



From your local **Liberal Democrat** team

## Labour councillors voted to build houses on green wedge

Cllr **Lucy Care** listed a host of reasons - based on the planning officer's report - why land between the A38, A516 and The Hollow should not be used for housing. Sadly Labour councillors ignored her and the Planning Committee approved the planning application.

The developer said that they expect to start work on the 92 homes this year (2026). Access will be from near the A516 bridge.

Cllr **Lucy Care** said "More homes are needed in Derby, but our green spaces, forming gaps between communities, are also needed. This was not a good place for housing. Special fencing is needed to reduce traffic noise issues, the local schools are full, roads are already too busy and air pollution may be an issue.

"People choosing to live in Derby deserve better than this."



### Give your thoughts on land uses in Derby

The "Local Plan" says where building should happen in Derby, and guides what it should look like. The Plan also helps protect areas from being built on.

At present more land needs to be identified for new homes, which puts open space at risk.

The consultation from 12<sup>th</sup> January to 8<sup>th</sup> March gives a chance to comment on proposals for the city - and to suggest practical places for new homes. See page 2 for one idea to help keep our green spaces.

There will be drop in sessions at the Market Hall on 31<sup>st</sup> January and 21<sup>st</sup> February or go to [www.letstalkderby.gov.uk](http://www.letstalkderby.gov.uk) for the link.



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# Building homes OVER other land uses

Building higher can help provide more homes without losing valued open spaces. But how to do this without losing car parking or demolishing a low building which is still needed?

A not-for-profit company has a way of doing this by putting the new housing on stilts, building over what is already there. The homes are factory-built and lifted into place by a crane.

Planning approval would still be needed. Building costs will be similar to a traditional build.  
However the land does not need to be bought.



If you have somewhere where this might work, do talk to the company on 01273 978 928 or email [info@little-ships.org.uk](mailto:info@little-ships.org.uk) and you can also flag up this through the Local Plan process (see front page) to potentially make it easier to get planning approval.



First Venezuela, next Greenland?

You don't suck up to bullies like Trump, he will just see it as a sign of weakness.

Keir Starmer needs to get on the phone to our European allies including the Danish PM, and show a united front against Trump's threats.

## Lib Dem MPs have been busy in Parliament in 2025...

You may be surprised at how many of these actions Labour have claimed as their success:

**Danny Chambers MP**'s bill to end puppy smuggling became law.

**Josh Babarinde MP OBE** secured stronger protections for victims of domestic abuse.

**Sarah Olney MP** strengthened support for victims of sexual offences.

**Munira Wilson MP** championed Free School Meals, tackling child poverty.

**Max Wilkinson MP** drove progress on solar panels for new-build homes, cutting bills and emissions.

Other **Lib Dem** campaigns have also been successful including to:

- secure the UK's return to Erasmus.
- require the MoD to assess service family housing.
- support a UK-EU customs union.
- press for ministers to speed up compensating LGBT veterans for their mistreatment.

There is more at  
[www.libdems.org.uk/  
our-campaigns/victories](http://www.libdems.org.uk/our-campaigns/victories)



## 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 [www.libdems.org.uk/privacy](http://www.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 2027 calendar.

# Small changes to make streets and open spaces better for people

Thank you to people who have got in touch since the last Focus about the new benches. It is good to know that these have been welcomed by many, and to have ideas where more are needed too.

Litter bins help people keep the area tidy, but some fill up very quickly.



Cllr Lucy Care drops some litter into the new bin on Constable Lane.

These include over grown hedges in various places and need for drainage ditches to be kept flowing.



Cllr Ajit Atwal texting for an update on the Hollybrook Way telecom box repair.

Councillors have asked for action on some things several times and are still waiting. This includes the damaged telecom box on **Hollybrook Way**, the damage to the Parklet in Littleover Village and the temporary lights on **Uttoxeter Road**.

Cllr **Ajit Atwal** said "You can be our eyes and ears to tell us when there are other things that should be done. Do get in touch, our contact details are overleaf."

## COMMUNITY CORNER:

**Fostering Derby children** for the local council is a paid role. Most people can be a foster parent. Book now to find out more at the next fostering information event on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 6:30pm to 7:30pm at Chapel Street Arts Centre, Chapel Street (was DeDa). Phone 0303 3132 950 or go to Foster for East Midlands Councils website at [www.fosterforeastmidlands.org.uk](http://www.fosterforeastmidlands.org.uk)



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

## Also...

### Recycling Advice

The Council has launched its new website about how waste and recycling will work from 1<sup>st</sup> April. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/DCC-waste26>

If you still have questions, or can't easily find information you want, please say.

Cllr **Lucy Care** is happy to ask for more website changes.



### Littleover Village parking

Councillors have had a helpful reply from the Coop about the limited parking in their car parks. They sound willing to consider possible changes to ensure that the village shopping continues to work well. Please continue to let councillors have your comments. Their contact details are overleaf.

### Bramblebrook

The reuse of the site of the old care home and day centre on **Rough Heanor Road** is getting closer. The issue has been added to the Council's "Forward Plan". It is expected that consultants will be appointed to take the project to build older people's flats forward. **Lib Dem** councillors have asked that local residents are kept involved.

### Bus shelters

The Council has just received some money to replace older bus shelters. **Lib Dem** councillors are asking if the stop opposite the Coop in Heatherton could have a shelter back, rather than just replacing existing shelters. The original one there was blown down about 5 years ago. If you know of other stops where shelters are needed, please let the team know. Even if they can't get on this year's list, there may be money next year.

# The Harlequin and bus timings

The bus company, Trent Barton, say that lane closures on the A38 during the autumn meant car drivers changed their routes. This led to buses like the Harlequin and Mickleover getting delayed.

Trent Barton also know that there can be faults with the 'Real Time Information', or RTI, displays at bus stops. If you have a smart phone, then using the Trent Barton 'Hugo' app is more reliable. Download it from the app store or [tinyurl.com/TB-hugo](http://tinyurl.com/TB-hugo)



If there are differences between this and the RTI display please let Trent Barton or one of the councillors know so that it can be corrected. Contact details are below or email [talk@trentbarton.co.uk](mailto:talk@trentbarton.co.uk)



Cllrs Ajit Atwal Lucy Care waiting at the bus stop opposite the Coop on Hollybrook Way. They have asked for a bus shelter here and Real Time information would be good too.



Trent Barton accept that the Harlequin buses are getting quite old. Better ones are hoped for...

The East Midlands Mayor has suggested that she might help fund electric buses. If you would like to push for new electric buses on the Harlequin service, please sign the petition at: [www.derbylibdems.org.uk/ebus](http://www.derbylibdems.org.uk/ebus)



## Also...

### Transport ideas

The East Midlands Mayor's transport consultation continues until the 8<sup>th</sup> February. Do share your thoughts at [tinyurl.com/emcca-transp25](http://tinyurl.com/emcca-transp25)



### Book Sale

The next book sale to fundraise for Focus and other local **Lib Dem** campaigning will be on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February. Do get in touch on 721291 if you have books, CDs or DVDs to donate, or leave them at 8 Kings Drive.

### North St planters

The black planters on North Street are to discourage drivers from driving on the pavement.

**Lib Dem** councillors have reminded the Council that they were to have reflective strips on them. Hopefully these will now be added soon.

## YOUR FOCUS TEAM:

**Cllr Lucy Care** 01332 721291 [lucycare@hotmail.com](mailto:lucycare@hotmail.com)

**Cllr Ajit Atwal** 07867 465963 [ajitatwal@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ajitatwal@hotmail.co.uk)

Tom Bull [tom@thomas-bull.co.uk](mailto: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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