



From your local **Liberal Democrat** team

The bus for Heatherton, Littleover, Highfields

- and more

For years, local councillors have been working behind the scenes to improve bus services. It is now starting to pay off.

Notts and Derby Bus Company are running a new service which takes people from Heatherton and

Littleover village to the Royal Derby Hospital. Most buses become the 'Royal Derby' and go on to the train station and Florence Nightingale Hospital. Timings have been designed to work with standard shift patterns for hospital staff.

The hourly service runs along **Haven Baulk Lane**. Details are on the Notts + Derby website at tinyurl.com/RDHlink1 or scan the QR code:



Cllrs **Lucy Care** and **Ajit Atwal** with Link 1 timetable providing a bus service to hospitals and train station.



Want to know more about what's happening in Littleover?

The next Neighbourhood drop-in Event is on

Monday 17th March
from 7pm to 8pm at
Grange Hall on Park Lane, DE23 6FX.

Come to talk to:

- Highways Maintenance
- The Police
- Friends of Littleover Parks
- Hannah Fields
- Your councillors

All are welcome.

Advertising in Focus does not imply support for the Lib Dems, nor do the Lib Dems endorse the goods or services offered.

Would you like to join the friendly team of volunteers at the Royal Derby Hospital?

Volunteers give a little time every week or fortnight to run shops, tea bars and trolleys for patients, staff and visitors.



Have a chat with Jan to find out more:

07905 397147

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Government is forcing change

The Government has told English Councils they must all be Unitary Authorities. They want them to have about 500,000 people in each.

Derby is already a Unitary Authority, but quite a lot smaller. Labour think it should change too.

The Conservative-led County Council at once said it should become a unitary authority, scrapping all the Districts and Boroughs. It did this without consulting other Councils or councillors.

All the other Councils - Districts, Boroughs and Derby City - are now working together to discuss what would be the best for the whole of Derbyshire. Derbyshire County Council has been invited to join their discussions.

Lib Dem councillor **Ajit Atwal** said "It is 50 years since there was major change. If we have to have it, we need to make it work well. But the Government's timescales are really tight."

Lib Dems are saying that local residents and voters should have a say on the changes.

Council Budget

Council tax bills are about to go out for 2025/26. These include the payment for the Police and Fire Services as well as the City Council. The City Council part of the bill has gone up by 3.99%.

Lib Dem Group Leader, Cllr **Ajit Atwal** said "Labour wanted to increase bills by the maximum allowed. This would put £1m more straight into its bank account for a rainy day. We agree that having savings is important. However taxpayers having a bit more to spend is also important."

Lib Dem Deputy Group Leader, Cllr **Lucy Care**, said in the meeting that the budget showed hard work from officers, but lacked flair and creativity from Labour. She suggested several projects to improve Derby and its finances. These included another river turbine near Spondon.

Statement from Lib Dem MP and Defence Spokesperson, Helen Maguire.



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.

Your Name _____

Postcode and house number _____

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 8 Kings Drive, Littleover, Derby, DE23 6EU.

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 www.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 2026 calendar.



Burton Road lights



Cllr **Ajit Atwal** on the diversion route for people wanting to cross the ring road. It can mean a half mile walk!

The work to improve the junction at **Burton Road** and the ring road is causing major queues. Even worse than for drivers is the diversion provided for people walking.

The walking route sends people back along each road before providing a place to cross. For **Warwick Avenue** this means walking down and up the steep hill, even when there is no work happening.

Cllr **Ajit Atwal** said "It's not just about time, it's that some people are not able to walk down and up again. We have asked the Labour's traffic engineers to come up with a better solution, but been rebuffed. Please sign our petition to put pressure on them to try harder."

As we go to print, there are still 14 weeks of road works to go. The petition is at tinyurl.com/wabr-pet



Also...

Bins on Pavements

The Council is to fine people who leave their wheelie bins on the pavement. So far it is being tried on just a few streets, but it is likely to be rolled out city-wide. Please get into the habit of putting your bin(s) away promptly after they have been emptied. If you are going to be away, work with neighbours to make sure bins get in and out properly.

Safe Haven

Please remember, St Peter's is one of a growing number of schools in Derby which have a 'Safe Haven' outside them. Only people with permits are allowed to drive along **Thornhill Road** and **Church Street** at school start and finish times.

Bramblebrook Care Home

The Council has said that it plans to demolish the old care home on **Rough Heanor Road**. The site would then be cleared. It is likely that a planning application will follow for flats for older people. Cllr **Lucy Care** has encouraged the Council to talk with local people to help design a scheme to work well in the area.

South Derbys Local Plan

South Derbyshire have just published the version of their Local Plan that will go to the Plan inspector.

See more at tinyurl.com/SDLP25



Drain emptying

Road drains (or 'gullies') need regular emptying as they fill up with grit, which blocks them. The Council has only one gully-emptying lorry, so most drains are not being emptied often enough.

Last year, opposition councillors got a Budget amendment agreed to get a second gully lorry. More than 6 months later drains were still not being emptied when requested. Cllr **Lucy Care** asked formally if a new gully lorry had been bought. The answer was 'No.'

Lucy said "This should have been a simple action to benefit the whole city. Not only had the Labour-led Council not bought a gully-lorry, but they had not let councillors know. This really undermines confidence in Labour's ability to lead the Council."



Cllr **Lucy Care** couldn't clear this gully with her litter-picker!

COMMUNITY CORNER:

SEND Matters in Derby - online event. If you have a child with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities and are struggling to get the right help from the Council, you might find this online event helpful. tinyurl.com/SEND-Derby-event25

Let **Lucy Care** know if you have an item you'd like considering for this section.

Phone 01332 721291.



Recent action from the Lib Dem Team



Verge parking was often an issue outside Griffie Field School. Cllr **Lucy Care** helped put up signs remind drivers. Ask if you need one.



The road plateau at **Jackson Avenue** and **Kings Drive** has been replaced. Do highlight to councillors other places where road repairs are needed.



New noticeboards have gone up in Griffie Field Park, near **Troutbeck Grove**, and on **Brayfield Road**. If others would be useful, please let one of the Focus Team know.

Local **Lib Dems** are available and working all year round. Residents often get in touch with the **Lib Dems** about things that are bothering them.

You are welcome to get in touch, contact details are below.

Also...

Uttoxeter Rd closed
Uttoxeter Road is to have two nights of road closure in mid-March to treat potholes. It will then get a protective resurfacing in April. This is to extend its life. Councillors have asked when the pavements will also be improved as they are poor but well-used.

Bus information
 It isn't obvious where to go for a bus out of Derby as not all go from the bus station. Cllr **Lucy Care** has suggested more bus departure information is needed on city centre streets as well as in the bus station itself. Sign the petition: tinyurl.com/businfo25



Valuing local wildlife
 A new 'Local Nature Recovery Strategy' is being prepared for Derbyshire, led by Derby University. Until the 20th March the County Council would welcome your comments on their work so far. www.derbyshirenaturerecovery.co.uk

YOUR FOCUS TEAM:

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Littleover Grange Hall Community Centre
 Tues 5.30 & 7.00pm Wed 9.00 & 10.30am
 St Joseph's Church Hall, Burton Road
 Wed at 5.30 & 7.00pm

Ring Maria on 07746 567714 or just come along.



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slimmingworld.co.uk

Lib Dems - Working hard all year round

