

Eastwood Park FOCUS

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Liberal Democrats



AUTUMN 2024

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NEW WASTE CONTRACT AGREED **Suez to replace Veolia from April 2025**

The new contract for household waste collections has been awarded by Southend Council to Suez UK. They will take over the kerbside waste collection from Veolia from April 2025. The contract also includes street cleaning and the waste and recycling centres at Leigh Marshes and Stock Road.



There will be a switch to "wheelie bins" in most areas of the city and alternate weekly collections for recycling and "black bag" waste. Those decisions were made by the previous Conservative administration last year and were part of the contract specifications sent out to firms bidding to run the service. Following a lengthy tender and assessment process, the contract was awarded to Suez. Food waste will continue to be collected weekly as will garden waste for those who pay for that service. Assisted collections will be in place for those not able to move these bins, as we do under the current arrangements. Suez will carry out "Ward walks" with your Councillors before the contract changes start so we can look at any specific areas of concern. The changes will be phased in between April and October 2025.



The cost of the new contract is around £18.million a year, roughly £225. per household per year. The cost to continue on an "as is" basis would have been considerably higher than that, and with the Councils' Budget under severe pressure it would have been impossible without making massive cuts to other services.

We also face the challenge to meet national targets to recycle more of our waste or risk being fined by the Government, as we are a long way behind other Authorities recycling achievements.



The Council will be issuing information to households in the coming months with full details of all the changes.



Cllr. Paul Collins Reports- **Anstey Close Water Damage**

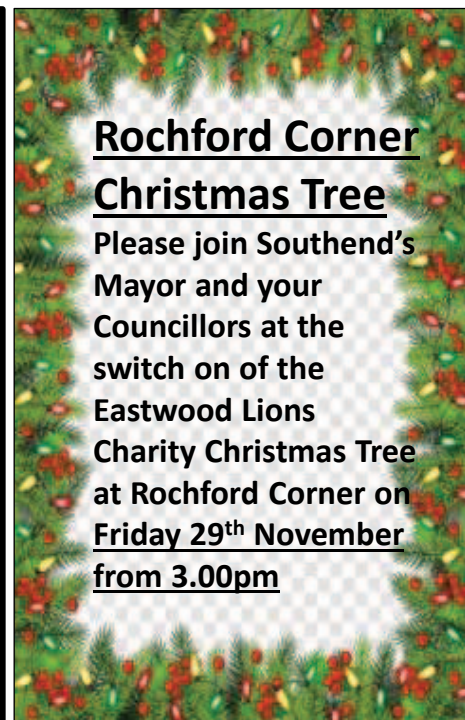
"At last, after many years of pressing Essex and Suffolk Water, they have agreed to replace the whole water main in Anstey Close, to put an end to the many water bursts that keep occurring."

Rayleigh Road Pavements -

"I am delighted to report that the Council's Highways Team have agreed to renew the pavements in Rayleigh Road after April 2025. The areas they will be prioritising are from the Park entrance towards the Bellhouse and from Bellhouse Road towards Progress Road. This is long overdue and will make the pavements safer for all to use."

Rochford Corner **Christmas Tree**

Please join Southend's Mayor and your Councillors at the switch on of the Eastwood Lions Charity Christmas Tree at Rochford Corner on **Friday 29th November** from **3.00pm**



Your Eastwood Councillors' Report-

ROADS – Cllr Rob McMullan says – “I am pressing the Council to extend the current 20mph zone around **Green Lane, Wren Avenue** and **Edwards Hall School** to include the section of Green Lane between **Nobles Green Road** and **Dandies Drive** and also westward towards **Gravel Road**. I would also like to see more clear signage including the “**20 is Plenty**” signs on the road surfaces that are used in other parts of the City.”



PAVEMENTS – Cllr Dave Poulton says – “I am pleased to see that that pavement repairs have been carried out in **Belgrave Road** and highway repairs in **Springwater Road** and a new footpath has been laid in **Dandies / Heycroft Park**.”

STREETLIGHTS - Cllr Paul Collins writes – “With the nights drawing in, it's important that streetlights are working. If you see a streetlight, or road sign, that is out please report it on **MySouthend** and let your Councillors know, so that we can chase up any repairs.”



WINTER FUEL ALLOWANCE

Many pensioners are worried by the removal of the Winter Fuel Allowance by the new Labour Government meaning that only those receiving Pension Credit, will be eligible to receive it.

All 72 Liberal Democrat MP's voted against the withdrawal and wanted to continue the current benefit of up to £300 paid to ALL pensioners.

Your Liberal Democrat Councillors have lobbied hard for action by the Council and we are pleased that £250,000 of special funding has been set aside as additional help for those pensioners who will miss out on the Winter Fuel Allowance. This will be available through the Councils Household Support Fund. **We urge pensioners to check if they qualify for Pension Credit.**

The Council has set up a dedicated webpage for pensioners and other eligible residents to apply for support under the Household Support Fund, providing full details of how to apply and the eligibility criteria.

Just type “Household Support Fund” into the Councils webpage.

The Council will also ensure that information about the Household Support Fund will be available at local GP surgeries, Family Hubs, Libraries and Community Centres.

HELP FOR PENSIONERS
IN SOUTHEND THIS WINTER

SOUTHEND PENSIONER SUPPORT

SOUTHEND COUNCIL LAUNCHES NEW
INITIATIVE WITH DEDICATED

£250,000

FUND TO SUPPORT PENSIONERS IN
SOUTHEND BETWEEN OCT & MARCH

- ✓ food and fuel payments
- ✓ help to apply for pension credit
- ✓ Up to £360 support payments

ADMINISTERED VIA THE ESSENTIAL LIVING FUND AT SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL TO QUALIFYING APPLICANTS AND FUNDED BY THE HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND GRANT FROM GOVERNMENT



Eastwood Park Liberal Democrat Team: Always here to help!



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Eastwood Park Lib Dem Surgeries / Meet Your Councillor sessions twice each month!

***2nd Saturday: Kent Elms Library, 10-12 noon
4th Saturday: The Oakwood, 10-12 noon***

***You can always contact us about issues, or
report them directly on the Council website
at “MySouthend” (but let us know so we are
aware and can follow up your problem)***

***Can you help deliver our Focus leaflets in your
neighbourhood? Would you like to join the Liberal
Democrats? Please contact Paul, Rob or Dave!***