Littleover and Heatherton
Focus
October 2026
Issue 184

From your local **Liberal Democrat** team

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Saturday 7th November
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Inside this edition:

- Bins, dogs & begging
- Yet more housing
- Conference report
- Footpath closed

Thank you for your thoughts!

At the community waste day, local **Lib Dems** asked people for their views on several local issues. Thank you to everyone who stopped to share or chat.

Two areas had strong agreement that reckless driving is a concern and visible policing is welcomed. However some people said that they wanted the police to be working where most needed, which might not be out and about.



Cllrs **Ajit Atwal** and **Lucy Care** with a dot chart showing opinions collected at the Community Waste Day at Grange Hall.

There was overwhelming agreement about action on climate change. Clear majorities of people would also support a change to how we vote to reduce tactical voting, and would like closer ties to the EU.

Several questions were asked about the changes to parking around the Co-op in Littleover. Here it was less clear whether the parking charges have improved things or made it worse. Most people's shopping habits have not changed.

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Littleover Lib Dems - working all year round









Lib Dem Conference Round-up

Lib Dem members make policy at Conference. Motions submitted from across the country are chosen by a Committee of members. These are published and members can submit amendments for debate. Those that are chosen, and the final policy, are debated and voted on by members.

Change our leader, and the policies stay - unlike with some other Parties, like Labour or Conservatives.

As well as more than a dozen policy motions at Conference, there were full policy papers on:

- Defence and international security
- Strengthening democracy
- Primary healthcare

These have been developed with input from many members through member-led expert panels and wider consultation.

Papers are available at www.libdems.org.uk/conference/papers/autumn-2026

Join the Party and take part too!

Helping the Council work better

Most decisions about how the Council runs are made by Council staff or just nine Labour councillors - the Cabinet.

The other 42 councillors have roles on various Boards and Committees. These help oversee how the Council is running or help implement policy.

Much of that policy is also made by Cabinet. Group leaders are invited to attend Cabinet, and may ask questions. Most don't bother, but the **Lib Dem** Group leader, Cllr **Lucy Care** is usually there. She says:

'By regularly asking questions I help raise standards. At the most recent meeting my points included:

- that a key document being approved to spend £45 million a year for 10 years was not included in the papers,
- A project change from refurbishment to rebuild did not include a climate change assessment."

Climate change, voting reform, fairer taxes and more are already Lib Dem policies. Why not join us?

Unlike Labour, we don't need to wait for a General Election to know they are right.

www.libdems.org.uk/join-local

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.

New rules on begging, dog fouling and bins on streets



Cllrs **Ajit Atwal** and **Lucy Care** say going prepared with dog poo bags is going to be even more important in future.

Over the summer the Council consulted on new 'Public Space Protection Orders'. These should help stop begging, encourage people to pick up after their dogs and put wheelie bins away.

The Council is now making begging an offence all across the city and will require people to have the means to clear up when their dog fouls the street. The Council are also going to enforce putting bins away. It is not yet clear exactly how these things will be done...

These are issues that matter to lots of people, but fewer than 200 responded to the consultation. Cllr **Lucy Care** has asked that in future the Council markets their consultations better. She has also asked for an update on this one on its 'Let's Talk Derby' Page.

Footpath closed till Christmas



Cllr **Ajit Atwal** where the path joins **Pastures Avenue**.

The footpath from the bottom of **Pastures Hill** alongside the Hell Brook to **Fresco Drive** is closed. This is to allow the Environment Agency to do work on the grill where the brook goes under the road.

Lib Dem councillors asked why the work will take two months, and don't yet have an answer. They have asked that the closure is kept as short as possible as this is an important route for school pupils and others.

COMMUNITY CORNER:

Does waste reduction and recycling matter to you?
There is not yet a group set up to help share information about 'Reuse, Repair, Recycle' actions and facilities in Derby. Would you like to help get such a group happening? It might work in a similar way to Friends of Parks or Trees for Derby, alongside the Council. Let one of your councillors know. Contact details on back page.

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

Also...

Meet local Police

A local Police Community Support Officer will be at King George V Community Centre Café on the 24/10/26 from 11:30am to 12:30pm. Do share any concerns with the PCSOs and to find out how they are helping with local policing issues.

Merge in Turn?

At busy times the traffic going along Uttoxeter New Road from the Ring Road can back up. To help ease this could a 'Merge in Turn' sign help? Local Councillors have suggested this could be trialled with a temporary sign and have asked for permission for this.

Goal posts for Pendleside Way?

Young people living on this estate have asked about getting goalposts for their local open space. Councillors have asked about costs for this - and also whether Parks would cut the grass more often to make football work here.

Let's prepare for rain!

Weather forecasters are suggesting that there could be heavy rains coming towards the end of the year. Hopefully reporting blocked road drains now will give time for the Council to get some of the many blocked drains cleared. Please help report these either by using the 'Report It' pages on the Council website www.derby.gov.uk/report-it or the phone app 'Fix My Street'.

Trees in Bretton Ave

Derby Homes are considering planting additional trees on some of the grassed areas in **Bretton Avenue**. There was some concern that the conifers planted last winter would be too dark, cutting out winter sun. If more trees are planted, what would be best? Maybe fruit trees, ones with autumn colour, or something else. Let your councillors know your views.

Housing approved on fields by Moorway Lane



Cllrs **Ajit Atwal** and **Lucy Care** by the fields bordering Moorway Lane.

At the start of October outline planning approval was given for up to 350 houses on the fields near Heatherton Pond. Details are still to be agreed, but the layout shown doubles the size of the Millennium Wood public open space and included a few shops.

Cllr **Lucy Care** said "People really value this area's green and open nature. It has been shown as 'Green Wedge' in Council plans for many years. But after recent national planning changes by the Labour Government this status gives virtually no protection from housing."

This land is shown for housing in the new Local Plan. New rules mean only the Secretary of State can refuse planning for estates of more than 150 houses. As the Government wants Derby to build more and more houses, the Secretary of State was hardly likely to say 'No'.

By Derby making the decision, Derby can also set conditions about the details. There is more at www.tinyurl.com/DLD-ML26 where you can also request to be emailed with details when reserve matter applications are submitted.

YOUR FOCUS TEAM:

Cllr Lucy Care 01332 721291 lucycare@hotmail.com

Cllr Ajit Atwal 07867 465963 ajitatwal@hotmail.co.uk

Glenda Howcroft 01332 773287

Marion Hall 01332 218450

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

www.derbylibdems.org.uk Littleover Lib Dems

Also...

Forum 22nd October

All are welcome to come to talk with councillors and neighbourhood staff at Littleover Methodist Church on **Constable Drive**. Do drop in from 5:30 to 7:00pm on Thursday 22nd October. Councillors have asked for staff from Derby Homes and Council Tax to attend; more details on Facebook when available. Follow Littleover Lib Dems.

Council Tax

The Council is consulting on changes to Council Tax discounts. This may affect empty homes and second homes. Keep an eye on 'Lets Talk Derby' for more information.

New Crematorium

The consultation about the new crematorium ends on 18th November. Share your thoughts on energy efficiency, or anything else, at www.tinyurl.com/dcc-crem

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