

NEWS GAZETTE

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News from your local Liberal Democrats in the new parliamentary constituency of Epsom & Ewell, including Leatherhead and Ashted

New Year 2024

New Year
New Constituency
New MP



HEALTH & CARE SPECIAL EDITION

Helen Maguire explains the Lib Dems' healthcare policies - **SEE INSIDE**

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An overnight stay at Epsom Hospital offered Lib Dem parliamentary candidate **Helen Maguire** yet another insight into the workings of the NHS, one which highlights the great work being undertaken by doctors and nurses, while also shedding light on the pressures facing the NHS.

THANK YOU, NHS!

A personal message from Helen Maguire, Lib Dem parliamentary candidate:

“I would like to say a very big ‘thank you’ to the doctors and nurses at **Epsom Hospital** for the wonderful treatment I received following an operation and overnight stay.

“There’s nothing like being a ‘customer’ of the NHS to highlight the

dedication and professionalism our NHS staff put into their jobs, often in the most difficult circumstances.

“I was treated with courtesy and diligence by all those I encountered, having required treatment to resolve a condition that had been with me for some time.

“But what my experience also highlighted was the scandalous waiting list

problem this government has created. In my own case, I waited nearly 11 months to get my issue resolved and even then it took a cancellation to get me to the operating table.

“The pressure our health trust is under is clear – with nearly four times more people (956) in Epsom & St Helier Hospital Trust waiting over a year for treatment compared with last year. Waiting lists nationally

have grown to 7.75 million – the highest since records began.

“This situation was not caused by the Trust’s leadership team, nor by the doctors, nor by the nurses or other ancillary staff that I met on my stay in Epsom Hospital. Rather it is down to the long-term lack of direction and funding by this government.

“Enough is enough - **it’s time for change.**”

COMMENT

from Lib Dem parliamentary candidate, Helen Maguire

Time is up for the Tories

2024 is likely to see a General Election - one which could lead to significant change here in Epsom & Ewell. With the Labour Party deciding that our constituency is not worth fighting for; boundary changes that favour the Lib Dems; and a split down the middle in the Tory Party with its appalling record in Government; the race to be our next MP is a clear choice between the Conservatives and the Lib Dems.

A different kind of MP who will stand up for our communities

There is a real thirst for change. Our NHS was once admired around the world. Now it has been left to fester, with investment lagging way behind demand. St Helier Hospital is falling apart and no longer meets modern standards while government promises, but does not deliver, our new critical care hospital at Sutton - the key to the future upgrading of both Epsom and St Helier hospitals.

I'm committed to serving our community, driven by the same sense of duty that led me to serve my country in Iraq and Bosnia. As your MP, I pledge to fight for the health service Epsom & Ewell deserves, aiming to restore the global admiration of our NHS.



WHERE IS OUR NEW HOSPITAL??

When will the government stop prevaricating and hand over the promised £500m to be spent on hospital provision for Epsom, Ashted, Leatherhead and Ewell?

Our local healthcare trust has roughly the same number of beds per 1,000 people as in Chile and Colombia. So it's about time the government delivered on their promises.

Earlier this year, the money for the new emergency hospital at Sutton was reconfirmed but we've still seen no



James Blythe, managing director of Epsom & St. Helier Hospitals, meeting Helen to discuss the issues currently facing our local hospitals.

No wonder waiting lists in Epsom have soared

progress - so another empty promise?

The new hospital, which geographically falls between Epsom and St Helier, promises to concentrate key emergency services in one place, ensuring that residents get higher quality acute care in a more modern hospital. Both Epsom and St Helier hospitals can then be improved to offer better and more modern facilities.

But nothing has happened thanks to Government wrangling over standardising all new hospitals. The end result is that delays in starting the

Sutton project have meant costs have soared.

Helen Maguire, your Lib Dem parliamentary candidate, points out that Epsom has greater hospital bed deprivation than all the major European countries of the EU and many non-European countries. Germany with 7.82 hospital beds per thousand people ranks third in the world. This is in stark contrast to our underfunded NHS which has 2.43 beds per thousand people, so ranks 32nd.

"The national picture is bad enough," said **Helen**, "but **Epsom & Ewell fares even worse** than the UK average with just 1.9 beds per thousand people. I witnessed this myself recently in Epsom hospital - such is the pressure on beds that I was still waiting for my lift home as another patient arrived on the ward in my bed place. No wonder waiting lists have soared."

"If elected, I will campaign tirelessly not only to get Epsom & Ewell's healthcare, at the very least, up to the UK average, but also to fight for greater investment in our staff and crumbling hospitals."

For more info, visit www.bit.ly/WheresOurNewHospital

HIGH QUALITY SOCIAL CARE

Everyone deserves high-quality social care if they need it. Yet hundreds of thousands of people in England are waiting for care. Many are stranded in hospital beds due to the lack of capacity in care homes and amongst community carers.



The Conservatives promised to "fix" the crisis in our social care system, so that no one would have to sell their house to pay for care and that they would not raise tax to do it. They have broken all these promises.

That's why **Helen Maguire** is supporting the Lib Dem plans for

reform which means introducing free personal care based on the model introduced by the Liberal Democrats in Scotland in 2002.

Other reforms include:

- ➔ Hiring more social care staff, provide training and advancement, and paying them a decent wage by introducing a **Carer's Minimum Wage**.
- ➔ Increasing the **Carer's Allowance** so that unpaid carers have the support they so desperately need.
- ➔ Introducing a statutory guarantee of **regular respite breaks** for unpaid carers.

Helen said, "The good news is that Epsom and St Helier health trust has one of the best records for freeing up beds, thanks to close collaboration between local agencies.

"Nevertheless, we need more beds and reform to social care, otherwise our health trust will remain under enormous pressure. That is something that I want to help change."

A FAIR DEAL FOR THE NHS

At the heart of Lib Dem proposals for the NHS is the belief that high-quality healthcare, free at the point of use, is essential to individual freedom and national prosperity.

Helen Maguire, Lib Dem parliamentary candidate for Epsom & Ewell, said:

"Good health gives people the freedom to live the lives they choose, and a thriving economy needs a healthy population.

"The Conservatives have plunged the NHS into crisis. They have run local health services into the ground, putting people, buildings, and beds under immense pressure. With 112,000 staff vacancies in England, long waiting times, missed targets and poor

outcomes, patient safety is being pushed into the danger zone."

PEOPLE WANT TO BE CONFIDENT THEY WILL GET THE MEDICAL HELP THEY NEED

The issues are complex and a long time in the making but there's a lot of evidence to show that people are no longer confident they will get the medical help they need, when they need it most. If Helen is elected as your next MP, she will join other Lib Dem MPs to campaign for:

- Giving everyone the right to see their GP within seven days, or within 24 hours if they urgently need to.

- Reform of NHS dentistry so that no one is forced to pay hundreds of pounds for private care.
- A programme to put mental health on the same footing as physical health.
- Investment in public health and prevention so that fewer people get ill and need treatment.
- Funding to recruit, train and retain more doctors and nurses, so filling thousands of NHS vacancies and cutting waiting times.
- Emergency funding to fix the life-threatening crisis in the ambulance services and to tackle poor response times.
- Investment in Social Care services, to free-up beds and ease pressure on the NHS.



Helen Maguire wants an NHS that our nation can be proud of once again. It will take time to repair the damage done by the Conservatives.

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR

IT'S LIB DEM OR CONSERVATIVE HERE

- Local people trust the **Liberal Democrats** - they hold more District and Borough Council seats across the constituency than Labour or the Conservatives.
- **Labour** have declared Epsom & Ewell is not a target seat for them - they know they can't win here.

In December, the Labour Party published a list of 'non-priority' parliamentary seats on their official website - their list includes the new **Epsom & Ewell constituency** (which includes Leatherhead and Ashted). These are seats where they don't expect to win at the upcoming General Election, despite riding high in the national polls that you see on TV and in the newspapers. As we go to press, Labour hasn't selected a candidate here.

LIB DEMS ARE THE ONLY NON-TORY OPTION HERE

A big majority of voters are fed up with being taken for granted by a long succession of Conservative MPs here. Many feel left behind by a Conservative Party that's swung to the right in its decade of civil war. There is only one non-Tory option in Epsom, Ewell, Leatherhead and Ashted -

Liberal Democrat candidate, Helen MAGUIRE.

A vote for Labour or the Greens only helps the Tories here

The Conservative Party is hopelessly divided and Labour can't win here



General Election forecast for the new Epsom & Ewell constituency, 29 Sept. 2023
source: Stonehaven Election MRP

Scan the QR code to join the campaign or get in touch with Helen



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