

# FOCUS

**Your Local Newsletter No. 171**



## Lights! Now off in the day



Following a campaign from the **Lib Dem Focus Team** and local residents to get the Council to stop wasting money by turning off the street lights in the day. **Focus** can report that by the end of November all the street lights off of **Essex Road** including **Carnarvon, Liverpool, Matlock, Nottingham, Canterbury, Colchester, Forest Drive West and Peterborough Roads** will only come on at night. The Council's faulty Central Management System (CMS) has now been dropped and each street lamp has been installed with a photo cell which comes on only when it is dark and goes off when it is light. A simple system which we believe the Council is now using across the borough.

**Rupert Pickering** highlighted the lights on all day in **Canterbury Road** in the last **Focus** across the borough.

**Lib Dem Focus Team member Rupert Pickering said:** "Success at last! - Our campaign has put at end the Councils waste of money and 18 months of constant light. We believe that when any new street lamps are being replaced they will be using photo cells not CMS."



**Thumbs Up! Rupert found lights now off in Canterbury Road during the day**



**Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year from your Forest Ward Focus Team**



## Tower Blocks to get sprinklers

Following the outcry about fire safety in tower blocks, as we mentioned a couple of months back, the Council has now agreed to put sprinklers in all the Borough's tower blocks.

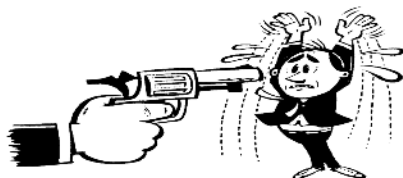


## Litter and bins – is the Council letting us down?

Local residents have brought to the attention of the **Focus Team** many instances when rubbish bins have not been emptied on time and that fly tipping is left and their roads are not being swept weekly.

**The Focus Team says:** We believe these instances are not isolated. Is this just a blip or is the Council's contractor not doing their job properly? So that we can get a fuller picture please get in touch with **Focus** if your bins are not collected on time or your road or street has been left untidy for long periods.

## Lib Dems - Working for YOU All Year Round: not just at election time



## Small businesses being squeezed by the Council

In order to squeeze more money out of our small businesses the Council has hired a firm to snoop on them to find out if they have made any improvements to their shops such as extra air conditioning. The Council can then hike up the business rates. The Federation of Small Businesses chief has said of Town Halls "Many seem to view their business community purely as a short term cash cow".

**Lib Dem Focus Team member, Jordan Sullivan said:** "Our High Street shops are fighting to make a living and the Council should be trying to help them, not help to close them down."

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**Why not join the Lib Dems - contact Bob Sullivan - 8556 8335 email: [libsullivan@btinternet.com](mailto:libsullivan@btinternet.com)**

**Lib Dem Focus Team - Wishing all residents a Merry Christmas**

# Council lets down our most vulnerable children



The Council missed a legal deadline for delivering healthcare plans for children with special needs (SEN) and failed to provide plans or statements on time for over 50% of SEN children starting school this year. This is stressful for parents and children with special needs as they have no right of appeal until they have the final plan. Education lawyers who found out this information said "These figures are symptomatic of poor planning and management, and lack of resources to properly support children with special educational needs".

**Lib Dem Focus Team member Jordan Sullivan said: "This is shameful, the Council needs to get its priorities right."**

## Lib Dems: Fighting for YOU

### Colchester & Cromer Roads - Neighbourhood Watch

Following an increase of burglary and crime in and around **Colchester Road** and **Cromer Road** a number of residents have asked the **Focus Team** about setting up a **Neighbourhood Watch**.

**Lib Dem Team member Dave Sherwood said:** "All residents are being surveyed and if they agree to a Watch, we would hold a general meeting with the local police in order to set it up officially.

**Focus** will keep you informed of developments but if you would like a **Neighbourhood Watch** in your road/area, then contact **Focus**.



### CPZ fees hiked up – Council treats car owners as cash cows?

A resident has brought to the attention of Focus, a secretive increase in the CPZ parking fee. In 2015 a car with an engine size up to 3litres would cost a fee of £25. This was increased last year to £35. The resident now says he has to pay £120 as the £35 fee now applies to car engines over 1.5L. His car is just under 2L but over the new limit.

**Focus Team member Rupert Pickering said:** "Is this a sneaky, back door way of squeezing more money out of car drivers."

## Problems - Ideas - Comments

Name  Tel. No.

Address & Post Code

Email

**RETURN TO THE FOREST FOCUS TEAM, 24 THORNHILL ROAD, LEYTON, E10 5LL**

The Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you've given to contact you. By providing your data to us, you are consenting to us making contact with you in the future by mail, email, telephone, text, website and apps, even though you may be registered with the Telephone Preference Service. You can always opt out of communications at any time by contacting us or visiting [www.libdems.org.uk/optout](http://www.libdems.org.uk/optout) For more information go to [www.libdems.org.uk/privacy](http://www.libdems.org.uk/privacy).  
Printed, Published and promoted by R.Sullivan on behalf of the Liberal Democrats all at 24 Thornhill Road E10 5LL.

## Abbotts Park – park keeper replaced by 3 CCTV cameras!

Residents are angry that without any consultation the park keeper has now been replaced by 3 cameras. Some residents along with the local **Focus Team** has collected many hundreds of signature asking for the Council to re-instate a park keeper at Abbotts Park.

**Lib Dem Focus Team member Dave Sherwood said:** "The Council states that they are definitely not backing down as they believe the cameras can do the job. **The Focus Team** is setting up a meeting with the Council to discuss the petition and why residents want the keeper to be re-instated. **Focus** will keep you informed of developments."



If you want to put your name to the petition then please sign online at: [http://www.walthamforestlibdems.org/save\\_the\\_park\\_keeper](http://www.walthamforestlibdems.org/save_the_park_keeper)



## Lib Dem Focus Team

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**Liberal Democrats: Keeping YOU informed**