

NEWS GAZETTE

Free local newspaper covering the ward of Beckenham Town and Copers Cope in central and northern Beckenham



Lib Dems are the challengers in Beckenham Town and Copers Cope

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SAFER ROADS SAFER CROSSINGS

Residents call for action on long-standing road safety issues

Following the first Coronavirus lockdown, suggestions from residents on how to spend government funds to make walking and cycling safer in our towns were ignored.

Dangerous crossing sites, like the junction of Bromley Road, Manor Road and Wickham Road by Corner Ways Surgery have been left unaltered. The council squandered an opportunity to fix this busy junction for pedestrians and cyclists heading to the town centre, nearby school, churches, and doctors surgery.

Beckenham Lib Dems are calling for a pedestrian crossing phase at these traffic lights.

Our **Copers Cope Road Crossing** petition (near New Beckenham Station) continues to be ignored.

Parents asking for a **crossing**

on Brackley Road for Worsley Bridge School continue to be ignored.

Residents are frustrated that despite raising their concerns about speeding and dangerous driving, particularly on **Foxgrove Road, Copers Cope Road, Brackley Road and Park Road**, nothing has been done.

84% worry about speeding

In our borough wide survey 84% of people said they are worried about speeding and 59% would walk or cycle more if the roads were safer.

It's time for change - we need action to make our roads safer, guided by strong local representatives who listen and when money is available for road improvements advocate for what local people have called for.

We can have better choices for Beckenham.



Lib Dem candidates are campaigning for a proper pedestrian crossing phase on the junction of Bromley Road and Manor Road.

LIB DEMS BEST FOR OUR AREA

Lib Dems are well known for their community campaigning - often seen knocking on doors and talking to residents, businesses and service providers.

We've had hundreds of conversations in the last few months and there is one common theme... our **Conservative Councillors are absent or just not listening.**

You have been telling us you never hear from your Councillors, you are never consulted by your Councillors and that when you raise a problem, often not listened to by your Councillors.

Residents have been perplexed about Councillor backed decisions such as the installation of the Albemarle Rd Cycle Scheme which came from nowhere.

Lib Dems believe in listening to local people and empowering communities to make positive changes to their neighbourhood. We also believe that our council taxes must be spent wisely and provide value for money. We know that the best decisions cannot be made without the input of local people.

Join our Air Quality Monitoring Network

Poor air quality is the largest environmental public health risk and it kills more people in Bromley than anywhere else in London.

Improving air quality needs to be a top priority - yet Bromley Council only have one air quality monitor providing live data in the entire Borough.

So the Lib Dems have built a network of 16 monitors across the borough providing live readings to help identify hotspots and work out where improvements are most needed.

Our network is open to all and we are looking for people to host an air quality monitor. Find out more and see the data readings online at:

www.freshairbromley.org.uk

Are community spaces safe with the Conservatives? Public Use Of Halls Cut



Less public access to Beckenham Public Halls - community space lost.

- **First they try to demolish our purpose built Library**
- **Now they cut community access to the Public Halls**

Bromley's Conservative Council has not maintained our community buildings. The has led to disrepair and weakened public facilities for residents.

In 2019, the community was shocked by plans to demolish Beckenham Library for housing. The Conservative-led Council proposed selling the purpose built library building to housing developers and using the money from the sale to squeeze the library into the much smaller Beckenham Public Halls. This was to save money on improvements to the Library building, and to cover the £1m's worth of disrepair of the Halls.

During Council meeting for the first stage feasibility study, local Councillors spoke in favour of the proposal, at odds with residents who packed the public gallery in opposition.

Beckenham Lib Dems joined the amazing community-led 'Save the Library' campaign that followed. And the community identified alternate sites for housing.

When the consultants' feasibility study concluded that the Library would not fit into the Public Halls, the cost of the project was too expensive and that community space would be lost, the plans to move

the Library were thankfully shelved in Sept 2020.

The consultants' report did not contain a single supportive comment from the public - this shows how out of touch our local ward Councillors were in backing it. Plans to move the Library may be on hold for now, but the Council have not spent money on making the necessary improvements to the library building.

What of the our Public Halls? The Council could have applied for Heritage Lottery funding to restore it - they didn't. Instead they chose to lease it to an organisation, which in return for repairing the heritage building, would only need to maintain 15% of it for public use!

We asked the Council how they came up with 15% and they said that was how much of the Halls had been used by the community - failing to consider that the building's poor states meant it could not be properly used in recent years.

Negotiations between the Council and the new provider continue behind closed doors, the public have no say in what is being agreed. It seems all but certain that our community will lose precious public spaces and facilities in the coming years due to Conservative neglect.



Lib Dems in Action

BLACKFRIARS TRAIN

Leading the community campaign to reinstate this cancelled service.

CORNER WAYS CROSSING

Campaigning for a pedestrian crossing at the traffic lights by Corner Ways Surgery on Bromley Road.

NEW DEVELOPMENT HEIGHT LIMIT

Calling for Council to stop high development over Beckenham Place Park and Bromley High Street.

FOXGROVE ROAD SAFETY

Following up on road safety improvements requested by residents on Foxgrove Road.

AIR QUALITY MONITORING

Built and installed a publicly accessible air quality monitoring network.

What does the future hold for Bromley's parks? Lib Dems ask for assurances as Open Space Strategy looks for business partners

How will the Council put park-goers' interests first if it is reliant on commercial revenue to fund parks?

We love our parks and we are lucky to have so many, each with their own unique character. We all want to see them protected, enhanced and have improved facilities.

Bromley Council's Open Space Strategy is at first glance very aspirational. But there is little detail on what it will achieve and no targets? There is no

increase to park budgets, nor a plan for the basics such as more public toilets and better lighting and security.

The Council intend to supplement park budgets through commercial events in parks. And new facilities will be developed through third party business partners.

But private businesses do not have to follow the same rules on finance, public meetings, published minutes as the Council. So residents will get

less of a say.

Over time if the interests of the business is not the same as park-goers will the Council be able to do anything? We have asked that community interests are protected.

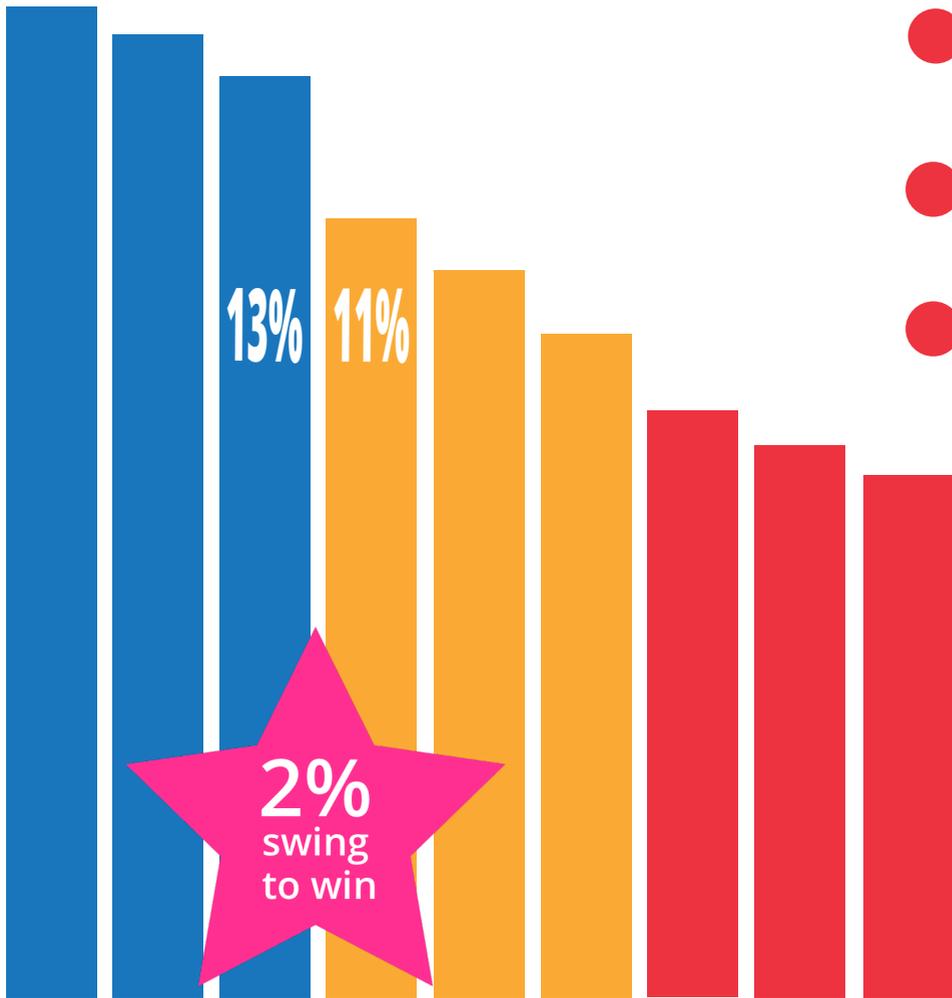
Lib Dems believe our open spaces should be held forever for local people's recreation and not be a source of Council revenue. Commercial partnerships must be managed cautiously and carefully.



Could community parks like Beckenham Green be handed over to a private organisation to run?

“Establish a foundation with business partners to fund and develop open spaces.” - Open Space Strategy, Bromley Council

IT'S LIB DEM OR CONSERVATIVE



- Lib Dems are the main opposition here, just close to getting elected last time.
- Labour came behind all the Lib Dem and Conservative candidates.
- Only a Lib Dem vote next May can beat Conservatives here.

This May's local Council election is going to be close.

The Liberal Democrats are best placed to beat the Conservatives, here in Beckenham Town and Copers Cope.

Labour came third well behind the Liberal Democrat and Conservative candidates last time.

Local people are telling us

they are fed up both with this Conservative government and our local out of touch Conservative Ward Councillors.

Don't let the Tories take us for granted. Vote for Councillors that will prioritise local issues that matter to you.

In May's local election you will have three votes, use them to vote for all three Liberal Democrat candidates.

Printed by DC Thomson & Co. Ltd., Discovery Print, 80 Kingsway East, Dundee DD4 8SL. Published and promoted by David Marshall (Liberal Democrats) 7 Station Road, Orpington, BR6 0RZ

Ahead of May's council election, meet the team ...

Will Connolly

Volunteers for a national youth LGBT+ homelessness charity.

He worked on the climate crisis at COP26, and is campaigning to protect the local environment.

He lives in Beckenham, works in the charity & social enterprise sector and wants a more caring, fairer society.



Dave Marshall

Campaigns for cleaner safer streets for walking and cycling.

He has led on air quality locally, including setting up a borough wide network of air quality monitors.

He lives in Beckenham and works in IT. As Chair of the Bromley Liberal Democrats he wants better council engagement and consultation.



Chloe-Jane Ross

As Chair of Beckenham's largest residents' association she has been helping residents for years.

She is leading the fight to save the Blackfriars train and campaigning for better Council services.

She lives in Beckenham, works in the public sector and her daughter attends a local state primary.



Prioritising local issues that matter to you. Email: beckenham@bromleylibdems.org.uk