Eastleigh Borough we are always keen to support local community groups and the Hildene Community Association is one such group. The Hildene Community Centre hosts various regular activities like Brownies, Yoga, Scrabble, Keep Fit and so on, as well as being available for parties and training groups to hire.

Over the past few years the Borough Council's HEWEB local area committee have helped the association with various grants for the centre which total about £44,000. For example :-

- new railings for the front & drainage repairs
- new steps to the rear hall used by the children's play group & improved play area equipment
- disability Discrimination Act (DDA) access compliance & car park improvements

The latest grant for £6,000 given to centre is a final payment for acoustic panels for the main hall to dampen the echo of this Edwardian School Hall and for the hearing loop system that has been installed. For more on the Hildene Community Association see :-

www.hildenecommunity.co.uk



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Liberal Democrat Borough a Beacon for tackling Climate Change Top Award for Eastleigh



Cllr David Goodall reports: Eastleigh has won a Beacon Council Award for its work in tackling Climate Change.

The Beacon Scheme was launched by the Government in 1999 to identify pacesetters and centres of excellence within local government from which other councils can learn.

Eastleigh has been awarded Beacon Council status on two previous occasions, in 2000 for its work on Community Safety and in 2002 for Fostering Business Growth.

In this year's judgement it was stated that :-

"Eastleigh is a shining example of imaginative and enthusiastic leadership that gives a clear political commitment to efforts to address climate change which is reflected throughout key corporate strategies and services such as waste, housing and the management of green spaces. The Council also works with Partners to influence other local services such as Transport and Education. The authority has well developed plans to introduce a Carbon Compensation Fund on route to achieving carbon neutrality by 2012. "

The Council's award-winning submission highlighted its work on school travel plans, the installation of a combined heat and power plant at Fleming Park Leisure Centre, a wind turbine at Itchen Valley Country Park, the Windy Homes project which researched domestic micro wind turbines within the Borough, the installation of solar panels in several Council buildings and the offer of grants and advice to community groups for energy efficiency work in their buildings. Further community work included the payment of fees for planning applications installing renewable energy equipment, the recent Pilands Wood project to encourage recycling and working with schools to provide teaching packs on Sustainable Energy.

With central Government funding Eastleigh will now be promoting its ideas and experiences of good practice.



• **Council Leader Cllr Keith House, Environment lead Cllr Louise Bloom and Corporate Director Chris Reed receive the award at the Oscar-style ceremony at the Royal Horticulture Hall in London.**

Council 1% below inflation again



Cllr Bruce Tennent reports: Council Tax bills for services provided by Eastleigh Borough Council will increase by just 2.1% this year.

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.

Council Leader Cllr Keith House commented: *"Eastleigh has had the lowest level of Council Tax increases in Hampshire over the last four years. We will continue to honour our promise to the community and stand by our commitment to keep Council Tax low and put more money into high priority services."*

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Liberal Democrats for a fairer and greener Britain



Liberal Democrat spring conference backs

Radical Health Service Plans



Cllr Carol Boulton reports: The Liberal Democrat Spring Conference has backed plans to radically transform the NHS into a 'people's health service' by empowering individuals and decentralising control to local communities.

The measures would free the NHS from Whitehall control, make it accountable to the people it serves through elected health boards and give high quality services via a 'Patient's Contract'.

The Empowerment, Fairness & Quality policy paper plans include:

- A 'Patient's Contract' guaranteeing to every citizen access to a high standard of core healthcare entitlements within set waiting limits. To ensure that the NHS delivers, patients would have the right to private treatment, paid by the NHS, if the waiting time was not met.
- A 'Care Guarantee' with £2 billion on personal care payments for all elderly people, based on need and not their ability to pay.
- Directly electing the majority of members of local Health Boards instead of unaccountable Primary Care Trusts, putting people in charge of decisions about their local health services. The remainder of the Health Board would be local county or unitary authority councillors.
- Rolling out the use of direct payments and individual budgets for people with chronic, long-term conditions and mental health services.

At the conference local delegate Cllr David Goodall commented :-

"These plans would focus concentration on local management serving local people and not Whitehall mandates."

Liberal Democrats Keeping in Touch

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West End Parish Council

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New Bus Services



Cllr John Read reports: Following Solent Blue Line's decision to withdraw from Red Rocket service A, the County & Borough Councils worked hard to replace the service. The new 'A' service will be run by Black Velvet in daytime weekdays and Saturday, by First in the evenings and by Stagecoach on Sundays.

The new service operates every 30 minutes between Eastleigh and Botley during Monday to Saturday daytimes. The evening and Sunday services are between Eastleigh and Hedge End. The Sunday service is about every hour, for more information on all 'A' services see :-

<http://www.velvetbus.info/>



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
- ③ phone
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CarbonFREE

Cllr Joyce Sortwell reports: Eastleigh Borough council has launched a new carbon offset fund called CarbonFREE

It is a local fund for local people for local sustainable energy projects in homes and community buildings. It has a clear audit trail for the carbon dioxide saved – no double counting or investment in projects with dubious long term management, like tree planting half way across the world. CarbonFREE is an offset/compensation fund you can trust.

On the launch of the fund Eastleigh's Cabinet Member for the Environment, Louise Bloom, said:-

"The CarbonFREE Fund is believed to be the first of its kind in the country. We will continue to generate new ideas and work with our communities on important initiatives that will achieve our target."

And commenting on the Beacon Award for Climate Change action Louise added :-

"I must also thank our residents for their support in all our green initiatives. We couldn't achieve what we have without their help."

www.eastleigh.gov.uk/carbonfree

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