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Issue 169

From your local Liberal Democrat team

Action all year round from the Liberal Democrats



A new one is now on order.



Councillors reported the path on Muirfield **Drive** damaged by the motorbike fire. It is now marked for repair. Reporting events like this can discourage them (see page 3).





The Mayor of Derby, **Councillor Ajit Atwal!**



Littleover councillor **Ajit Atwal** has made a strong start to his year as Mayor of Derby. From opening the refurbished Market hall to visiting care homes he has been busy. His charity is Derby TocH (see inside) and he is championing action on knife crime. There is more at tinyurl.com/dcc-mayor



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Message Liza on 07957 267465

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Labour raiding Pension Fund?

People who work for Councils normally join the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Over the years the Funds in the Scheme have built up a nest egg of about £400billion. This means that unlike other public sector pension funds (like teachers' or NHS) the cost of pensions aren't all paid for by tax. Some money comes from the returns on investment. This makes it cheaper for Council Tax payers.

The Government now has its eye on this cash. It wants to force the Pension Funds to use this money for local projects. If good local investment opportunities were being offered, the Funds could already put money into them.

The Local Government Pension is a 'defined benefit scheme'. This means that if Government pressure results in less income from investments, Council Tax will have to go up, or Council services will need to be cut, to cover the cost of the pension payments.

Neither option sounds good.

rights, email: data.protection@libdems.org.uk

A bit of history...

Derby Homes manage the council houses in **Bretton Avenue** for the Council. It is planned to rebuild the majority of these to modern standards over the next few years.

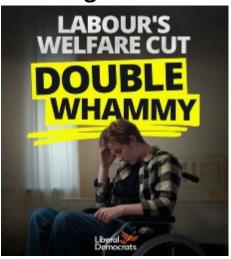
Most of the homes have been upgraded more than once over the last 75 years, but one still has it's original kitchen and bathroom. If this history should be kept, do share your ideas of how with the Focus team.



The Government must change course...



Cutting PIP will do nothing to help people into work, when so many rely on this support to stay employed.



Slashing carers allowance will hurt those selflessly looking after loved ones and taking pressure off our NHS.

I can help with Focus delivery near where I

a month).

live (about half an hour

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Tell us what you think...

Your local **Focus Team** wants to know what you think needs doing in your area. Let them know by returning this slip to the address below.

Your Name
Postcode, House number
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Can we keep you updated about our activities including campaigns, events, fundraising and details about how to get involved? Yes please No thanks
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☐ I would like to join the Lib Dems or go to www.libdems.o rg.uk/join-local

Please send me more details about advertising in Focus and 2026 calendar.

Bramblebrook Care Home is gone. What is coming next?

It is several years since the old Council-run care home on Rough Heanor Road closed. It has now been demolished.



It is planned for this land and the land behind - to be redeveloped as 'extra-care' flats for sale and rent. The designs are still to be finalised but it is likely to include many of the features

in the Council-run extra-care flats at Parkland View on Bath Street. This includes a games room, cafe, hairdressers and other services, including maybe a corner shop.

There are more pictures on the Littleover Lib Dems' Facebook Page tinyurl.com/EC-PV-Derby

Worried about something? Don't keep it to yourself

If you don't feel safe because of anti-social behaviour, or are annoyed by an over-hanging hedge, or need help with support for a child or elderly relative, do say.

Local councillors can be the first step to find a solution. It is rare that you are the only person being challenged by something. Getting the help you need can make life better for others too.

The councillors contact details are overleaf. Thanks.

COMMUNITY CORNER:

TocH Derby is the local charity being supported by this year's mayor. For 100 years they have been running holidays for children who'd otherwise not have time away from Derby. To volunteer, or give a donation, see www.derbytochcamp.org.uk Or phone 07546 247208



Let **Lucy Care** know if you have an item you'd like considering for this section. Phone 01332 721291.

Also...

Market Hall reopened

One of Cllr Ajit Atwal's first duties as the new Mayor of Derby was to open the refurbished Market Hall. As well as market stalls, it now has a range of 'street' food stalls and space for performances. Do drop by when you can.

Heatherton Coop

Sadly the Coop have said they won't be improving the parking area by the Heatherton shops this year. But they do hope to trim back the trees and bushes hanging over the paths and check the lighting.

Blagreaves Library is open

The Council's hope to have most libraries run by the community seems to have failed. The latest plan for ten libraries to be overseen by another organisation has been halted and the libraries are continuing to be run by the Council with support from volunteers. This means that Blagreaves Library is open. Talk to library staff if you'd like to join their volunteer teams.

How's Darcie?

The Council's online and phone helper, called Darcie, has been further improved. How is she doing? If there are specific things that annoy you, or she can't answer, do say. Use the thumbs-up/down to give feedback. If you say the experience was poor, then you have the option to explain why. The feedback is used, and the number of queries now answered - 24 hours a day - has risen from 2 in 5 to 3 in 5.

Gully wagon arrives!

In March 24 councillors amended the Labour Council's budget to get a second vehicle that could clean out roadside drains. Last autumn Cllr Lucy Care asked whether it had arrived. It hadn't.

Now, at last, it has arrived, but they were still recruiting staff to use it...



Future transport improvements

In past years the Council let local councillors agree a couple of highway priorities for their areas. Highways staff would then make these happen.

Now, apart from maintenance, the East Midlands mayor is holding the purse-strings for most transport work. There may be more money, but we have less say over how it is spent.

Cllr **Lucy Care** said "Highways staff are asking councillors to take a longer view and look at broader schemes, not just a single action. These plans should agree with the EMCCA mayor's priorities.

"The EMCCA mayor is still to finalise her highways priorities, and it won't be till next year that consultation on a Regional Transport Plan is expected to start. You are still welcome to share vour ideas on what is needed."

Those pesky hedges just keep growing!



Cllrs Lucy Care and Ajit Atwal cutting back the hedge by the seat on Normanton Lane. They have also asked for the hedge round the field to be trimmed.

Also

Burton Road lights

Work on the ring road junction is due to finish on 23rd lune. There will be controlled pedestrian crossings for three arms (not Manor Road) and more responsive traffic lights for vehicles.

Thank you...

... to everyone who gave books, jigsaws, family games, DVDs or CDs for the last book sale. The next is booked for Saturday 13th September.

To join the team, go to tinyurl.com/DL **D-booksale**



Businesses hit

There are more empty shops in Littleover Village than for a long time. This is sadly happening in many places after Labour's increase in National Insurance rates for employers. If you know someone who'd like to start a new (and preferably different) business in Littleover, please mention there's a choice of shops available.

YOUR FOCUS TEAM:

Cllr Lucy Care 01332 721291 lucycare@hotmail.com ajitatwal@hotmail.co.uk **Cllr Ajit Atwal** 07867 465963

Tom Bull tom@thomas-bull.co.uk

Glenda Howcroft 01332 773287 01332 218450 Marion Hall

Or by post to 8 Kings Drive, Littleover, Derby, DE23 6EU



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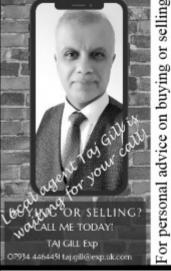
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07355 947628

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