

FOCUS On Mile End

EXCLUSIVE news and updates for MILE END residents
From your Liberal Democrat representatives



Borough Councillors Phil Coleman - Martin Goss - Dominic Graham
County Councillor Anne Turrell - Focus Lead David King

WINTER 2018

THIS IS ALL ABOUT YOU



This Focus is all about you, the people of Mile End and Myland and the communities that have grown up as new developments are occupied, find their feet, enjoy their homes, invite their families in, get to know their neighbours and their parish.

We know many of you and we listen to you. You sent in your Mile End Survey responses by the hundred. You wrote, responded, emailed, messaged or rang us all last year. Thank you so much.

Only by raising your voice do we know what really matters to you. That arms us with your suggestions, your concerns and your positives about life in your community, so we can then help.

Your headline top issues and Our Response

- **Parking** - on pavements, in front of drives, obstructing traffic, emergency vehicles or pedestrians. We have encouraged resident reporting on 101 as that gets police attention. We have written to residents. We have encouraged police action: expected in 2018. We have consulted on yellow lines and resident only parking.
- **Pavements and highways** - potholes, the need to resurface or repair and broken pavements. We have encouraged resident reporting and action by Essex County Council and have asked the Community Council to help if they can.
- **Litter and Dog fouling** - mess in the streets, in front of your house and in the parks and playgrounds. We have got bins, got waste cleared away, had fly tipping and dog fouling exposed and culprits fined.
- **Congestion** - North Station and through to town, Bergholt Rd, Turner Rd and Mill Rd. We have pressed the local councils to work together more closely and they are looking now at relief options. We have helped secure improvements to the Park and Ride and Mill Rd 'calming' that will help discourage heavy traffic.
- **Growth** - where facilities and infrastructure will keep pace. We have pressed the councils for more investment. We have supported the Northern Gateway as this will bring sports and entertainment facilities for young and old. We have met with service providers, such as the General Hospital to make sure they are preparing for the future.



Many of you are happy in Mile End. That's great and despite concerns about the rapid development of north Colchester many of you are hopeful good things will come despite the challenges. They include two new Community Centres, connected cycling paths through the new developments, improved Park and Ride, and the Northern Gateway sports and entertainments complex

Locality Budget



All borough councillors get a locality budget every year to spend on projects.

So far we have invested in:

- A bench for Mill Road outdoor gym area.
- Playground equipment for Mile End Primary Schools.

- Sports equipment for the children's holiday camps run by FirstSite.

- Bulb planting in Dickenson Road and Bradford Drive on the Northern Approaches development

- Tree planting in Mile End

We will be allocating some further funding to other local projects shortly.

Dog Fouling? Why ...



Why should owners scoop the poop? Because it damages your local environment, ruins the enjoyment of walking in our parks and pavements, prevents children running freely and can make sports and recreation grounds unusable.

This is not just about is being horrible to scrape it off your shoe, but because **it is a health hazard**, as it carries parasites that can cause harm including blindness! So please encourage your neighbours to avoid litter or dog fouling.

Please stay off the pitches and clean up after YOUR dog. And **report in confidence**: telephone: 01206 282581 or email:

customerservices@colchester.gov.uk with details of time, place and description of the dog and owner.

If you know the dog owner, please say who they are. **Colchester Borough Council will take enforcement action** and can issue a fixed penalty notice of **£100**.



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ACTION BY YOUR LIB TEAM

Action on Hospital Parking and Congestion



Many residents expressed frustration at hospital related parking and congestion and asked we take this up with the hospital.

David King and the team had a productive discussion and an agreed way ahead.

The good news - encouraged by us - they are helping. They have added 180 spaces to the public car park. They will be providing their contractors with their own temporary parking facilities.

Soon the hospital will introduce a permit system to encourage staff to leave their cars at home and will help

them to use buses and or the park and ride. They will also build a new travel centre in 2018 and they have streamlined entrance and help arrangements at the hospital.

These actions should mean less congestion and more parking on site and less on your roads. But if problems persist we will press the Trust for more radical solutions.

We will see them again soon and will feed-back to you then.

Action on Litter and Dog Fouling



Users of Mill Road sports pitches and many residents complained about dog fouling and litter.

All your Lib Dem team acted often and swiftly, to encourage, ask and where necessary to get action for the few who do not care.

- Martin Goss got extra litter bins into Mile End and David King got the bins cleared by CBC when overflowing near Chesterwell.

- Phil Coleman got the street wardens out and extra signage and enforcement action against those refusing to clear up after their dogs.

- There have been 13 fixed penalty notices of £100 handed out in Mile End since just before Christmas.



Rosewood community unites

Following recent burglaries a community has come together in a big way.

Residents on the Rosewood development in Mile End called an emergency meeting following burglaries with many residents from across Rosewood attending, including Ward councillors.

Together they came up with a host of initiatives, a sharing of good practice and how to prevent any such incidents happening again.

Councillors Martin Goss and Phil Coleman provided advice and practical solutions as advised by the police. This included taking extra precautions with security of individual properties, reporting suspicious activity and advice on systems to

protect homes, many have already installed home alarms and many more now have high quality CCTV systems.

Councillor Coleman stated 'the best thing to come out of all this is a real will and desire to look out for each other, to watch over others properties and to report absolutely everything that is remotely suspicious.'

Hundreds of reports, no matter what it was, have been made in the first week both to each other and to police and this reporting has led to increased patrols by police and to residents being very vigilant.'

Councillor Martin Goss has already set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme with warning signs going up. He said

'residents have been very proactive in their support for it including residents taking to their own social media site to warn everyone almost immediately of anything suspicious.

Lead Focus team member and Myland Parish Councillor David King also commented that: "With everyone supporting each other there is a real sense of community with everyone looking out for each other and from feedback the place is a safer place to live, the support by police officers has been excellent.

"We will continue to liaise with both residents and the police to ensure that security continues."

Highway updates



- ✓ All of the pot holes on Turner Road, Mill Road and Northern Approach Road have been reported to Essex County Council for repair.
- ✓ Bergholt Road is finally set to be resurfaced by Essex County Council in the 2018/19 financial year.
- ✓ Most of Bakers Lane & all of Spring Lane has now been resurfaced.
- ✓ UK Power Networks have been chased about the lack of functional lighting on the zebra crossing at the entrance to Bergholt Road.

☺ Bus lane cameras are now operational in Nayland Road and North Station Road bus lanes.

☺ Mill Road pot holes now filled.

- ✓ Mill Road traffic calming design is being costed by Essex County Council & we hope they will shortly publish their proposed design.
- ✓ Turner Road is set for major resurfacing and stabilization works due to the identified subsidence found by a leaky water main.

You may remember our campaign to get a stop at Colchester Hospital which was delivered in January 2017.

We are pleased to announce further improvements to the Park and Ride which will make it a further success.

Park and Ride buses will now run from 5.30am to 9.00pm Monday to Friday.

- Colchester businesses can sign up with the park and ride for their staff to receive reduced fares.

- £5 off-peak group travel ticket, which can be used for up to two adults and three children, aimed at family groups or car-shares.

Martin Goss said "After various meetings the Mile End team had with Essex County Council and a long running campaign I'm exceedingly pleased to see these measures coming into affect from the Spring."

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A concern or issue?

Please let us know below and we will pursue on your behalf.

OUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS 2018

'You Say and We Do' wherever we can. So, our New Year Resolutions include:

- ✓ **Action on Congestion:** get a transport strategy so we can use buses, cycle or drive more easily
- ✓ **Action on poor pavements and highways:** encourage all local Councils to work together to secure faster repairs and improvements
- ✓ **Action on Poor Parking:** secure yellow lines and resident only parking where they want it and police action - warn, tow away and or fine - the worst offenders
- ✓ **Action on Dog Fouling and Litter:** more cleaning up action, education and fines for those who do not care and 'name and shame'.
- ✓ **Action on Growth:** support sustainable development. Insist on the infrastructure and facilities that match growth.

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