

# FOCUS

## ON COLLIER'S WOOD

From George Hadjiyannakis,  
John Oliver & Jenny Booth



2022 Local Election for  
Merton Council. Number  
of councillors per party.

LAB  
31

LIB  
DEM  
17

CON  
7

ONLY LIB DEMS CAN  
CHALLENGE LABOUR ON  
MERTON COUNCIL

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- LIB DEMS' FIGHT TO PROTECT OUR PARKS
- GETTING A GRIP ON GP WAITING LISTS

## Lib Dems lead the fight to protect our police stations

Over Summer, the Mayor of London tried to sneak through plans to close police station front counters - including at Wimbledon and Mitcham, threatening their long-term future.

Merton Lib Dems refused to let this go unchallenged, pressing for an emergency council meeting to demand answers and call out Labour's failure to act.

Disappointingly, Labour councillors blocked Lib Dem proposals to strengthen community policing

This is the latest in a pattern of Labour failing to stand up for residents on this issue. In March, they failed to even mention the importance of local police stations, when the Mayor of London wanted their views on his new plan for London policing.

Meanwhile, Merton Lib Dems, have been pushing to restore trusted, visible local policing at every opportunity.



Over 900 crimes are reported in-person at Wimbledon & Mitcham police stations per year

Local campaigner George Hadjiyannakis said: "Stripping away vital points of contact between communities and their police is utterly indefensible."

If you haven't already, please sign our petition: [www.mertonlibdems.org.uk/keep-open](http://www.mertonlibdems.org.uk/keep-open)

## Keep in touch!

Scan  
Me!

The quickest way to get updates on local issues & news is to sign up for emails from Wimbledon MP, Paul Kohler and your local Liberal Democrat councillors.

Sign up today to stay in touch with the team and receive news from your area.

Sign up at: [www.mertonlibdems.org.uk/keep-in-touch](http://www.mertonlibdems.org.uk/keep-in-touch)

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## Lib Dems meet Lime to end e-bike parking chaos



Colliers Wood Lib Dems are speaking up for residents in our area



Local Lib Dem councillors are fighting to end the chaos for residents, caused by Labour's rushed roll-out of parking e-bike bays.

In June it was announced that e-bike companies had agreed users would use designated "physical or virtual" parking bays. But residents have found the operators deploy the bikes 24 hours a day.

People also make noise when they take and leave bikes, and bikes are being left outside bays. This has left local residents frustrated, with complaints to Merton Lib Dem councillors rocketing.

Local Lib Dems met with Lime over summer and pushed for safer, better-managed bays. They got Lime to review the most problematic locations and raised calls for the removal of the most unsafe sites with the Council.

Local Lib Dem campaigner John Oliver said: "We're not against e-bikes, but they have to be managed properly. Our priority is simple: safe, accessible streets for everyone."

## Working to clean up our streets

Despite endless promises to clean up Merton's streets, Labour Council bosses have failed to get a grip.

Pavements and green spaces are a mess, and local residents report that Merton Council have failed to stick to their promise to sweep every street every week.

Angry residents are fed up with the constant fly-tipping, streets that are not cleaned regularly and slow response from the Council.

Local Lib Dems are offering a fresh start and a new approach to street cleaning, litter and fly tipping at next year's local election to clean up Labour's decades long mess.



# Local Lib Dems' 'Parks Promise'



Jenny Booth and the rest of the local Lib Dem team are standing up for our green spaces

**Merton Lib Dems are calling for a new 'Parks Promise' to ensure Merton's green spaces receive the care and investment they deserve.** Their plan includes proper maintenance, fair funding for parks across the borough, more support for volunteer groups, and genuine consultation with residents on the future of green spaces.

Merton is one of London's greenest boroughs, but many parks and green spaces are relying too heavily on volunteer and Parks' Friends groups to pick up the slack from poor upkeep and a lack of investment from Merton Council.

While well-run commercial events can bring valuable income, the Lib Dems argue there must be more community engagement to agree the appropriate number of big events for a particular space.

Colliers Wood Lib Dem campaigner Jenny Booth said: **"Our parks are some of Merton's greatest assets, but we should not have to rely on volunteers to keep green spaces clean and welcoming."**

**That's why we're calling for a Parks Promise, a clear commitment to protect and improve Merton's green spaces for generations to come."**

## Down your street



**Local Lib Dems are listening to residents' concerns** about two new towers planned behind Britannia Point. Labour's local plan allows buildings up to 52m high on this site, but they have not provided more rules for developers about tall buildings since the plan was adopted. This failure has given developers a chance to build tall towers like the ones proposed.

Share your thoughts by emailing [cw@mertonlibdems.org.uk](mailto:cw@mertonlibdems.org.uk)



**Colliers Wood Lib Dems are fighting to improve our roads and pavements,** reporting damage and large potholes to the Council to be filled in, and monitoring them to make sure works are completed.



A large pothole the team reported on Lyveden Rd



**The local team are pushing for better street lighting.** This is a concern for many residents, especially as the nights are now drawing in. The team are in discussions with the Council.



Your local Lib Dem team John, Jenny and George are working to fix problems for residents

## Getting a grip on GP waiting lists

**Residents in Colliers Wood are finding it more and more difficult to get a GP appointment.**

The latest figures show that more than 1 in every 10 patients have to wait more than 2 weeks. Plans for a new surgery fell apart in 2020 and nothing has been done since.

This is leaving too many people without the timely care they need.

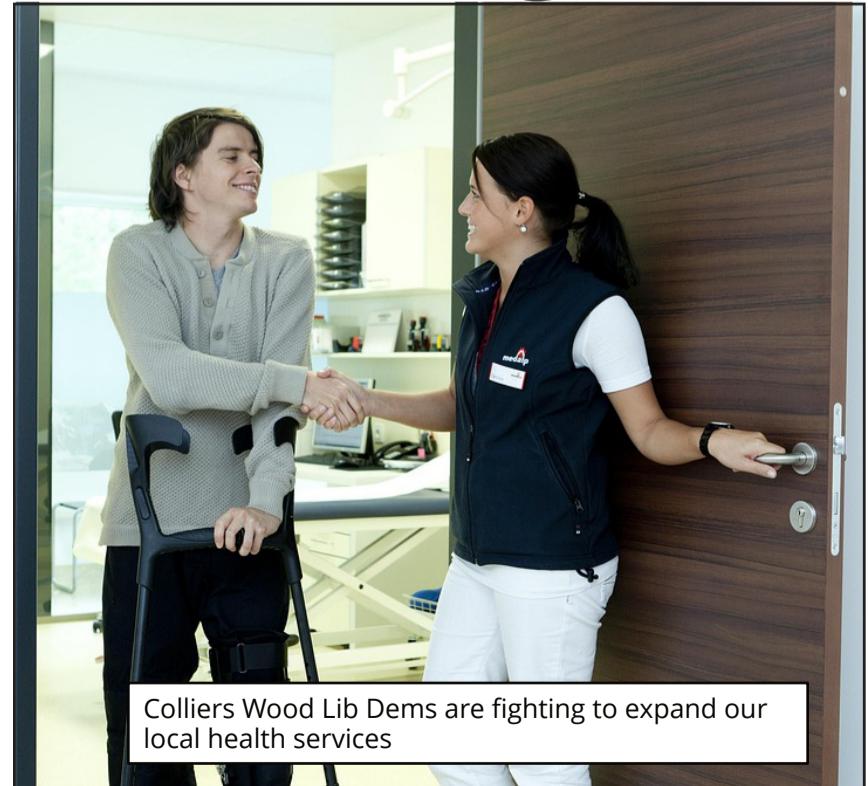
Local Liberal Democrats are calling on the Council and NHS bosses to look again at options to open a new surgery.

**Liberal Democrat MPs in Parliament are pushing for a legal right to see a GP within seven days, backed by recruiting 8,000 more GPs across the country.**

Local NHS doctor and Colliers Wood resident George Hadjiyiannakis said:

"The Labour party has been in charge while these problems have piled up.

If we want things to improve, we need more GPs in post and a firm guarantee that patients can be seen when they need to be."



Colliers Wood Lib Dems are fighting to expand our local health services