



From your local **Liberal Democrat** team

Sorting open space in Heatherton



Cllrs **Lucy Care** and **Ajit Atwal** on the open space by **Callow Hill Way**. This area gets little care from the developers although they still own it.

When Heatherton was built the roads and many of the open spaces were planned to be handed over to the Council.

The roads have been - but not all the paths.

It started well with the open spaces, and then stopped. Many of these are still owned by the developers, including the play areas at **Sedgemoor Way** and **Woodcote Way**.

There are also lots of small patches of land near homes, that weren't included in house sales and aren't on the list to be transferred to the Council.

Cllr **Lucy Care** said "We've tried to get this done before so we know it isn't going to be easy. The Heatherton community will need to help."

Do you want to get this sorted? If so, please get in touch with **Lucy** or **Ajit**. Their contact details are on the back.

Food waste

The new food waste collections have not started as well as people had hoped. Please be patient. It will make better use of the waste than composting.

The crews and drivers are new to the job, and some of the vehicles are on hire awaiting permanent ones better designed for the job.

Flats are due to be included in the scheme in a couple of months.

The waste food is turned into gas and fertiliser at the Severn Trent works in Spondon, so helping, just a little, to be less dependent on fossil fuels.



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While Trump's illegal war continues...

... costs for travel, food and more will rise faster.

Britain gets most of its oil and gas from Europe and North America so is partly protected from supply shortages. But prices are set on the global market and are already rising.

Unless we reduce our demand for these fuels the big businesses selling them will be the winners making record profits. Using less is a good start, so choose to walk, cycle, take the bus or car share when you can.

Cllr **Lucy Care** said "I've already suggested that the Council might be able to do more itself to encourage 'modal shift' like this. Employers could help too. Ask!"

We don't know how long this will last, so if you can plan for the longer term too. There is advice on home energy efficiency and grants at <https://tinyurl.com/dcc-energy26>



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- 4 **Cut VAT on public charging** for electric vehicles.

Sign the petition at tinyurl.com/ldpet-kbm

Labour seek more government control over planning

Concern about planning applications is one of the top reasons for people to get in touch with their councillors. A common question is how to get a decision taken by councillors on the planning committee rather than council staff.

If Labour has their way, this will be a thing of the past.

Legislation is going through Parliament that would mean most applications could never be considered in public.

Government is also planning to limit the number of councillors on a planning committee, just when Councils are being made to cover much larger areas.

Comments on these points and more are open until 23rd April. See www.tinyurl.com/gov-planconsult26

Cllr **Ajit Atwal** said "Local people are elected to do what is best for their area, but more and more Labour are dictating this from London."



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. To exercise your legal data rights, email: 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.derbylibdems.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 2027 calendar.

More seats?



Cllrs **Ajit Atwal** and **Lucy Care** tried out several spots on **Muirfield Drive** for a possible new bench.

It's a new financial year, and the Neighbourhood Board's budget has been refreshed. This can be spent on small improvements to the area, or supporting local organisations to be able to do more.

Last year, spending included on providing more benches in several areas. There have been requests for more, including on **Haven Baulk Lane** and **Muirfield Drive** and for bus stops without shelters.

Other suggestions include

lowered kerbs to make crossing the road easier, and litter bins. As bins come with an ongoing cost for emptying they are not always allowed.

Do get in touch if there are things that you think could make the area better for more people. Councillors' details are overleaf.

Cameras now live on Manor Road gap

There are now cameras monitoring the gap in Manor Road central reservation that enables people to turn into St Albans Road. The signs were reviewed before this went live, and local councillors have suggested minor changes since.



Cllr **Ajit Atwal** on **Manor Road** by one of the new camera signs.

The misuse of the gap has been confirmed with a report that in the first few days there had been as many as 24 vehicles going the wrong way in just an hour. For the first 6 months people are warned on the first offence. Then fines are issued.

COMMUNITY CORNER:

Derby Refugee Advice Centre would love to have more volunteers to help support people now living in Derby. Help may be with advice, teaching English or maths, interpreting, admin assistance or simply being welcoming. Find out more at www.derbyrefugeeforum.org



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

Also...

Active Summer Showcase

On Friday 17th April from 9:30 to 2:00 Littleover Methodist Church is hosting an event sharing lots of things happening over the summer. Do drop in to find out more.

Your blood pressure?

Libraries across Derby now have blood pressure monitors that can be borrowed like a book. If you've not had your blood pressure checked recently, are worried about it or just curious, do sign up. They're free to borrow.

Youth Club here?

Thanks to those people who did the survey about having a local youth club. The Council would like more responses! If you have children, or are a young person yourself, what's your view? Please complete the survey at:

tinyurl.com/YouthClub-L



Derby Dementia Choir

meets in St Peter's Church in Littleover on Thursdays from 1 to 3pm from 16 April. If you are living with dementia or caring for someone who is, do come. More info from Rach on 07754 561031 or rach@brightfuturesunltd.org

Hollybrook Way surgery

A planning application for another doctors' surgery is under consideration for Hollybrook Way. This would be a private venture, not related to the current GPs. There are already concerns that parking overflows from the current GPs to the Coop car park. This is already an issue for customers to the Coop and other local shops.

Parking at the Coop

Parking is easier to find at the Coop in Littleover since the 90 minute limit was introduced, but not everyone is happy. People who need longer, whether for a hair appointment, eye test or to work in a shop, are now jostling for the remaining places.

After hearing from shoppers earlier, during March the Focus team surveyed the shops.

Fewer customers was a common concern, and linked to this, reduced takings. There is concern that an hour and a half is not long enough for people who want to browse.

The Focus team has sent a report on their findings to the Coop, and asked for responses to five possible changes to the scheme. Top was to extend the allowed time to 2 hours.

The full report is at: www.tinyurl.com/lvps-2026

Cllr **Lucy Care** said "These car parks are owned by the Coop, so they don't have to consider others. But the mix of shops here help bring people to Littleover's Coop so we hope that they will listen."



Cllrs **Ajit Atwal** and **Lucy Care** by one of the parking signs in the Coop car park.



YOUR FOCUS TEAM:

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

www.derbylibdems.org.uk



[Littleover Lib Dems](https://www.facebook.com/LittleoverLibDems)

Also...

Middleton Avenue

An amended design for flats on the Middleton Avenue car park has been submitted to the Council. See it at

www.tinyurl.com/dcc-ma-plans



Manor Kingsway

The Council approved more homes to replace business space on the land off Kingsway. This area now has no space left for local shops or services and there is frequent queuing on the nearby roads. Cllr **Lucy Care** had voted against this. She said "We do need more homes, but not JUST more homes."

Hedgehogs

You may have had the pleasure of seeing a hedgehog this year. Help them live alongside humans by making holes for them in fences so they can travel through gardens not along roads.

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BACK PAIN

Are you suffering from low back pain, sciatica, migraine headache, neck or shoulder girdle pain, or an acute whiplash-associated disorder?

If so, you should consider consulting a registered Chiropractor.

Many people are turning to chiropractic for the treatment of these and similar problems.

Chiropractic treatment is given after a full case history and an examination which may include x-rays.

M J Whatling, DC, MSc

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