

# Killer Air Quality

We've been monitoring Air Quality across the district, paid for by the Lib Dems and other opposition parties, since January 2017. In Sweyne Park & Grange, air quality along the London Road breached the EU legal limit multiple times during the year.

This is a cause for concern particularly as both Glebe Primary and Sweyne schools, border the main road. When I first raised the issue of air pollution in our ward, the Conservatives did not ask for more monitoring and neither were steps taken to protect our residents from what is described by Public Health England as "a public health crisis". Pollution from Nitrogen Dioxide is exasperated by slow moving vehicles and with the congestion we see in Rayleigh vulnerable groups, children and the elderly, are at greater risk. Residents however, will find it hard to move to cleaner vehicles as we have ZERO electric vehicle charging points in our district.



## Looking After Our Local Environment



Residents helping with the community litter pick in Sweyne Park open space

a good turn out from volunteers and cleared a lot of rubbish.

Protecting our local environment for future generations is high on my agenda. With reductions in Council budgets, litter removal from our open spaces isn't as good as it could be. I recently organised a community litter pick in Sweyne Park to lend a helping hand to remove a lot of rubbish that has accumulated over several months. Despite the bad weather we had



Logon to our websites for all the latest news in our District

[www.onlinefocus.org](http://www.onlinefocus.org) & [www.jamesnewport.co.uk](http://www.jamesnewport.co.uk)

## Contact the team YOUR CHOICE ON 3<sup>rd</sup> MAY



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JAMES NEWPORT



Liberal Democrats

## 9 facts the Tories didn't want you to know

1. 7500 New Private Houses planned across the District and again, sites put forward in 'West Rayleigh' could deliver a minimum of over 6000 houses
2. Over 900 residents on waiting list for housing and very little social housing being built
3. No additional air quality monitoring outside schools and other vulnerable sites
4. Over £345,000 spent by Tories on new toilets with NO costs for refurbishment obtained!
5. Tories Councillors 'collect' over £100,000 in 'Special Allowances' when there is an ever-increasing budget gap in Council finances
6. Public petitions are 'ignored' by Tory majority
7. New social media policy to attempt to gag opposition Councillors from revealing the truth about how the Conservative administration mismanages the public purse
8. There are almost 500 homes empty across the district and the Tories have failed to use legal powers to bring them back into use
9. Tory majority votes for above inflation Council Tax rise with £5m already in reserves!

OR

### SAY NO TO

Secretive decision making behind 'closed doors' in favour of meeting NATIONAL Conservative policies rather than in the interests of our LOCAL residents

Building 7500 houses over greenbelt land WITHOUT any new roads or associated infrastructure

... and Labour are a distant third in this election and cannot win here

# FOCUS

FROM CLLR JAMES NEWPORT AND YOUR LOCAL LIB DEM TEAM

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## A Strong Voice For Residents In Sweyne Park & Grange

'In the Council Chamber, I raise local issues to improve local services and aim to keep common sense in Council meetings'



*"The secret to being a good Councillor is to listen to residents and then try to get things done for them"*

I have been one of your District Councillors 'Travellers' entered the Grange Playing Fields, I wrote and delivered a leaflet to affected residents within hours of their arrival (not everyone has access to the Council's website and an advice leaflet does help). I am willing to go the extra mile for residents but I need your kind support in the election on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018. Please vote for me, James Newport, Liberal Democrats.

During that time I have sought to keep you advised with our Focus Newsletters, my regular blog ([www.jamesnewport.co.uk](http://www.jamesnewport.co.uk)) and our Lib Dem 'onlineFOCUS' website, not just at election time but all the year round. It is often difficult to get things done on the Council, I have been forced to be persistent and sometimes tough with the authorities. Following a lot of pressure, work is now underway to enlarge the Tesco Express car park in London Road. Sometimes it is necessary to take action very quickly, for example when

### We ARE United 4 Democracy!

Liberal Democrats and other opposition parties: 'Greens', 'Rochford District Residents' and the new 'Friends of Rochford' party have been working together during recent months for the benefit of local people. None of these groups have a 'party whip' which means local Councillors can act for their residents not just follow a political line as the Conservatives do.

With your support during the 3<sup>rd</sup> May election, we can make our Council more open and accountable, we can also save some taxpayers money at the same time!

Here is what we plan to do:

✓ **Abolish the 'Cabinet System'** and go back to the Council Committees. This will mean all Councillors can represent their residents views on Council Committees and then can get things done for local people. *This change alone is estimated to save £100,000 per year!*

✓ **We will protect the environment,** we have made a start by monitoring air quality but there is much more to do.

✓ **Restrict development in the new Local Plan,** protect greenbelt land, ensure necessary infrastructure is provided *before* any future development.

*James*



It's the Lib Dems or the Conservatives here!

It's a two horse race



# A **REAL** Record of Action for Sweyne Park & Grange

CLlr James Newport voted to refuse 83 dwellings at Timber Grove

Had temporary bollards installed around the greensward to stop illegal parking at Tesco's

Organised a successful community litter pick at Sweyne Park

Arranged reinstatement of grass verge by utilities

Set up air quality monitoring outside of Glebe & Sweyne schools due to health concerns

Organised ditch clearance along London Road to help fight flooding in West Rayleigh

I am currently investigating the action to take against speeding vehicles along Downhall Road

Addressed residents concerns about fire safety at sheltered accommodation

Lobbied for better playground facilities at Grange

## WORKING FOR YOU

- ✓ Against Over Development in Rayleigh
- ✓ For Building Social and Affordable Housing for Local Residents
- ✓ Voted AGAINST the above inflation Council Tax rise
- ✓ Voted AGAINST the £330k cost of building new public toilets and the transfer of costs to Rayleigh Town Council (Double Taxation)
- ✓ Lobbying the PCC for more visible policing on our streets
- ✓ Against the STP's proposals for the merger of NHS Hospital Services
- ✓ Voted AGAINST 83 new dwellings at Timber Grove
- ✓ ABSTAINED from voting on Grange Villa Housing due to safety concerns NO safe crossing will be provided

## POT HOLE 'HELL'

One of the most common issues raised by residents is that of the condition of our roads, closely followed by congestion!

As your Lib Dem group, we continue to actively pursue these complaints on behalf of residents with Essex County Council who are responsible for our local road network.

How to report pot holes?  
<http://www.essexhighways.org/Transport-and-Roads.aspx>  
 Tel: 0345 603 7631