

Focus

From Cllr Carole Mulroney



THE LEIGH LINK

New bus route opens up opportunities for Leigh

Residents of Leigh and all points north are delighted with the introduction of the new 23A & 23B bus service between Leigh Station and the Airport/Airport Business Park (The Leigh Link).

This vital new connection runs throughout the day, providing reliable transport links for commuters, shoppers and visitors alike.

This has been long fought for by your Lib Dem Councillors over many years and has opened up the opportunity for more non-car access to Leigh as a north/south route which residents have been asking for. The service finally connects our community to key employment sites and transport hubs that were previously difficult

to reach without a car.

This route will support the local economy of Leigh Broadway and the Old Town, and will hopefully prove attractive to potential stall holders when the Farmers' Market is relaunched by Leigh Town Council.

Better public transport means more visitors can easily access our vibrant high street and independent shops.

Fewer cars coming into Leigh has to be of benefit to the town's environment and will help reduce congestion on our narrow streets, but as with all bus routes patronage is important, so it's up to all of us to use it whenever we can and show there's demand for these services.



Another promise delivered by the Liberal Democrats

NEWSFLASH - Lib Dem Councillors pleased to see return of bus service from Leigh to Highlands Boulevard!

LEIGH PORT REDEVELOPMENT

Securing the future of our fishing heritage.

Remember Levelling-up? Well we got a lot of funding in Round 1 for projects in Southend and Leigh. One of which was the Leigh Port redevelopment to support our fishing industry and, by extension, our heritage and tourism.

Cllr Carole Mulroney has been working with officers and the industry to ensure we get the best outcome possible and value for money from the project. There have been delays due to Covid and the long negotiations for licences from the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation, but they

are now settled and we can move forward.

The Government has extended the period for completion to March 2028 and once planning permission is in place the work will get going, ensuring we do not interfere with the cockling season.

Carole says: 'I hope residents and visitors will understand that this is vital work for our fishing industry and can bear with the development in the anticipation of a much improved port, sustaining our industry and our heritage and tourism'.



Our heritage, protected for future generations.

Working hard all year round for Leigh

NEWS & ACTION

TWO TREE ISLAND NEEDS SOME TLC

At the Council meeting on 16 October Cllr Carole Mulroney obtained agreement from the Cabinet member for the environment to a task force being set up to take a deep dive into the needs of the Island in terms of environmental enhancements.

For the last 6 or 7 years the City Council has been paying into a fund covering the coastal councils of Essex, with money from housing developers under the Essex Coast Recreation Disturbance Avoidance Strategy (RAMS). So far Southend has paid in £55,000 but has never drawn down on this fund. Two Tree Island is a haven for wildlife and covered by national and local designations.

There have been ongoing problems on the Island with anti-social behaviour, lack of investment and lately, overnight parking. Carole will be making sure that money accrued by Southend through RAMS and Community Infrastructure Levy can benefit the Island without affecting the public purse.

MOSAIC MIRACLE

Congratulations to Leigh Town Council and the Friends of Leigh Library Gardens. After (literally) years of unbelievable opposition from the former Conservative regime at LTC, Leigh now has a wonderful community mosaic in the Gardens designed by local children and created by the Mosaic Studio. Perseverance pays off.

HADLEIGH GREEN BELT: LEIGH'S CONCERNS

Many of you expressed concern about the proposals of the Salvation Army for housing on its land in Hadleigh and the effects on Leigh.

There has been some measure of success on this as Castle Point BC has not included the land in its Local Plan.

However, we can never be complacent.

There are three scenarios now to consider, given the proposal is not necessarily dead and buried:

1. The Salvation Army can still submit a planning application even though it has no local plan endorsement.



2. The Local Plan could be rejected by the Secretary of State on the basis that it does not meet the required housing provision.

3. The Local Plan is allowed to go forward to its Examination in Public where the Salvation Army put forward a case for the inclusion of the land for housing.

PARKING PERMIT CONSULTATION

Residents in the New Road/Uttons Avenue/Hadleigh Road (southern part) and surrounding area have recently been consulted on whether they desire a parking permit zone. This has come about from the years of complaints about the effects of visitor and non resident parking in the area.

Residents asked the Lib Dems to help and

after Carole's epic battle over the last 5 years this is the first step on the road to trying to sort the issue out for their benefit. With a much improved system of deciding these issues Carole is pleased to say there was an overwhelming response in favour of a permit zone and she will be pursuing that with the officers

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ROLLING OUT THE WHEELIE BINS

We can't ignore this subject and of course as a Councillor, Carole has had her fair share of complaints to deal with regarding the roll out of the bins and the scheme in general.

Let's be very clear about this, as an Administration partner, we inherited a scheme with such restrictions, as devised by the previous Conservative administration, that it has been extremely hard to find work-arounds and solutions.

Carole has been concentrating on those residents who cannot physically or spatially take the bins. But is also pleased to report a major uptick in the recycling rate.

Just to cover a few of the issues:

Food waste CONTINUES to be collected weekly. That's the law of the land.

Alternate weeks for black bag (non recyclable) waste – keep using black or any colour bags because this is the 'grotty stuff'.

Alternative weeks for pink and blue bins. Pink for recycling – wash and dry your recycling - it really doesn't take that long. Side Pink bag waste is PERMITTED, but keep it contained, or you can apply for a bigger bin if it is a regular problem.

Garden waste, if you subscribe, is still collected weekly.

Inevitably the first few weeks are challenging and Carole urges everyone to give it a chance.

