



From your local **Liberal Democrat** team

War in Europe

It is terrifying how quickly normal life changes as an army marches threateningly towards your peaceful city, as is happening in the Ukraine.

In Derby people only see this on TV, but still share the fear. Many are asking what they can do to help people escaping, receiving refugees or who are staying to fight.

Derby has around 400 people who came from the Ukraine. They are helping organise relief. The City Council has agreed to offer what help it can.

The Government promises a 'sponsorship scheme' but as we go to press only people with family in the UK already are welcome here. Elsewhere, the EU is welcoming anyone from the Ukraine for up to three years.

Find way to help at: www.standwithukraine.app
Donations of money to the Red Cross or DEC (the Disasters Emergency Committee) are best.

- Keep in touch with the White Swan who are keen to help www.facebook.com/whiteswan.littleover
- Also ask the Council to allow single people to take in refugees (if allowed to come) without losing their 25% Council Tax discount.

Sign the petition at: signme.org.uk/1940



Brendan, landlord of the White Swan, worked with Ailsa and Ros to collect items to go to refugees in Poland. Local councillors **Emily Lonsdale** and **Lucy Care** donated a few items.

Council Budget: 2022/23

The Conservative Group on Derby City Council agreed a worryingly bland budget at the full Council meeting in February.

It includes hardly anything to address climate change, ignores the expected growing need for services for children and young people and made no provision for potential refugees from the Ukraine.

Unlike many other Councils it is not yet exploring ways to sell services to increase its income. Instead it relies on Council Tax, which will be going up by 2%, and any grants it can grab.

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M J Whatling, DC, MSc

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BSL now an official UK language!

Lib Dems welcome the recent change for BSL (British Sign Language) to be one of the UK's official languages, along with Welsh, Cornish and Gaelic.

Lib Dems have been pressing for this since it became party policy in 2013.

It means Deaf people have a right to have information and services provided in their own language, BSL.



"Brilliant!" in BSL.

CCTV and taxis

Would having CCTV (closed circuit television) recording in taxis make you feel safer or would it invade your privacy?

The Chair of Licensing Committee, which agrees standards for taxis, is **Lib Dem** councillor, **Ajit**

Atwal. He says "It is now practical for taxis to be required to have CCTV, recording what happens in each cab. If you use taxis, or if you don't yet, do consider this. There is no 'right' answer here, we'd really like to know what you think."

Please give your views as part of the Council's Consultation at: tinyurl.com/cctvintaxis



Highway Code changes

At the end of January new rules were added to the Highway Code. The key one is that road users are ranked according to how vulnerable they are. Everyone then has to be especially aware of road users that are more vulnerable than themselves.

There are more details at: www.tinyurl.com/2022codechanges

There is a short video explaining the key changes at: tinyurl.com/2022changesvideo



Eastwood Drive

The Council is asking for your views on possible changes to roads near **Eastwood Drive**. If you've not yet shared your thoughts, or have more ideas, do find out more at:

tinyurl.com/22Eastwood

Deadline for replies is 25th April.

Tell us what you think...

Your local **Focus Team** wants to know what you think needs doing in your area. Let them know by returning this slip to the address below. Use the QR code to sign up for local news emails.



Your Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Can we keep you updated about our activities including campaigns, events, fundraising and details about how to get involved? Yes please No thanks

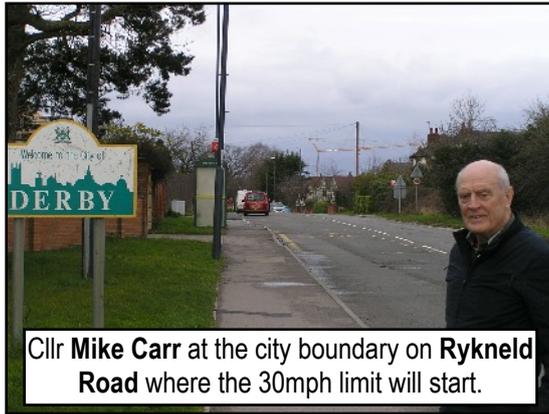
Return this slip free to any member of the Focus Team (details on back) or to Freepost Derby Liberal Democrats (Littleover).

The Liberal Democrats will use your contact details to send you information on the topics you have requested. Any data we gather will be used in accordance with our privacy policy at libdems.org.uk/privacy. To exercise your legal data rights, email: data.protection@libdems.org.uk

- I can help with Focus delivery near where I live (about half an hour a month).
- I enclose a donation to help pay for Focus (Cheques to Derby City Liberal Democrats)
- I would like to join the Lib Dems or go to www.libdems.org.uk/join-local
- Please send me more details about advertising in Focus and 2023 calendar.

Cutting speed on Rykneld Road

Many residents are concerned about traffic speed on **Rykneld Road**. This area is now clearly residential, but Community Speedwatch regularly record speeds well over the 30mph limit especially on the **Pastures Hill** section.



Cllr **Mike Carr** at the city boundary on **Rykneld Road** where the 30mph limit will start.

Councillors have asked for action to reduce speeds on **Pastures Hill** to be a highway priority from April. One of this year's priorities is to reduce the speed limit to 30mph all the way to the city boundary.

Cllr **Lucy Care** said "I had hoped that we could reduce the speeds from the A38, but Derbyshire County Council didn't think this was important. However I have asked what changes can be made to the City section of the road to make the speed limit change more obvious."

Clemson's Park - an arboretum!

Clemson's Park, next to King George V Playing Fields, already has over 50 species of trees, and more are due to be planted as part of the 'Queen's Canopy' for the Jubilee.

Friends of Littleover Parks have been given neighbourhood funding by the Littleover councillors to provide display boards with information about the range of trees to be seen.



Cllr **Lucy Care** by the new board waiting for info about the Millennium Wood orchard. Similar ones will be put in Clemson's Park.

COMMUNITY CORNER:

Littleover Guides and Rangers welcome extra adult volunteers to help with their activities. No experience needed, just a willingness to join in the fun. Email Sue at SecondLittleoverGuides@outlook.com

Let **Emily Lonsdale** know if you have an item you'd like considering for this section. Phone 07487 755385.

Also...

Lib Dem Group grows

Last year **Cllr James Testro**, who was elected by residents in Derwent ward as a Conservative, left the Conservative party and became an Independent. He has now joined the **Liberal Democrats**, as the ninth **Lib Dem** councillor.

Household Support Scheme

The Council has been given money by the Government to help people who are struggling to pay their bills. If you are on Benefits you may qualify for up to £200. To find out more: tinyurl.com/Derby-HSS or phone 01332-640000.

Housing off Stenson Road

A developer is wanting to build at least 500 more homes off Stenson Road on the edge of South Derbyshire. This is included in their 'Local Plan', so likely to be allowed. However conditions could be required about transport, schools and the like. Watch out for more information. A planning application had not been received - yet.

Dog owner?

Hopefully, as the nights get lighter, the few thoughtless dog owners will start doing the 'right thing'. Thank you to everyone who does clear up after their dog. Also thanks to everyone who disposes of the waste properly. It should not be left elsewhere or put in a blue bin. If there isn't a litter bin nearby, please use your own black bin when you get home.

Bridges Petition

Over 100 people have now signed the petition asking South Derbyshire to decide the planning application for the three footbridges in Heatherton. Many thanks to everyone. This will be submitted to the District Council shortly.

Cardboard recycling

Tescos are no longer going to have cardboard recycling bins at their store. If you regularly have more blue bin waste than will fit in your blue bin, do ask for any extra bin. Go to the Council's website tinyurl.com/DCC-bins or phone 640000.

St Peter's School 'Safe Haven'

From 21st March the road either side of St Peter's Junior School (**Church Street** and **Thornhill Road**) will be briefly closed to traffic. This is just for a short period morning and afternoon as children are arriving and leaving school.

Please avoid the area at these times, as it is likely to be busier than usual as people get used to this change. The school is working with parents so that more children will be walking and cycling to school. Those who need to drive will be parking further away.



Cllrs Emily Lonsdale and Lucy Care outside St Peter's School.

If you missed the extra Focus in late February, full of other news, download a copy here:

Ask for for future emailed editions at:  or email one of the Focus Team, below.



YOUR FOCUS TEAM:

Cllr Lucy Care, 721291

Cllr Mike Carr, 833550

Cllr Emily Lonsdale, 07487 755385

Tom Bull, 07586 901921

Preetinder K. Butter, 07963 161137

Glenda Howcroft, 773287

Janet Williams, 513424

Or by post at 24A Great Northern Road, Derby, DE1 1LR

www.derbylibdems.org.uk  [@derbylibdems](https://twitter.com/derbylibdems)  [Littleover Lib Dems](https://www.facebook.com/LittleoverLibDems)

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Also...

Buses to Highfields

The main road through Highfields Farm from Heatherton should be properly surfaced this spring. It will then be available for a bus service. This would be a chance to review bus routes. Are there places you'd like a bus to go? Please let one of the Focus team know.

Ring Road lights

The traffic lights order on **Uttoxeter New Road** have been changed. Are they working better - or not? Please tell us.

Thank you

Many thanks to everyone who has continued to give books, DVDs and CDs to help fund Focus. The team hopes that it will be possible to have a proper book sale in early summer, or possibly two. It would help to have a dry garage to store books in between sales. Please phone 721291 if you might be able to help. Thanks.

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