



From your local **Liberal Democrat** team



Cllrs Ajit Atwal
and Lucy Care

Labour halt Council changes

The rush to redesign Councils across Britain - including in Derbyshire - has been 'paused' by the Labour Government.

The plan is now for next year's elections to be for the existing Councils - in this area for Derby City Council.

Labour still want major changes, but accept that

many of their proposals were unpopular and potentially unworkable. The BBC says the aborted plans cost 'millions'.

Cllr **Lucy Care** said "People need to trust the way that they are governed. This is as true at the local level as nationally. Councils need to be set up to work for the local area, not designed for the convenience of central government, whether run from London or Manchester!"

THE BIG CONVERSATION

(Living Well, Dying Well)

This event is about things that many people only think about late in life — or families deal with when it's already difficult. Planning early can make life easier. It includes:

- ageing well,
- power of attorney,
- care and support services,
- Staying active and connected, and more.

Do come to pick up information and chat to people who talk about topics like these every day. Friendly, relaxed and open to all.

Friday 25th September, 2 - 6pm

St Peter's Hub, Normanton Lane, DE23 6GP

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**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



Yet more planning changes, taking power from local areas...

The last Focus shared news that the Government is stopping councillors making nearly all planning decisions. Read more and sign the petition at www.derbylibdems.org.uk/planningrulechange

Now the Government has revised its 'National Planning Policy Framework' which all Councils have to follow. This means that a local area's policies can be over-ruled by 'one-size-fits-all' national ones. As a result there is likely to be more, denser building and house extensions. And Derby won't be able to do anything about it.

Cllr **Lucy Care** said "Every place is different. Local areas should be able to design their own rules and not be told what to do from London."

Reform's Lone Path

Reform councillors have pulled Derbyshire's Pension Fund out of LAPFF. This body unites 100 Funds, with £425billion in assets, to drive higher standards and profits in large companies.

The cost? Just 13p per member. But Reform said 'No'.

This is part of a pattern. Reform councils:

- scrapped climate targets while others kept net-zero.
- cut diversity roles that most councils value.
- hired private guards instead of working with police.
- pushed big council tax rises, despite promising low taxes.

Most councils work together, seeing strength in numbers. Reform breaks away. Many see Reform's go-it-alone streak as unwise and reckless.



THE GUARDIAN

CROSS-PARTY TALKS NEEDED TO TACKLE CLIMATE CRISIS, SAY LIB DEMS

Extreme heat is hitting communities across the country, yet the new Labour's Prime Minister has been bafflingly silent.

After the UK's hottest summer on record, far more action is needed.

Lib Dems are calling for cross-party talks about protecting Britain from worsening extreme weather.

1st class - for how long?

Derby's Youth Justice Service was judged 'Outstanding' in every area. Staff believe they can do even better!

Meanwhile Labour's national Ministry of Justice want to tell every area how to run their service, stifling innovation.

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.

Council asks for ideas about new Markeaton Crematorium



Cllrs **Ajit Atwal** and **Lucy Care** hope you'll give your views on the plans for a new Markeaton Crem.

People rarely look forward to a trip to the Crem, but when it happens it should be calm, respectful and comfortable.

Markeaton Crem was built in the 1950s and it has changed little. The Council has decided it needs an upgrade.

They propose having electrical cremators, rather than gas-fuelled ones. There'll be a new building on the nearby field, and have extra parking.

The Council has

shared more details and is asking the public for their views. Go to www.tinyurl.com/dcc-crem

Cllr **Ajit Atwal** said "We would like more solar panels to help power the building. If they were put over the car park they would give shade in summer. We also think a big window behind the celebrant is not great."

Should the old building just be knocked down, or should they ask what it could be used for?



New pelican for Brierfield Way

The Hollow in Mickleover is an important walking route for people to Brookfield School and shops in Mickleover Village. At busy times crossing Brierfield Way could be hard.

Now a toucan crossing has been provided - funded from developer contributions. Mickleover Neighbourhood Board has also provided a new seat on the route to Tesco's.



Cllrs **Lucy Care** & **Ajit Atwal** at the new crossing on Brierfield Way.

COMMUNITY CORNER:

The **Feel Good Film Club** has monthly shows at Quad show-casing the many positive and yet widely unreflected stories of black folks' lives locally, nationally & beyond. The next is 26th September 2026 showing **Babylon + Reggae Bossa Boogie DJ Night**. More details at www.tinyurl.com/quad-fgfc



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

Also...

New litter bins

There are plans to upgrade the often over-flowing bin on **Burton Road** to a larger one. Also a new bin is to be provided near the bus stop and seat on **Normanton Lane** towards **Valley Road**.

BT box hit again

The green telecoms box on **Hollybrook Way** has been hit again by a speeding car. Councillors have reported this to BT - again - but their repair rate is very slow...

Large items to scrap?

A local 'compactor day' is being planned for October when items that would usually have to be taken to the recycling centre at Raynesway can be brought locally. More info will be available online (follow **Littleover Lib Dems** on Facebook). Do consider if items could be repaired/reused before scrapping. Several charities also collect furniture and other resaleable items for free.

Help the Harlequin

On some journeys the bus from Heatherton to Gower Street - the Harlequin - was getting quite crowded. Trent Barton has therefore upgraded the buses with slightly larger ones. Please don't park on the white H bar markings near Griffie Field School. These show the space the bus needs to get through and helps the bus keep to time. Thanks.

Mickleover Swimming Pool

The developers of the Varsity estate are handing the ownership of the swimming pool to the Lonsdale Swimming and Sports Trust that runs it. The Trust also runs Gayton Pool. Find out more about what they offer at: www.lsst.org.uk





Cllr **Lucy Care** by a nicely trimmed hedge in Heatherton. It is neatly cut back clear of the edging strip on the pavement. Lamp posts, and street names plates can also guide where the 'highway' ends.

Now is the time to trim back hedges

By September most birds have stopped nesting. It is therefore a good time to cut back hedges. This is particularly true if they are a bit overgrown and need a hard cut back. There is still enough time for most to grow new leaves so that they aren't bare all winter.

Please cut back to the back of the highway. This may be the pavement, back of the verge or edge of a path, to give space for pedestrians and people in wheelchairs, walking two abreast or passing others.

Also...

Water - next year?

Hotter, drier summers may be what is coming. To help next year think about fitting a water butt (or more) and allow trees to grow to provide shade.

Market Hall

The expensively restored market hall does not feel like it used to. Maybe the vibe is different because Labour have the Council's 'Derby Live' team in 'Culture and Leisure' looking after it. A review is being done about how the reopening is going. Do give Focus Team your thoughts.

Thank you

Many thanks to everyone who gave books or other items for the recent Book Sale - and to all those who came to buy. The next sale will be on Saturday 7th November at the Baptist Community Hall from 10am to 4pm. It will include DVDs, CDs, jigsaws, family games and Christmas items.

Sinfin Waste Plant

This waste treatment plant project started in 2006 was to reduce waste going to landfill.

Derby worked with Derbyshire County Council, and the plant was built on Sinfin Lane. It never worked properly and in 2019 it

was shut down.

The Councils have tried to find a company to take it on, without success. Now both Councils are being asked to agree formally to end the project. The full reports are at:

www.tinyurl.com/dcc-cab9



YOUR FOCUS TEAM:

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

www.derbylibdems.org.uk



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