

WEST LEIGH Focus

From Stephen Cummins



STANDING FOR WEST LEIGH

Your Lib Dem candidate for May 2026

As Chair of Southend Liberal Democrats, I've been proud to work alongside Cllr Carole Mulroney and our dedicated team to deliver real improvements for Leigh and the surrounding areas.

Now I'm putting myself forward to represent West Leigh on the Council from May 2026.

I've lived in the area for many years and understand the issues that matter most to residents: protecting our local environment, improving transport links, supporting our high streets, and ensuring our community has a strong voice at City Hall.

Working with Carole, we've already achieved so much for our community - from securing the new Leigh Link bus service to protecting Two Tree Island and fighting for parking permits.

I want to build on this progress and be a strong local champion for West Leigh residents.

The Liberal Democrats are the only party making a real difference locally.

While Labour disappoints and the Conservatives collapse, we're delivering results.



ESSEX MAYOR 2026: JAMES ALLEN

A Lib Dem voice for Greater Essex

The Liberal Democrats have chosen James Allen, a local professional and former Justice of the Peace, as our candidate for the first-ever Mayor of Greater Essex election in May 2026.

At his campaign launch, James said: "Essex has been taken for granted by the Conservatives. Roads are crumbling, crime is rising, and services are under pressure.

"Labour has been so disappointing, promising change, but a year on and nothing has been done. The chaotic Conservatives are collapsing, whilst

Reform UK offers division, not solutions."

"Essex deserves better. The Liberal Democrats will step up and deliver that real change Essex is craving."

The Liberal Democrats are already making a difference in our region. From the amazing work of Marie Goldman MP in Chelmsford, to making significant progress in Colchester and tackling rural fly-tipping in Brentwood, we are making a difference.

With your support at the ballot box, we can build a fairer, cleaner, safer Essex.

Working hard all year round for West Leigh

NEWS & ACTION

THE LEIGH LINK A NEW BUS ROUTE

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 Business Park.

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 route supports 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.

LEIGH PORT PROGRESS

The Leigh Port redevelopment is moving forward to support our fishing industry, heritage, and tourism.

After delays due to Covid and complex negotiations with the Environment Agency and Marine Management Organisation, work is set to begin with funding extended to March 2028.

This investment will sustain jobs, protect our fishing heritage, and boost tourism for years to come.

PROTECTING OUR GREEN BELT

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.

MY PRIORITIES FOR WEST LEIGH

If elected in May 2026, my focus will be:

Protecting the Green Belt Fighting any attempts to build on our precious green spaces.

Improving Local Transport Building on the Leigh Link success with better bus services, safer cycling routes, and improved pedestrian access.

Supporting Local Businesses Ensuring our high streets get the support they need, from

the Farmers' Market relaunch to tackling anti-social behaviour.

Tackling the Bins Challenge Finding solutions for residents who struggle with the bins while encouraging recycling.

Investing in Our Environment Ensuring West Leigh's green spaces like Two Tree Island receive proper investment using RAMS and Community Infrastructure Levy funds.

CONTACT YOUR LIB DEM TEAM:



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TWO TREE ISLAND & COMMUNITY WINS

Two Tree Island Needs 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 examine the needs of the Island.

For the last 6 or 7 years the City Council has been paying into the Essex Coast RAMS fund. 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.

We will make sure that money accrued by Southend through RAMS and Community Infrastructure Levy can

benefit the Island without affecting the public purse.

Congratulations to Leigh Town Council and the Friends of Leigh Library Gardens.

After years of 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.

