

Hemel Hempstead FOCUS



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Shock as Council to close respite centres

Carers are angry that the County Council is continuing with plans to close respite centres.

At a Council meeting on 10th February, Conservative Councillors approved the closure of three respite homes for adults with disabilities. One of those homes is in Tewin Road, Leverstock Green. The 6 bed Hemel site is used by about 60 regular users.

The loss of these facilities comes on top of mounting pressures on adult health and social care services. This will cause stress and anxiety for users and their families, as well as adding additional pressure on an already overstretched NHS.



Lib Dem councillors have challenged the proposal and supported concerned carers who presented a petition to hold off closing these respite sites.

In response, Liberal Democrat Councillors tried to change the

closure plan, but the attempt was defeated by Conservative Councillors.

Cllr Ron Tindall, Lib Dem Adult Care spokesperson, said that "We have not given up and will continue to challenge this decision".



Cllr Adrian England fighting for more and healthier trees

Healthy Trees for Healthy Towns

As part of its response to the Climate Emergency, the Government has talked about planting one million trees across England. Liberal Democrat Councillors Adrian England and Stephen Cloughton have taken matters into their own hands to solve a local problem. They have been lobbying Dacorum's Trees and Woodlands Officer to speed up the felling of diseased trees in Hemel and the urgent replanting of suitable healthy ones.

The council have said the delays are due to insufficient funding for staff to conduct the inspections, but our councillors continue to press for action.

HH Lib Dems - Working hard for you.

Working for YOU! A snapshot of your Lib Dem Councillors' work over the last 12 months.

Local Litter Pick: Following two Neighbourhood Action Group meetings Lib Dem Boxmoor councillors Liz Uttley, Claire Hobson & William Allen, set up a Facebook presence, encouraging regular feedback from Boxmoor residents. Through this they advertised a plan to clean up Boxmoor.

They started with some light gardening on Fishery Passage and St Johns Road. Arranged a willing tree surgeon to deal with some overhanging branches (pro bono!) and 14 fantastic volunteers turned up on the day. A couple of hours of litter picking and weeding later they all got a well earned cuppa. It was a great morning and really showed what communities can do when they get together.

Future date: Sat 7th March, 10-noon. Pickers meet outside Hemel Sports Centre, weeders outside Boxmoor Framers. All welcome!

Climate Emergency: In 2019, all councillors declared that Dacorum is now a Climate Emergency Council. However Liberal Democrat Councillors have shown that Dacorum Council is stalling and has yet to produce a detailed document on how they are going to reduce Dacorum's negative impact on climate change. Lib Dem councillors will keep pressing for real action.

Rail Services: Lib Dem councillors got the Council to

agree that action needs to be taken regarding the poor service on the Euston line. The Council have agreed to write to the rail operator to improve their service.

Lost Income: Dacorum Council benefits from income from the letting of its garages. Failure to find tenants has resulted in thousands of pounds of lost revenue. Our councillors raised this matter with the Assistant Director of Housing. As a result a "Garages Officer" has been appointed and three hundred new tenants have been found.

Waste Disposal: Because of uncompetitive charges, businesses in Dacorum have been turning to commercial waste management companies instead of using local council services. Our councillors are pressing for action to be taken to regain this source of income.

According to the council, problems with the assisted waste collection for disabled residents and the maintenance of household waste collection vehicles are due to under funding. Increased receipts from commercial waste disposal could go some way to removing these problems. Lib Dem councillors are continuing to scrutinise the budget and hold the Council to account on this matter.

Recycling: Our councillors have been pressing the council for better recycling schemes for plastics and to make sure our plastic is recycled safely.



Cllr Clare Hobson (centre) with volunteers doing a Boxmoor clean-up.

Local Rivers: Lib Dem Councillors have worked with others to press Dacorum Council to work to protect our local chalk streams and rivers.

Sammy Barry doubles Lib Dem vote at General Election

Sammy Barry asked people to vote for her as an investment in the future. She saw the Lib Dems gain an additional 3,084 votes. A greater % gain than any other party in Hemel, by far.



Contact your local Lib Dem Councillors & Campaigners



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