

# FOCUS



Issue 174

From your local **Liberal Democrat** team

## City roads are so **BUSY** and we're not just talking traffic...

Gas, electricity, water, and telecom data are also flowing through our streets, mostly under the road or pavement. The companies providing these services have a right to put equipment there, and to maintain it.

Planned work has to be in agreement with the Council. In an emergency, work just has to happen to make things safe or get a service working again.

It's easy to blame the Council when cones, barriers and



These works on Middleton Avenue for BT were so badly managed the contractor may be fined.

temporary lights make life difficult. But they are also the ones to get utility companies and contractors to work well.

Cllr Lucy Care said "We often raise issues with the Council's Road Works team. Some of the items we share on Facebook. Do follow us to find out more."



## Book Sale Saturday 15 November

10am to 4pm at **Baptist Community Hall, Thornhill Road, DE23 6FZ**

**Books £1 each**

1000s of books, DVDs, CDs family games and jigsaws  
Also Christmas decorations  
To donate books, DVDs, CDs, jigsaws and games phone 01332-721291 or leave at 8 Kings Drive.

**Well done  
Littleover in Bloom  
- again!**  
(See inside for details)

Advertising in Focus does not imply support for the Lib Dems, nor do the Lib Dems endorse the goods or services offered.

**PROPERTY OPTIONS**  
Estate Agents • Letting Agents • Valuers • Mortgages

**LANDLORDS!**

**8%**  
FULLY MANAGED

• Local office  
• Experienced  
• Sales  
• Lettings  
• Valuations

536 Burton Rd, Derby DE23 6FN  
01332 20 25 20

**The VILLAGE GRILL**

[www.thevillagegrillfastfood.com](http://www.thevillagegrillfastfood.com)

Spend over £15 to get a whopping 15% off.

01332 36 55 55  
Delivery available

Southern Fried Chicken, pizzas, steak kebabs, burgers, and more.

Fri-Sat 4:30-12:00  
Sun-Thurs 5:00-12:00  
Open every day, including bank holidays

9 South View, Burton Road, Littleover Village

BOOK YOUR TAXI WITH **NATIONAL CARS**  
**01332 33 22 11**  
FAST - RELIABLE - TRUSTWORTHY

• 24 hour service  
• Airports  
• Up to 7 seats  
• Early mornings

90p start fare

[www.nationalcarsderby.co.uk](http://www.nationalcarsderby.co.uk)  
**33 22 11**  
Download our app from the app store

# Local Government Reorganisation - update

The Labour Government is ploughing on with its plans to create new, huge unitary Councils across most of England. These are supposed to save money, but change also has a cost.

In Derbyshire, the City, District and Borough Councils agree that two Councils (one north, one south) is the best

option. There is however big concern about the timescales. Community identity feels threatened though the proposals say Derby should still have its own mayor.



Cllr Lucy Care with a printed copy of the proposal. It's available online at: [tinyurl.com/1D2C2](http://tinyurl.com/1D2C2)

Just making sure that all services continue to work on day 1 in 2028 will be challenging. It will probably take another four years, or more, for all changes to be made.

**Lib Dem** Group Leader on Derby City Council Councillor **Lucy Care** said "As a Party we are not happy with the way the changes are being pushed through. This is being done to Derby, not with Derbyans. It's happening too fast."

Elections in 2027 will choose the councillors to set up the new Authority, while the existing councillors continue to run the current Councils for another 11 months.

**Lucy** said "The local proposal has been led by Council Leaders (mostly Labour) for a Labour Government. Work is being done by Council staff and consultants. Voters, residents and even other councillors' voices go largely unheard."

## By-elections galore!

It is six months since the May elections to County Councils, like Derbyshire, when many people voted Reform for the first time.

Councillors must attend at least one meeting every six months, or lose their seat. Some of the new Reform councillors have not been to a single meeting. Other new councillors have already resigned and by-elections have been called.

Reform councillors are also being forced to go back on election promises to hold or cut Council Tax, just as Nigel Farage has had to do a U-turn on his promise to cut national taxes.

## Derby MPs not yet supporting MML

Early Day Motions are Parliament's way to sign a petition. There is one (EDM2007) calling to electrify Midland Main Line. Read more at [tinyurl.com/EDM2007](http://tinyurl.com/EDM2007) Do encourage MPs to show their support and sign it!



## 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 will use your contact details to send you information on the topics you have requested. Any data we gather will be used in accordance with our privacy policy at [libdems.org.uk/privacy](http://libdems.org.uk/privacy). To exercise your legal data rights, email: [data.protection@libdems.org.uk](mailto:data.protection@libdems.org.uk)

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](http://www.derbylibdem.org.uk/donate)



I would like to join the **Lib Dems** or go to [www.libdems.org.uk/join-local](http://www.libdems.org.uk/join-local)



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

# Awards for hard work - and skill - in Littleover

Littleover again did well in the East Midlands in Bloom competition this year. The Finals were held in Grimsby where Littleover in Bloom was awarded a silver-gilt certificate in the Urban Community Category.

A garden on **Normanton Lane** won gold for Best Front Garden and the White Swan won gold for the Best Business. Friends of Littleover Parks also received a Judges' Award.

Well done to everyone! Work goes on to keep Littleover looking great for the winter.

If you can help, with a bit of weeding, planting or tidying contact Jan on 01332 348903 or speak to any of the team when they're working in the village.



Cllr Ajit Atwal by the new bollard troughs on North Street, planted up by Littleover in Bloom. If you live near, or regularly walk past, could you help care for them? If so, talk to Jan!

## Your Rights - and Poppies...

It is often only when things go wrong, or feel unfair, that people worry about 'their Rights'.

Our society has set up lots of rules to protect Rights and help make life 'fairer'. From getting money back on late-running trains or appealing for a school place, there are 'fairness' rules people use every day.

The biggest Rights, from which many 'fairness' rules flow, were written and agreed after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War - the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). It was part of saying 'never again' to the horrors of that war.

Last month, this protection could have been torn up for the UK. Reform MPs proposed the UK leave. Conservatives voted with them, and many Labour MPs abstained. **Lib Dem** MPs voted solidly to remain, so all is well.

When you see a Poppy, remember those who gave their lives, and the ECHR helping ensure it will be 'never again'.

There is more about ECHR from a **Lib Dem** MP here:



## COMMUNITY CORNER:

Foster children often benefit from having an Independent Visitor in their lives. These volunteers meet a young person each month for a few hours. Contact the Children's Rights Service on 07389 712369 or see [tinyurl.com/CGL-CRS25](http://tinyurl.com/CGL-CRS25)

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

## Also...

### More fibre going in

That's optic fibre cables, not baked beans! Openreach is strengthening their fibre network in the Littleover area, with new cables being slung between telegraph poles and threaded through underground ductings. Some works are not being conducted to the proper standards. If you think something is unsafe, send a photo to one of the Focus team showing the problem and location.

### Book Sale

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November, from 10:00 till 4:00 is the next second hand Book Sale at the Baptist Community Hall on Thornhill Road. There will also be DVDs, CDs, jigsaws and family games for sale - and Christmas decorations. If you wish to donate items, do call 721291 or leave at 8 Kings Drive. Thank you.

### Market Hall

Have you visited? What's your view? The Council is keen to see the Market Hall as an exciting venue for entertainment and activity. **Lib Dem** are concerned that this isn't working. What role do you think the Market Hall should have in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Let your councillors know. Their contact details are overleaf.

### Street Lights

If any aren't working - or stuck on during the day - let's get them right for winter. There is more information on the Council's website at [tinyurl.com/DCC-streetlight](http://tinyurl.com/DCC-streetlight) which has a link to report the fault online. Problems can also be reported direct to the Council's contractors on 715002. Include the number on the column, where it is and what the problem is. There are many street lights still to be converted to lower energy LED lighting. **Lib Dem** have been pressing for this to be done, and a business case for this is currently being worked on.

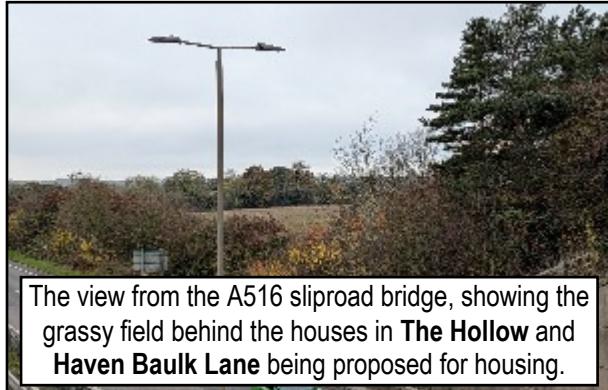


# House-building horror awaits?

There are planning applications for literally 100s of new homes near Littleover waiting to be considered by Derby City Council:

- 300 off **Rykneld Road** between Aldi and Highfields Farm
- 100 off **Haven Baulk Lane / The Hollow**
- 350 off Moorway Lane

The first of these has been planned as a part of Heatherton for years, but the other two are being proposed on 'green wedge'. The homes off **Allan Avenue** and **Pritchett Drive** were also built on what had been green wedge.



The view from the A516 sliproad bridge, showing the grassy field behind the houses in **The Hollow** and **Haven Baulk Lane** being proposed for housing.

Derby has been told by the Labour Government that it must find space for 1000s more homes. This is even though planning approval has already been given for over 4000 which are not yet built and Derby is built up to its boundary in all directions.

If these applications are refused, developers can appeal and the decision is taken nationally. Traffic, impact on wildlife, school places, doctors and dentists are just some of the issues that **Lib Dems** are concerned about.

## YOUR FOCUS TEAM:

<b>Cllr Lucy Care</b>	01332 721291	<a href="mailto:lucycare@hotmail.com">lucycare@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Cllr Ajit Atwal</b>	07867 465963	<a href="mailto:ajitatwal@hotmail.co.uk">ajitatwal@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Tom Bull		<a href="mailto:tom@thomas-bull.co.uk">tom@thomas-bull.co.uk</a>
Glenda Howcroft	01332 773287	
Marion Hall	01332 218450	

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

[www.derbylibdems.org.uk](http://www.derbylibdems.org.uk)

 [Littleover Lib Dems](#)

Advertising in Focus does not imply support for the Lib Dems, nor do the Lib Dems endorse the goods or services offered.

**Would you like to join the friendly team of volunteers at the Royal Derby Hospital?**

Volunteers give a little time every week or fortnight to run shops, tea bars and trolleys for patients, staff and visitors.

Have a chat with Jan to find out more:

**07355 947628**



Littleover Grange Hall Community Centre  
Tues 5:30 & 7:00pm Wed 9:00 & 10.30am

St Joseph's Church Hall, Burton Road

Wed at 5:30 7:00pm

**Slimming**

WORLD

Touching hearts, changing lives

   [Slimmingworld.co.uk](http://Slimmingworld.co.uk)

Ring Maria on 07746 567714 or just come along.

**AJB PAINTING & DECORATING COMPANY**



**ANDREW BREEN**

**07950 237471**

[AndrewBreen2017@outlook.com](mailto:AndrewBreen2017@outlook.com)

*All interior and exterior work catered for, quality and reliability assured.*

## Also...

### Local Plan

The 'Local Plan' guides development and land use in Derby. It is renewed about every ten years. The new Local Plan is expected to be approved for public consultation shortly. The formal consultation will start early in 2026. There is more at [tinyurl.com/DCC-eLP25](http://tinyurl.com/DCC-eLP25)



### 2026 Calendar

If you run a business, or know of a business that would like to have its phone number in the Focus calendar next year, ask them to get in touch. [adverts@derbylibdems.org.uk](mailto:adverts@derbylibdems.org.uk) or phone 721291.

### Bretton Avenue

There is a great need for more Council homes in Derby. Some of the empty ones on **Bretton Avenue** that need major work have been made good enough for short-term lets. The big renewal scheme here is still being worked up.

**Lib Dems - Working hard all year round** 