

FOCUS on MILE END

Liberal
Democrats



EXCLUSIVE NEWS from your local Lib Dem team Cllr Martin Goss, Anne Turrell (your County Councillor) and your Borough Councillors David King and Phil Coleman.

COVID-19 KEEPING YOU SAFE

This is our number one priority. To maintain critical services and to help volunteers and residents through these difficult times. Please visit the official Government and NHS websites for up to date information, but if you want help or advice please contact any member of the team.

TOUGH TIMES - GREAT FUTURE

YOUR LIB-DEM TEAM LEAD - ON SUPPORT TO OUR COMMUNITIES AND INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE

You or your families or friends visit, work or shop in Colchester. We help make that the best experience we can. We lead and run the Council. Despite less money we still provide award winning services. We support the vulnerable. And we change Colchester for the better. In recent months:

- Some 3,500 trees planted, and 10,000 trees given to residents
- More help for the homeless and rough sleepers.
- More Council house approvals as part of plans for 350 new council homes in the next 5 years
- Some of our most beautiful sites, the castle and parts of the roman wall are now lit every evening
- Over £220,00 in grants have been awarded to voluntary bodies, including Citizen's Advice Bureau, the Youth Enquiry Service, Age Concern, Community 360 and those helping residents who have suffered abuse or rape and those struggling with debt.
- For YOUR entertainment!

Colchester has a really vibrant local scene, with a great Arts and Culture offering shaped and supported by your local Council. As well as award-winning parks and museums. We keep these up to the standard you would expect and invest in better.

Some fantastic improvements to the Mercury Theatre, enabled and part funded by the Council, will be complete this autumn. In time for the new panto season! With our help and support the Arts Centre has a lengthy improvement programme ahead.

And the Council's Events Company will bring some great entertainment, including Westlife and 10CC later this year. Plus: Leisure World for family fun. And 10 pin bowling and Putt in the Park a great new facility in Castle Park!

CLIMATE ACTION

Mile End Liberal Democrat Councillors have already planted trees around Mile End.

Climate is a very serious issue for our area and as such we have and continue to take steps to protect the future for ourselves and future generations.

Led by Cllr David King, the Council already has in place policies over single use plastics.

We always welcome any suggestions or ideas for doing our bit for our climate. Let us know, our contact details are right.



Northern Gateway South...

A masterplan for the Northern Gateway South area is being drawn up and will include business, leisure and homes.

The whole area from the football stadium to the current rugby club site in Mill Road will include a cinema, restaurants, indoor leisure facilities such as climbing and putting, a hotel, a multi-storey car parking, a health campus, housing, a ground heat source network, ultrafast gigabyte broadband and a pedestrian boulevard including safe walking and cycling linking the whole area.

The amended plans go to planning soon with work commencing this summer.

Funding YOUR Good Causes

Here in Mile End

Each year Martin, Phil and David share out a £6,000 Locality Budget annual grant between the three of them, after asking residents what matters most to them.

For Phil Coleman that meant help for Dancing with Dementia, the Colchester Foodbank, the Night Shelter and St Helena Hospice to cover on call over Xmas.

David King's help was for Boudicca School, Enform who reduce

waste and improve recycling, Colchester Cycling who campaign for safer and better cycling routes, Haven Hospice and our nearby Colchester Gymnastic School.

Martin Goss supported the purchasing and install of three new benches - two along the Bergholt Road open space and one at the Mill Road open space.

As your County Councillor Anne Turrell will have a £10,000 budget from April of

which £6000 will go the Big Garden. That's a fantastic community garden and orchard just 300m from the Visitor Centre in Highwoods Country Park. They provide volunteering and therapeutic gardening opportunities for people of all ages and abilities, in Mile End and beyond.

Anne will match our Borough funds. So, soon we will have £8,000 for good causes that help residents across Mile End. Let us know how we can help!

Contact your local Lib Dem team

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EXCLUSIVE LOCAL NEWS FROM YOUR LIB DEM TEAM

Local Lib Dems - working hard all year round

HOSPITAL EXPANSION

• LATEST news on future hospital growth

The new development at the front of the hospital is now complete providing a new bus turning circle, new entrance and reception area, Costa Coffee, Marks and Spencers, WH Smiths and a new facility for The League of Friends. There is improved access, more seating and more toilets.

None of this redevelopment has come at a cost to the taxpayer as all the retailers have financed the build through rental agreements.

Other big improvements included a new Cancer Centre, a new Aseptic Unit to develop bespoke treatments, a new Radiography and Cardiac Angiography Unit and a new Urgent Treatment Centre that will transform the way patients are treated for minor illness and injuries.

Councillors regularly meet with hospital leaders and we are currently pushing for improved and better walking/cycling links, a shuttle bus, the Park and Ride to the front entrance and a new access road from the Northern Approach Road.

This new access will be dependent on many factors including agreement of ECC but could alleviate traffic in Mill Road and Turner Road.

HOSPITAL CAR PARK

Permission has now been granted for 153 extra car park spaces for staff utilising a single decked car park which is a different approach for the hospital to follow.

This we hope will alleviate some of the parking issues in the area and give staff more access to parking rather than using local streets.



LOCAL NEWS ROUNDUP

New Crossing for Mile End

After a long campaign we are pleased to say that funding has been awarded to deliver a new traffic light controlled crossing to allow safer access across the Northern Approach Road at the Wallace Road junction.

Work started on March 9th and the crossing work will be completed by the end of March.

Martin Goss said "I'm really pleased to see this crossing installed after many years of campaigning. This will aid all residents in the area to allow safer crossing especially for those walking to Queen Boudica school."

VUR/A134/NAR JUNCTION

We have taken the feedback and experiences of residents at this junction and formally asked Essex County Council Highways to investigate the phasing and make changes, particularly given the time some sections have to wait at red lights. Issues have been recorded, including the failure of the lights, with ECC technicians attending the site.

To report traffic lights not working please call 0345 6037631.

Kingswood Heath

We continue to raise various issues including the playground timetable for installation, the opening of Whitmore Drive in the middle, Parking and road adoption. We have also taken up issues regarding the management company. A very warm welcome to all new residents.

Rosewood

Thanks to the residents who provided a full list of all lights which don't work. These again have been provided to Crest Nicholson for action. Adoption of the roads continues to move forwards.

Northfields

We have been chasing Linden Homes over the lack of final progress regarding the lighting. It appears some work has commenced again albeit slowly. The final legal notice has been given to Lindens regarding all outstanding landscaping. If they don't deliver the agreed landscaping they will end up in court!

Chesterwell

We have flagged a number issues regarding the management company SDL. They will have written to all SDL residents asking them to attend a meeting.

Plans are being submitted shortly for the Neighbourhood Centre which includes the shops. The name of the main food retailer should become public shortly. We continue to welcome new residents as they move in.

Pavement Repairs

As you may have seen some pavement repairs were made outside Myland School in Mill Road, as well as on Nayland Road by the Methodist Church Hall and in Tall Trees off Mile End Road.

There are also due to be some repairs to the pavements in Kingswood Road.

USEFUL CONTACTS FOR YOU

We regularly receive reports of issues across the ward such as inconsiderate parking, graffiti, littering, dog fouling and speeding. Incidents are minimal given around 10,000 people live in Mile End, but we recognise they are totally unacceptable and we will do all we can to support residents to get these issues resolved.

As we councillors report everything residents let us know about to the relevant authority and chase up on your behalf.

Please report using the following-

STREET CLEANING (including graffiti)- www.colchester.gov.uk/street-cleaning

MISSED BINS/WASTE- www.colchester.gov.uk/missed-bins

ABANDONED VEHICLES- www.colchester.gov.uk/abandoned-vehicle/

SPEEDING- Telephone police on 101

TRAFFIC LIGHTS not working- telephone 0345 6037631.

ESSEX CC HIGHWAYS, for potholes, blocked drains, streetlights not working and other roads/path issues- www.essexhighways.org

MILL ROAD ACTION



Following reports we demanded action from Essex Highways to clear several blocked drains in Mill Road next to the primary school and park.

The drains have been cleared and tarmac removed from one to allow water to clear. Kerbs have also been repaired along that section. If it shows no noticeable difference we will follow up as it causes serious problems for accessing the school and bus stop.



Martin Goss has been in direct contact with the Department for Education (DFE) who are now building the new school.

Originally Essex County Council were due to build it but the DFE decided to change tack in December 2019 and will

be using their own list of approved contractors to bid for the building of the school.

Mersea Homes and the Gilberd Leadership team are also in constant contact with DFE over the school.

We will keep you updated on this very important issue.

Sports Development

The new multi-million pound Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Park is nearing completion and should be open in early summer.

Councillors have visited the 76 acre site and the sports facilities are state of the art and will provide provision for all ages and abilities in rugby

union, rugby league, football, cricket, badminton, cycling, archery, spin studio, fitness suite, meeting rooms and cafe.

Councillors are now asking if additional sports can be added to the new facilities and a phase B is being drawn up.