

FOCUS



Issue 173

From your local **Liberal Democrat** team

Recycling to change



Cllrs Ajit Atwal and Lucy Care doing their bit by recycling.

Derby is below average when it comes to recycling. Blue bin items get put in black bins and also the other way round. Lib Dem councillors have asked that Christmas bin info includes reminders about recycling.

From next April there will be more changes. Kitchen food waste is to be sent to make 'green' methane. Households will get a kitchen 'caddy' and a bin outside.

Open spaces at risk from 'green wedge' review

The City Council asked 'experts' to assess the value of Derby's green wedges for Derby's new 'Local Plan'. The report is now published on the Council's website at: tinyurl.com/DCC-GBWs



Green wedges help shape Derby's communities, provide space for wildlife and create links into the countryside. The review says that the Heatherton-Oaklands green wedge could give up some space without too much harm. This is being quoted in the recently submitted application for 350 homes. See: tinyurl.com/dcc-1544



The report also says that the housing proposed near Staker Lane in South Derbyshire damages the green wedge between Littleover and Mickleover.

Cllr **Lucy Care** said "This report could see the end of some of Derby's green open space. Land like this is wanted by developers for new homes. Government housing targets make it hard for Councils to say 'No' to housing developers.

"However the report could also provide evidence to challenge the new housing near Staker Lane in South Derbyshire. Do get in touch to discuss this."

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Only Labour has a say on Derby's future

Although the Government will decide the shape of Derby's new, larger Council, all councillors had expected to have a vote. But no. Government rules mean that only the Cabinet councillors - all Labour - will have a vote. Full Council will only be consulted.

The Mayor and Littleover councillor, Ajit Atwal, said "This pushes the fate of our local democracy even further from local voters. The whole process is being rushed through without giving time to improve the way it is being done."

In addition it has now been made clear that councillors elected in 2023 will be in post for five years, not the usual four. There will still be elections in 2027, for a new 'shadow' Council and these councillors will also service for five years, till 2032.

Lib Dem Group leader, Councillor **Lucy Care** said "Letting local people have a say in local democracy seems to be less and less part of the Labour Government's agenda."

Schools being forced into Academies

If schools were struggling, Councils used to be blamed. People could vote differently at the next local election.

Then the Government introduced a range of types of school, and schools started to opt out of Council 'control'. More and more schools are getting support from 'academy chains', not the local Council. These provide advice and support services as Councils did, but voters have no say if it isn't going right.

Now the Labour Government has told a nearby primary school that it must leave Council oversight and join an Academy. This also means that the land and buildings transfer from being a public asset to private.

At a time when pupil numbers are expected to fall, this could mean that school land is sold, not kept or used for public benefit.

Labour promised in their manifesto not to sell off the NHS. We need to protect our schools too!

Balance the Beeb!

Lib Dem MP Tessa Munt says "It's becoming clearer and clearer that the BBC is giving Nigel Farage and Reform far too much coverage. It is dangerous and it has to stop. Sign our petition at libdems.org.uk/bbc



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 _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Can we keep you updated about our activities including campaigns, events, fundraising and details about how to get involved? Yes please No thanks

Return this slip to 8 Kings Drive, Littleover, Derby, DE23 6EU.

The Liberal Democrats may use the information you provide, including your political opinions, to further our objectives and share it with our elected representatives. This forms part of our activities that promote democratic engagement with electors, under the lawful basis of public task. Any data we gather will be used in accordance with our privacy policy: libdems.org.uk/privacy. You can exercise your rights and withdraw your consent to future communications by contacting us: data.protection@libdems.org.uk or: DPO, Lib Dems, 66 Buckingham Gate, SW1E 6AU.

I can help with Focus delivery near where I live (about half an hour a month).

I have made a donation to help pay for Focus at www.derbylibdem.org.uk/donate



I would like to join the **Lib Dems** or go to www.libdems.org.uk/join-local



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

News on help for roads

Each year, councillors in Derby used to choose two small highways projects. This year they have been asked to choose just one larger one, that might last up to three years.

Highways engineers have been advising on these choices, as they have to agree with the regional mayor's priorities.

The still new 'regional mayor' is head of the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA). EMCCA is taking over transport roles from the City Council. This is due to be complete by next April.

Cllr Lucy Care said " We are told that Derby is planning to submit a transport request from each of the wards to be funded by the EMCCA mayor. Whether they will all get approved, or not, we wait to hear."

After careful discussion, Littleover's choice is still the same as two years ago. This is to consider the streets south of **Burton Road**, from **Warwick Avenue** to **Hillsway**. This area has many complaints about speeding and road safety.

Cllr Ajit Atwal said "It was a difficult choice. We needed to choose a project with the best chance of getting funded. Other areas with problems, like **Rykneld Road** or near the

Royal Derby Hospital could get improvements funded from housing developers or being part of a larger scheme covering major roads."

Cllrs Lucy Care and Ajit Atwal at the edge of city. Issues here may be easier to solve after 2028 when the Council boundary goes.



COMMUNITY CORNER:

Friends of Littleover Parks is a community group which preserves and enhances Littleover's eight parks. We want parks to be welcoming green spaces for all residents to enjoy. We are looking for a volunteer secretary to help us. If this could be you, or you would like to discuss further or just find out more about the group, please email Ali at littleoverparks@live.co.uk

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

Also...

Street Light savings

Changing to LED light bulbs saves energy at home. So does changing to LED street lights save the Council energy and money. There are many still to be done. **Lib Dems** are asking that this be done soon, to reduce running costs and carbon emissions.

Bunkers Wood open space

The play area and pond by the new housing on **Pritchett Drive** is being looked after by 'Encore'. It is for everyone to use. Bunkers Hill is also public space. If you know who looks after it, please tell a councillor!

Manor Road gap

Many people have commented on drivers going the wrong way through the right turn from **Manor Road** into St Alban's Road. This is despite the danger to themselves and other road users. The Council is now planning to put in cameras and introduce fines for people who use the junction wrongly.

B-Line for under 21s - trial

Half price bus travel cards for under 16s and under 19s have been available for years. These are currently being joined by a third card for under 21s until the end of 2025. Sadly this is not valid on all operators. Find out more at tinyurl.com/dcc-Bline3



Bored in Heatherton...

...and aged 8 - 16? Sporting Communities runs activities between 4:30 and 5:30 on Mondays at Haven Church. To find out more go along or call 07706 577540.

Correction

The July 2025 Focus included mention of extra funding for Littleover Community School from nearby developers. How this will be spent has not yet been agreed.

Thank you, Jan!

TRICK
OR
TREAT
HERE

YES PLEASE!

Help Halloween visitors
know if they'll be
welcome with a poster.

This version, or one
saying 'No', can be
downloaded from
www.tinyurl.com/DLD-31Oct



Jan Jackson was given a well-deserved Civic Award in September for her long-standing work in Littleover. Jan has been a key mover behind several local groups, including Grange Hall, Littleover in Bloom and Littleover History Society.

To find out more, or offer support to any of these groups, contact Jan on 348903 or jan.dante@gmail.com



Jan Jackson
receiving her award
from the Mayor,
Cllr Ajit Atwal.

YOUR FOCUS TEAM:

Cllr Lucy Care 01332 721291 lucycare@hotmail.com
Cllr Ajit Atwal 07867 465963 ajitatwal@hotmail.co.uk
Tom Bull tom@thomas-bull.co.uk
Glenda Howcroft 01332 773287
Marion Hall 01332 218450

Or by post to 8 Kings Drive, Littleover, Derby, DE23 6EU
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Royal Derby Hospital?**

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or fortnight to run shops, tea bars and
trolleys for patients, staff and visitors.



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to find out more:
07355 947628



If your settee is not looking like it should,
Sinking quick and springs no good,
If your settee looks a frightening sight,
Please ring Wayne, day or night.

Wayne: 07790 946685

Also...

Littleover Forum

Tuesday 28th October
from 6:30 - 7:30 at Haven
Church on **Hollybrook
Way**. To include local
community stalls and
information including
from the Council's
highways team, local
councillors and more.

Book sale

Thank you for giving or
buying items at the last
book sale. The next sale
will be on Saturday 15th
November. Phone
721291 with any
donations, or to offer
help. Thanks.

A new 'crem'?

The Council has started
the process to build a
new crematorium on the
existing Markeaton Lane
site. Cllr **Lucy Care** has
suggested that it would
be nice to include a cafe,
and maybe space to hold
a wake. Maybe the
existing building could be
converted. What do you
think? Tell the team!

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