

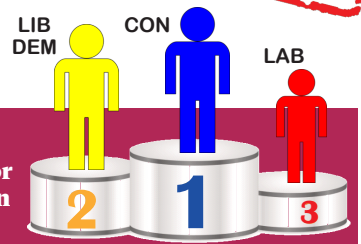
NEWS GAZETTE

News from the Liberal Democrats in the new parliamentary constituency of
Epsom and Ewell, including Leatherhead and Ashted
Summer 2023

IT'S LIB DEM OR
CONSERVATIVE HERE

FROM RMP TO MP SPECIAL REPORT: BACK PAGE

Neither
Labour nor
Greens can
win here



2019 General Election result in Epsom & Ewell constituency.
(No data for the new constituency boundaries)

INFLATION SHOCK TO YOUNG AND OLD

All ages are having to pay the price of more Conservative chaos

Young people are seeing their mortgage rates rocket while pensioners are seeing their savings shrink.

Meanwhile banks are raking in the cash while profiteering from rising interest rates by not offering better returns on savings.

The Liberal Democrats are calling on the Conservative government to stop people losing their homes as fixed term deals come to an end.

Recent polls suggest that **one in two** mortgage borrowers are now worried about losing their homes. Not surprising as the average two-year fixed mortgage rate reaches a new 15 year high of 6.66 per cent.

Lib Dems want government to create a Mortgage Protection Fund to ensure help for those most threatened by repossession.

The fund would be based on past

The Rising Cost of a Cuppa

Lib Dem Parliamentary candidate for Epsom & Ewell, **Helen Maguire**, enjoys a cuppa with friends.

But even this small luxury has been hit by the cost of living crisis. Tea prices have risen by nearly 10p in the £ over the last year – with both Milk and Sugar up by **MORE THAN a whopping THIRD!**

“Families are facing enormous pressure to deal with the cost-of-living crisis. With basic food essentials rising by up to a third over the last year, thanks to the Conservatives’ mismanagement of the economy, now is the time for change,” said **Helen**.



Tea (250gms)	£2.16 to £2.36	↑ 9%
Milk (Pint)	52p to 70p	↑ 34%
Sugar (Kg)	78p to £1.09	↑ 39%

SOURCE: ONS

schemes and paid for by reversing the Tory tax cuts to the big banks.

Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate for Epsom & Ewell, **HELEN MAGUIRE**, said:

“Millions of homeowners are worried sick about losing their homes, all

because of the chaos unleashed by this Conservative government.

“With Labour having no chance and the Tory ‘blue wall’ collapsing, we will offer a better alternative to the years of chaos we’ve seen in Government,” said Helen, a former Royal Military Police officer.

LOCAL LIB DEMS WORKING FOR YOU

Private Cops Called in to Sort out Epsom's Crimewave



Crime in Epsom was so bad that "at their wits end" store holders called in private cops to help.

According to **Karen Pengelly** and crime buster **Ben Sheldrake** (pictured above with Lib Dem Parliamentary Candidate **Helen Maguire**), the move has met with great success with prosecutions rising.

Helen, a former military police officer, said, "Surrey Police underspent their budget last year yet shop owners in Epsom have had to pay to put a halt to this crimewave. It is a total disgrace that they have been forced to do this. We must look to the next general election and make a change."

Transform Leatherhead Boost



Leatherhead's transformation has taken a big step forward with Lib Dem led Mole Valley council approving the final terms of its partnership with builders **Kier Property**.

The Transform Leatherhead project will bring new leisure and entertainment facilities to the Swan centre and an exciting range of developments around Bull Hill.

Lib Dem lead Councillor **Keira Vyvyan-Robinson** (pictured) said, "in Kier we have a partner with the experience to bring our vision to life. I'm very much looking forward to hearing what local people think at the public consultation later this year."

Ashtead's Noisy Road Bumps get Lib Dem Treatment



The traffic calming speed humps in **Barnett Wood Lane, Ashtead**, are noisy and damage cars so residents want the County Council to come up with better solutions.

The issue is being picked up by the Lib Dems following a visit to the area by parliamentary candidate **Helen Maguire**.

Local Lib Dem campaigner **Jolanta Waugh** (above) said, "We need quieter traffic calming solutions so we're more than happy that Helen is lending her support and writing to Surrey County Council to encourage them to seek better solutions."

Burgh Heath Road resurfaced after local pressure



The local Lib Dems' postbag was full after **Julian Freeman** (pictured), newly elected as a councillor in May, reported in the **FOCUS** newsletter on the dreadful state of **Burgh Heath Road**. "It was almost undrivable," he said.

The Lib Dems complained about it to Surrey County Council and encouraged local residents to do the same. Eventually the council bowed to pressure and resurfaced it - the week before Derby Day!!

"Great for Burgh Heath Road but, sadly, most other roads have just been patched," said **Julian**, "so we expect to see potholes there again next year."

Sewage Discharges Continue



Thames Water was recently fined **£3.3m** for its illegal spillage of millions of litres of Raw sewage into the River Mole in 2017.

Yet still the pollution continued to pour into our rivers amounting to a disgraceful 6,000 hours in 2022.

Parliamentary Candidate **Helen Maguire** said, "Sewage discharges into the Mole and Hogsmill, which run through our constituency, threaten our health and enjoyment.

"I want to see companies fund the clean-up of our waterways out of the revenues they generate rather than pay a further £18.9bn in dividends as they have done over the past decade."

Tory Govt U-turns on Building on Green Belt



Epsom & Ewell Council and **Liberal Democrat** led **Mole Valley Council** have both paused their **Local Plan** processes.

They have done so after the Tory government announced a review of housing targets - in the lead up to this year's local elections. The Councils' pause is to allow the government to confirm legally its promised new rules, hopefully no longer forcing the Councils to build on Green Belt land.

"Tory policy is in chaos - do they want to encourage Green Belt development or not? Who knows?" asks Lib Dem parliamentary candidate **Helen Maguire**.

TORIES' BROKEN PROMISE ON NEW EMERGENCY HOSPITAL

Residents face crumbling hospitals

as waiting lists hit record levels

Epsom & Ewell residents are still waiting for their new £500m emergency hospital.

Despite the Government opting to build the new hospital at Sutton following years of wrangling over potential sites - that also included St Helier and Epsom - planning permission has yet to be sought.

Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate **Helen Maguire** said: "It's now

accepted that the new Sutton emergency hospital cannot be completed before 2027 - two years later than planned - and that 2027 date assumes planning permission will be granted soon.

"While the Tory Government is dithering, waiting lists have reached a record all time high while our hospital infrastructure is deteriorating. 98% of St Helier hospital is considered, by one Tory MP, to be in **poor or bad condition.**"

*Helen visits the dilapidated St. Helier hospital where an investigation by **ITV News** found leaks, sinking floors, cracked walls and holes in the ceiling in a "building that is quite literally falling apart".*

MEANWHILE, SOCIAL CARE CRISIS DEEPENS

LIB DEMS CALL FOR CARERS' MINIMUM WAGE



Helen talks to Nurse Natalie Ings at St Helier hospital

Epsom & Ewell's social care crisis has deepened with over 1,500 hospital bed days lost to backlogs.

In May of this year, the loss of hospital beds at Epsom & St Helier Hospitals Trust had risen **four-fold** compared with the same period in 2022 - far higher than the national average which was up a third over the previous year.

1,200 bed days of those lost involved patients who had been stuck in hospital for **three weeks or more.**

Delayed discharges take place when medically fit patients are unable to leave hospital, often due to a lack of social care.

Liberal Democrat Parliamentary

Candidate **Helen Maguire** said, "The government's failure to tackle the social care crisis is having a "disastrous" impact, piling pressure on hospitals, while elderly and vulnerable patients are left waiting for the care they need.

This Conservative Government isn't listening and cannot be trusted with our NHS or social services

"You cannot fix the NHS crisis without sorting social care. We want a **Carers' Minimum Wage** set £2 above the minimum wage. This would help reduce soaring vacancies in social care and tackle the crisis facing the NHS," she added.

SUPPORT GROWS FOR LIB DEMS IN NEW EPSOM & EWELL CONSTITUENCY

Surrey Blue Wall Collapses as Conservative MPs stand down

Liberal Democrats in the new Epsom & Ewell constituency, which now covers Leatherhead as well as Ashted, gained more councillors at the May elections than any other party.

The rest of Surrey saw even greater gains, particularly in Mole Valley, as well as Elmbridge, Surrey Heath, Guildford, Woking and Waverley.

With the Lib Dems on the rise and long-serving Conservative MPs standing down, the

crumbling Tory blue wall saw a virtual wipe out in Mole Valley, where the Conservatives were left with just 3 seats.

Local Lib Dem Parliamentary candidate **Helen Maguire** said, "In Surrey we are now the only real alternative to the Conservative Party.

"Voters will not forget the awful record of a Tory government that has made life far tougher – we will change that after the next General Election."



More and more people in our area are backing **Helen** to be our next MP.

➔ **Helen Maguire is our hardworking champion to be MP**

➔ **Only the Liberal Democrats can beat the Conservatives here**

➔ **The Lib Dems won the most new council seats in the local elections here**

HELEN'S RECORD OF SERVICE

Fundraiser **Helen Maguire** has raised **over £1 million** for UK charities since leaving the Army.

As a **Captain in the Royal Military Police**, she defended our values and freedoms.

Helen served in Bosnia on **NATO peacekeeping** before helping rebuild the Iraqi Police service.

She has served as a **Parish**

councillor and Chair of her local recreation ground.

She serves the community by **volunteering** with Mid Surrey Community Fridges and the Leatherhead Community Hub.

This year, in Charles III's first birthday honours list, Helen was awarded a **British Empire Medal** (B.E.M.) for her community service.

JOIN HELEN'S TEAM

To contact Helen:

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Hello,

My name is Helen Maguire and I'm standing to be your Liberal Democrat MP because, like many of you, I've had enough of 13 years of Conservative economic and political chaos. Before raising over £1m for UK charities as a fundraiser, I was a Captain in the Royal Military Police. Now, I live in Surrey with my husband and three teenage kids. With your help we can end decades of being taken for granted by local Tories.

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