

on WANDLE FOCUS

From Paul Kohler MP, Cllr Kirsten Galea, Phil Ling and your local Lib Dem team



FIGHTING TO KEEP YOUR BILLS DOWN



Wandle ward Lib Dems are challenging Labour's inflation-busting council charges.

In December, Labour Council bosses approved hikes to over 700 Council fees, from parking permits to sports pitches, allotments, and garden waste collection, driving up costs for residents, businesses and community groups.



Inflation was running at 3.4% in December yet 257 fee increases described as 'inflationary' were around 5% or more. Some fee increases are exceptionally high, for example application fees for home improvements up 29% and car park charges up between 5% and 33%!

Cllr Anthony Fairclough, who is the leader of the opposition on Merton Council, explained:

"The Council claims it is working to keep bills down, but these proposed fee increases do the opposite. Many are being put up by significant amounts – and the cost of living crisis wasn't mentioned once.

"We are challenging these decisions - calling on the Council to look at the impact these above-inflation increases could have on the people paying for the services, particularly on those households with lower incomes."

» **Residents' controlled parking permits up 7%, over double the rate of inflation.**

» **Pitch hire for football, cricket and other activities, are up above inflation.**

KEEP IN TOUCH

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NEWSLETTER



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INVEST IN OUR ROADS

Liberal Democrats are calling for more investment into local roads, after the condition of Merton's roads were given a red rating by Department for Transport.

This confirms what residents already know; our roads are still in a dire state. Last year, four in ten roads in our borough were already rated "poor", making them the worst in London and the second worst in the country.

Paul Kohler MP has met with the Transport Minister to ask why boroughs like Merton are still being overlooked for funding.

Labour has often been slow to repair potholes, allowing them to become bigger and more dangerous hazards, risking residents' safety and damage to their vehicles.



Merton Liberal Democrats regularly report potholes and urge the Council to fix them.

Local campaigner Phil Ling said, "While Labour has allowed our roads to fall into decline, we're fighting for the fair investment needed to improve our roads."

DEMANDING STEP-FREE ACCESS AT HAYDONS ROAD STATION

Lib Dems are sounding the alarm on Labour's broken promise, as 15 years on Haydons Road Station continues without step free access.

In 2011, Labour-run Merton Council granted planning permission for the Caxton Road development on the grounds the station would be made accessible, but it has failed to enforce its own agreement.

Wandle Cllr Kirsten Galea said, "The Lib Dems helped to secure step-free access at Motspur Park station and celebrated a recent win in our fight for step-free access at Raynes Park.

"While Labour and Govia Thameslink continue to point fingers, we're determined to repeat the same success here at Haydons Road."



Cllr Kirsten Galea and Phil Ling are working with Paul Kohler MP to deliver an accessible station

DOWN YOUR STREET

CAMPAIGN WIN: BETTER LIGHTING ON WANDLE BANK

Cllr Kirsten Galea welcomed the increased levels of street lighting on Wandle Bank.

She said, "After arranging a site visit and challenging the initial decision that the lighting was 'up to standard', I continued pressing the issue alongside residents. Their voices have finally been heard and change is happening."

DELIVERING A BETTER, CLEANER WANDLE

Helped the Friends of Garfield Park paint part of the fence around the new MUGA. Reach out if you want to get involved.

Clearing of construction signs on Norman Road. Your local team reported the signs that had been left on pavements for weeks after work had finished.

REPRESENTING YOU

Supporting Clarion residents to deal with service charge errors.

Attended the MET Wandle Ward panel held for the first time at AFC Wimbledon.

POLICE CUTS

Labour to go ahead with front counter closures

Residents were surprised by Merton Labour claiming Mitcham and Wimbledon police stations had been 'saved'. For local residents, the reality is very different. Under Sadiq Khan's plans, both stations will close to the public.

Residents will no longer be able to walk in to report a crime or ask for help, and losing the front counters could be a prelude to losing the stations in the future.

In 2018, Wimbledon Police Station was only saved after Paul Kohler, now Wimbledon's Liberal Democrat MP, successfully challenged the Labour Mayor's closure plans in court.

Paul Kohler MP said, "Labour are trying to spin the lack of immediate plans to sell the buildings as a success. In reality, their campaign achieved nothing."

Paul highlighted, "Under a Labour council, a Labour Mayor and a Labour Government, Merton has lost both its police station front counters. When the Mayor later found money to keep some counters open across London, neither Mitcham nor Wimbledon was saved."



"Plans to close police front desks will lead to more crime" Unite union leader claims

London Evening Standard

LIB DEM 45%

It's Lib Dems or Conservatives and Reform UK in Wimbledon

Support for Labour is collapsing in London

CON 22%

LAB 21%

REF 6%

Result at the 2024 General Election here in Wimbledon

Elections in our area are a clear choice between your Lib Dem team and the Conservatives.

But things are different now. Support for Reform UK is on the rise. And the Conservatives have lurched to the right to win over Reform voters - leaving behind people who traditionally supported them.

Labour finished third here last time and their support has collapsed further. They won't win here. **Voting for Labour in our area will only help the Conservatives and Reform UK.**

The Lib Dems are the party 'most likely to see off Reform UK'

YouGov