

Planting for Colchester High Woods Country Park



Under Lib Dem leadership Colchester Council has planted and given away many thousands of trees in the last few years. We hope we can get to 100,000 over the coming year, across the City. Planting in the right locations. Not on our lovely meadows.

In the last few years 1,450 have been planted, mostly 'whips,' including an estimated 790 trees from natural regeneration. In the current planting season, 200 tree whips will be planted along the Southern Slopes Boundary with the rail line and another 45 whips will be planted in Squirrels Field. Another contribution to tree canopy and climate emergency, looking after our great park.

If you want to be involved in planting or have some land on which 10 or more saplings could be planted please let Venessa or David know. Thank you.

ACTION BY YOUR LIB DEM TEAM FOR MILE END

GRASS VERGES

Following works carried out by UK Power Network a lot of grass verges were damaged.

Cllr Goss has held UKPN to account and an inspector agreed a full schedule of remedial work to topsoil and reseed the verges beginning in February and March.

In addition, the grass verges in Mill Road near the junction of Turner Road have now had signage and enforcement to stop vehicles parking on them on both sides of Mill Road.

SUPER-FAST BROADBAND

Following complaints of slow Broadband across the ward we have asked if the new Super Fast Broadband, which is currently going into some areas, could be extended to cover those areas that would benefit from it. It has been confirmed that a new network will be installed along Mile End Road, Nayland Road, Boxted Road and phase 1 of Chesterwell where speeds are inadequate. We await time scales and have requested Defoe Crescent is also included following complaints.

COLCHESTER SPORTS PARK

The Sports Park continues to grow in use and attract more and more people to take exercise.

It provides walking, cycling, indoor activities, gymnasium and a lovely coffee shop to meet up with friends and family. The Sports Park is right next to Junction 28 on the A12 opposite the BP garage and Park and Ride. For all activities please look at Colchestersportspark.co.uk

FOCUS

on MILE END

News from your Lib Dem team - Councillors Phil Coleman, Martin Goss and Cnty Councillor David King with Venessa Moffat



THANK YOU FOR LETTING US KNOW

Massive response to our Health Survey for Mile End



Over the past few months, residents have kindly been helping us by completing a survey about the local NHS services as well as highlighting local issues.

We have had some great responses and feedback; all responses have been analysed with actions already taken where needed.

Some of our findings from your replies are:

Ambulance waiting times have been getting longer

- Most respondents are registered with a GP but struggle to book appointments
- Only 20% of respondents are registered with an NHS dentist
- Potholes in the roads are a very common feedback issue
- Many of you have raised problems with parking issues

Venessa Moffat has been liaising with Councillor

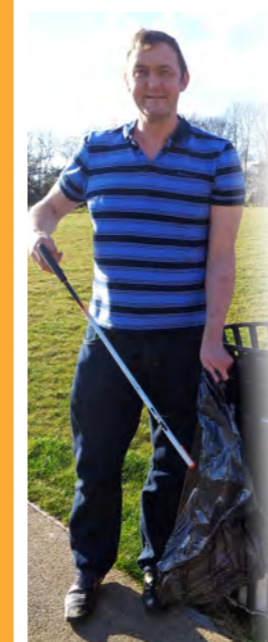
David King who has been tirelessly working with ECC and Highways to get the pothole situation resolved. He has made some progress despite the County Council's budget being very low.

In response to requests by residents we have also been working to resolve some parking issues in some areas and have had some red lines put in, which can be enforced easier than the yellow ones.

One encouraging point consistently made by Mill Road surgery patients was that they were very grateful for the amazing service being provided, particularly during such difficult times. This surgery stood out for friendliness, efficiency, and effectiveness. Thank you to Mill Road surgery!

We are grateful to everyone who kindly completed our survey and returned it to us. This has been extremely helpful to assisting us in representing you and Mile End.

CLEANING UP MILE END



Cllr Martin Goss is asking for residents to volunteer to join him or create groups to conduct regular litter picks to help their communities stay clean and tidy.

Other strategic issues are being looked at including more fines being issued for fly tipping and use of the Public Space Protection Order which covers the City allowing the authority to fine people for dropping litter and not picking up their dog's mess.

Thanks so much to the 40 residents who turned out to help clean up on 21st January. We cleared around 30 bags of litter from Mile End playing fields, Defoe Crescent, Mile End Road, Nayland Road, Hakewill Way area and Mill Road park.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Name:

Address: Post Code:

Phone: Email:

Keep me updated about Lib Dem campaigns and activities

Return for free to:

FREEPOST COLCHESTER LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Contact your local Lib Dem team...



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Cllr Martin Goss

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Cty Cllr David King

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Cllr Phil Coleman

07808 530587
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HERE TO HELP WITH CONFIDENCE



MILE END NEWS UPDATE: *From you Lib Dem Team*

NEW LEISURE DEVELOPMENT

As you may have seen the new leisure development is climbing out of the ground opposite David Lloyd on the Via Urbis Romanae.

Once completed in the Autumn the £65 million development will have a 90 bed Travelodge hotel, a

multi storey car park for 750 cars, a 12 screen Cineworld, seven restaurants including Greggs and Wendys, Hollywood Bowling, Puttstars indoor golf, Jump Street indoor climbing centre and a rapid car parking station.

This will be set around the high-quality landscaped plaza for all of Mile End residents to enjoy. We will continue to update you with progress.

For some time, we have pushed Greater Anglia to replace the lifts that allow access to the platforms, given they are nearing the end of their life.

GA have agreed and the works started in January 2023 and the lifts should be replaced and working by March 2023. Whilst works are in place a new stair lift has been installed to allow access to subway level.

Customers are advised to book assistance through Passenger Assist. Greater Anglia will provide assistance for passengers that need help getting from one side of the station to the other.



CONSERVATIVES CUT VITAL SERVICE

- No money for maintenance and trimming of verges on roads
- More pressure on Colchester's limited funding



“ECC admitted it was running a policy of ‘managed decline’ on its roads.”

Essex Live - 22nd December 2022

The Conservatives are cancelling the upkeep of our roads. Failing us.

County Councillor David is pursuing the loss of funding to maintain Colchester roads, including Highwoods. By no longer maintaining our highways, there is a safety risk to all road users.

Colchester City Council is already under severe financial pressure following Conservative Government mismanagement.

Essex County Council has stopped funding of the Highways Rangers who are responsible for cleaning and minor repairs on road signs and bollards, trim vegetation to improve the visibility of signs and ad hoc grass cutting and strimming of highway verges.

This is a wrong cut, a dangerous cut showing yet further neglect by the Conservatives to Colchester. Your Lib Dem Team will continue to argue against this.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - MILL ROAD

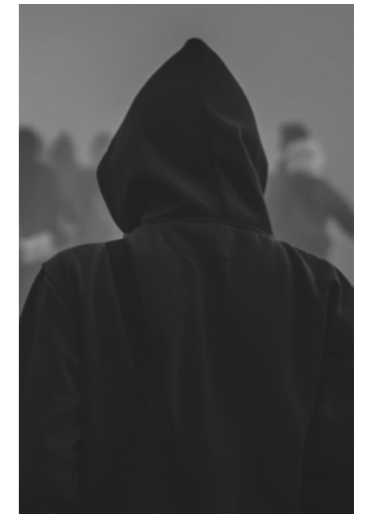
Removal of Shelters
Following reports from residents regarding ASB at the Mill Road Park groups of young people were spoken to on several occasions but sadly they did not respond.

The decision was made, in consultation with residents, police and councillors to remove the shelter that was the centre for the issues which included littering, smashing glass bottles, loud music and offensive actions and language.

In addition (and again following resident reports) the shelters in Echelon

Walk on the Kingswood Heath development has also been blighted by ASB including evidence of drug taking.

The Community Support Police Officer is aware and patrolling as are other regular police officer patrols to target the site for illegal youth behaviour. Solar lighting has now been added to all shelters.



COUNTY NEWS...



COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVID KING

Your County Councillor keeping you informed with the latest news and updates.

Great news!

David King has helped secure some overdue resurfacing and repairs, to nearby roads in Highwoods, and to Mill Road and Turner Road.

More resurfacing is scheduled for Mill Road, but not until June 2023. David has also used a Councillor 'accelerated' pothole repair scheme to get more repairs faster.



The Trinity School at Chesterwell is now heading for completion this September.

David and Martin helped get them back on track and David has secured a £1,000 grant for their environmental and recycling work. David has also funded planting and gardening equipment and saplings as a contribution to the late Queen's Green Canopy, on the new school's site.



If you have any charitable or other causes that we can help with contact Venessa or David

DISRUPTION - BUS LANE



Work has begun on the Rapid Transport Bus Lanes near the Northern Approach Road which will cause disruption until the spring 2024.

The scheme is planned to help improve pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, whilst long-term providing better public transport facilities. The bus lanes will link up longer-term to East Colchester by 2026

providing a completed bus only link.

David and Martin opposed the original scheme as it brought busses next to houses, with noise and pollution.

As a result of the objections of your Lib Dem Councillors and residents improvements have been secured, including 20% more trees along with thousands of shrubs, and better design.