

# FOCUS

On Stamford Ward

Cllr. Alison Kelly and Helen Maguire



KEEP TENNIS FREE FOR KIDS - sign our petition - see inside for details

# Tories Sacrifice Green Belt

Another broken promise - this Government doesn't really want to protect our Green Belt!

## The Tories have got some cheek!

Local Conservatives pretend their party **CAN** honour a pledge **NOT** to include Green Belt sites in our Local Plan. But their own Conservative government has recently told Mole Valley Council that it **CAN'T** remove all Green Belt sites from their Local Plan.

Without a Local Plan, both brownfield and Green Belt sites are open to audacious development. Epsom & Ewell needs a Local Plan to protect these sites and have the legal powers to enforce what happens on them.

urban areas will help keep our countryside safe. It's really not difficult to understand!"

Stamford Ward Councillor **Alison Kelly** continued, "Last year's Local Plan consultation showed that the priorities for local residents are high quality, energy efficient homes, especially for key workers – but without building on the Green Belt! We are now supporting those priorities in the council meetings held to move the Local Plan forward."

## More delays mean Green Belt sites are under threat

"The Conservatives don't listen to the housing needs of local communities," said Liberal Democrat council group leader **Julie Morris**. "They insist on using out-of-date figures from 2014, and even some of our own so-called independent councillors cannot see that our priorities here are to keep our Green Belt free from inappropriate development. Increasing density in our

Lib Dem campaigner and parliamentary candidate **Helen Maguire** concluded, "How can we trust the Conservative Government to listen to the views of local residents (and local Liberal Democrat councillors!) when it won't even deliver on its promise last year to let local Councils decide what is best for their own area? **It's time for them to go!**"

Read the Lib Dem submission on the draft Local Plan on our website:

[www.bit.ly/EELDLocalPlan](http://www.bit.ly/EELDLocalPlan)

or use this QR code:



# Paul Kennedy

Police & Crime Commissioner election in May

» **Paul Kennedy is the Liberal Democrat challenger to Surrey's Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).** Paul is a former barrister, accountant and actuary with over 30 years' professional leadership experience.

» **Paul is a local councillor** who has long campaigned to bring back community policing. He will cut the PCC's bloated office budget, and spend the money on frontline policing instead.

» **Paul came 2nd last time** with over 112,000 votes. He is the only candidate who can beat the Conservatives across Surrey.



Final result, Police & Crime Commissioner election 2021

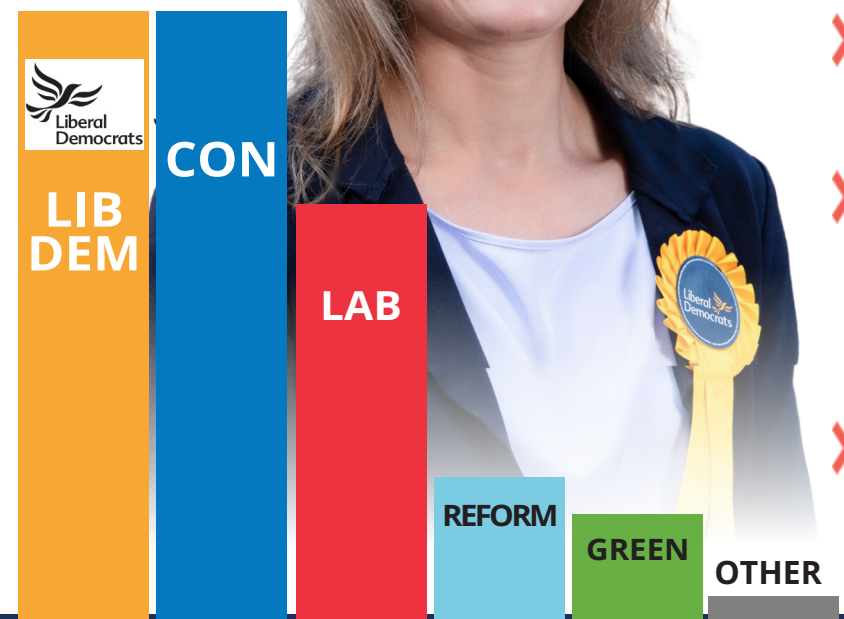
*Working together*

LATEST NEWS  
Now it's neck and neck!

# Helen Maguire

General Election this year

- » **A General Election is coming this year** and not a moment too soon. Time is up for the Tories.
- » **Local people trust the Lib Dems** - we have more District and Borough Councillors across the constituency than Labour and the Conservatives combined
- » **Labour HQ admit they cannot win here** - if you want real change, only the Lib Dems' **Helen Maguire** can win against the Tories.



General Election forecast for the new Epsom & Ewell constituency, source: YouGov Survey, January 15<sup>th</sup> 2024.





# Council Tax Up

## But the Council is still in trouble

The Council has set this year's council tax rise at 2.99%. This is the maximum allowed by the government, despite inflation being much higher.

Cllr. Alison Kelly, delivering the response to the Residents' Party's Budget, expressed concern that we are slow to use money paid to the council by developers. This is intended to help with affordable housing and infrastructure/improvement projects in the borough. But spending this money looks like it is being held back so the interest can be used on day-to-day expenditure.

The council is also digging into its cash reserves for more than half a million pounds next year as well as hoping to raise a similar amount from increased car park fees. "This is not sustainable," she said, warning that, if the council cannot balance its budget, it could face bankruptcy.



Cllr Alison Kelly told the council their finances are "not sustainable"

She pointed out that both the Playhouse and Bourne Hall cost us hundreds of thousands of pounds and that we need these to become self-sufficient, otherwise, as discretionary services, they would be forced to close immediately.

Cllr. Julie Morris, leader of the Lib Dem council group, argued that the council should have more faith in local residents. "Ask [them] what their priorities are and give them options for spending and saving money .... Carry public opinion with you and it costs less and achieves far more in the long run."

Lib Dem parliamentary candidate, Helen Maguire, commenting afterwards, said that "councils run by all parties are feeling the squeeze of this Conservative government's pressure on local finances. We need a change of government to see an improvement."

You can view the entire budget meeting on YouTube - just search for "epsom and ewell council".

## Alison Keeps Her Eyes on the Road - and the Footpaths

### Puddles Galore

Cllr Alison Kelly has been investigating what can be done about the puddle that forms outside the Marquis of Granby (right top).

Surrey County Council (SCC) advise that this is currently not a trip hazard.

The problem of the dip is caused by the lorries that deliver to the pub. This means that a simple raising and relaying the bricks will not be a long term solution.

Consequently SCC are working on a scheme that would include bollards to prevent vehicles mounting the pavement. Quotes for such a scheme are being sought.



### A Slippery Situation

During January, Cllr Kelly noticed a large area of ice at the end of Wheelers Lane where it bends and meets Lewins Road (left bottom). This footpath is joined by the path that goes over the railway and so is used by many pedestrians.

Feedback after contacting SCC suggest that a Grit Bin could be placed at this location. The cost of grit bins is just over £600 and covers an annual refill.

Each proposal will need to be approved by the relevant County Councillor using part of their funding allocation.

## CONTACT US



Cllr Alison Kelly

Tel: 01372 726504

Email: cllrakelly@gmail.com

Helen Maguire

Tel: 07717 119285

Email: helen@helenmaguire.org



Facebook:

Epsom Lib Dems (public site)

Helen Maguire for Epsom & Ewell

Website:

www.epsomewelllibdems.uk

www.helenmaguire.org

## Your local Lib Dem Team

*Working hard for our community*



### Keep Tennis Free for Kids

Your Lib Dem councillors are concerned that from 1st April our tennis courts will no longer be free. The council will be introducing a new 'pay as you play' scheme across all tennis courts in the borough.

"We appreciate the huge financial pressures on the council," said Alison, "but we also support the health and vitality of local residents. There must be times when the courts are free for children and those in financial difficulties."

Sign our petition to keep some free time for children and those receiving Council Tax benefits here:

[www.bit.ly/tennis-petition](http://www.bit.ly/tennis-petition)

Or use this QR link:

Or contact Alison for a paper copy.



### More Town Hall Secrecy

Liberal Democrats have again had to challenge the Residents Association-controlled council about secrecy.

Councillors have been told that they mustn't reveal what has been discussed at councillor briefing meetings. Even the topic being discussed must not be revealed!

"We appreciate that confidentiality might be needed at a meeting where commercially sensitive details are discussed," said Cllr Alison Kelly. "But we should presume that all information is available to the public unless there is a good reason for it not to be."

"Lib Dems will continue to campaign for open and transparent government, both locally and nationally."

### Ed Davey comes to Epsom

Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey MP marked the launch of Parliamentary Candidate Helen Maguire's 2024 election campaign by paying a visit to Epsom town centre.

"I'm here because I think we can win this seat," said Sir Ed on a visit to Epsom Market. "The Conservatives are so out of touch, and I think people want change."

A recent YouGov poll, commissioned by the Daily Telegraph, indicated that the Lib Dems in Epsom & Ewell are neck and neck with the Conservatives.

