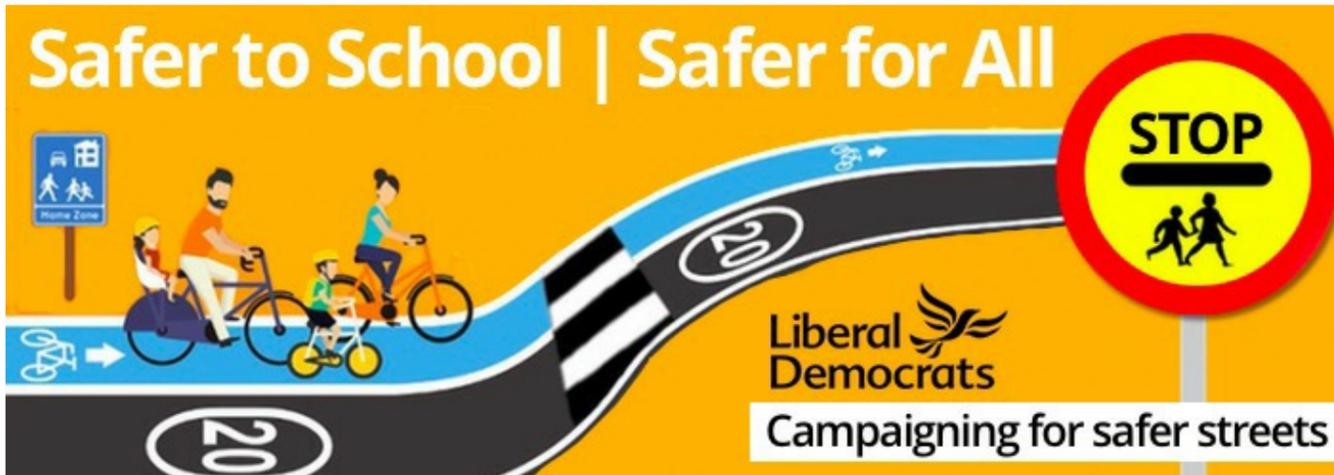




FROM JULIE IRELAND, RHIAN KANAT, SAM WEBBER AND YOUR LOCAL LIB DEM TEAM

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Parent Protests Stun Bromley

Over 1000 people marched in support of the parents of the 11 year old boys hoping for a place at a new Bullers Wood for Boys secondary school. The outpouring of support for the parents and children was unprecedented.

"I've never seen anything like this in the 25 years I've been living in Bromley," said Lib Dem Julie Ireland who joined the march. "This community led campaign has really resonated with local people - the boys and their parents are stuck in the middle of political infighting between the Council and Department of Education - the future of the school and the boys' education should come first - and should have been resolved many months ago."



An estimated 1000 people marched in support of the school

The school's planning approval was revoked by Bromley Council just a few weeks before national offer day for school places and 4 weeks after the Head Teacher for the school had started working full time. This is the third year that the school has failed to open as planned due to planning delays by the Council and all within the context of a projected shortfall of secondary school places by 22 forms of entry by 2022.

"It didn't need to be this way", said Rhian Kanat, a Lib Dem campaigner who is also a local mum to two young boys. "This disgraceful situation has shone a spotlight on the problems within Bromley Council - it has spread to the national press and TV who have reported that certain councillors have appeared to prioritise the NIMBY demands of a few wealthy residents over the Council's statutory responsibility to provide school places."

The Liberal Democrats have been speaking out against the piecemeal uncoordinated approach of the council to our growing population. "We demand a more holistic approach to planning in the Borough, it's not rocket science to work out that new homes need additional public services and school places, all delivered in good time. If a desperately needed school with a proven catchment showing that 98% of pupils live in easy walking distance has pedestrian road safety concerns, the Council should make the changes to roads and crossings necessary to solve the problem, not refuse the school."

Bromley Lib Dems launch road safety campaign

Bromley Lib Dems have launched a campaign to improve road safety across the Borough focusing on safe pedestrian and cycle routes to local schools; by making our roads safer to school we make them safer for all.

Local people want common sense, people-first policies on road safety issues, they want the council to listen to their worries about the routes they use every day. Bromley Council's insistence on waiting for at least 3 people to be killed or seriously injured before taking action is completely unacceptable. We want to build on the success we have had in

supporting parent led campaigns elsewhere in Bromley by continuing to push for road safety measures on roads of concern in our neighbourhood. We've heard people's worries about Bishops Avenue for example - where inadequate signs by the school gate and cars travelling at speed down a steep hill are dangerous; speeding hotspots such as Ravensbourne Avenue, Farnaby Road and Hayes Lane where accidents are almost commonplace; and of course the notorious junction of Westmoreland Road and Masons Hill where the congested pavements are a real danger to all pedestrians. If you agree with our campaign please sign the pledge on our website.

New London Plan more than doubles Council's house building target

The Mayor of London published his new draft London Plan in December, if adopted it means that Bromley will have to build 1424 homes a year (instead of the current target of 641). There is no doubt that we need more homes in Bromley, but we particularly need more affordable homes, and we welcome the plan's requirements that between 35% and 50% of homes built should be genuinely affordable.

This contrasts with the current council's policies - in 2015/16 (the most recent data available) they build just one affordable home in Bromley Town

and 20 affordable homes across the entire Borough compared to 728 new homes in the same period. There are several new developments planned or in progress around Bromley, and while these new homes are necessary, the current system is failing to deliver for the residents of Bromley. Bromley North is a good example - proposals for a 23 storey block and a 10 storey block proposed by different developers without any sense that the buildings will fit in the local area - or even fit in with each other - or that additional services (transport, GPs, schools etc) are part of the plan. We need Bromley Council to be proactive about new developments, actively stakeholder managing and influencing to ensure that new homes built have the right services, have enough affordable homes and will contribute to making Bromley a better place to live.



Working hard all year round

Bromley Police Merger "beggars belief"

Plans to merge Bromley, Croydon and Sutton police forces slammed by Bromley Lib Dems

Bromley Lib Dems have condemned the decision to merge Bromley police with Sutton and Croydon. We all know how much pressure the police are under due to Tory cuts, but while this might be a possible solution in inner boroughs, combining Bromley, Croydon and Sutton would create a huge area which in our opinion is just too big for one unit to cover without their own dedicated resources.

"These cuts and this merger beggar belief - our Police can not operate effectively like this and local people will pay the price" said Lib Dem campaigner Chloe-Jane Ross. Bromley is geographically the largest borough in London, and the police here are already under strain - we lost 3 police stations just a few months ago. Now our police cars will be expected to help in Croydon or Sutton - how on earth are they going to get back quickly enough to assist local residents? Bromley LibDems condemn this decision which has been taken without proper consultation and on the back of failed trials elsewhere. We ask all concerned Bromley residents to sign a petition on our website calling on the Mayor to urgently reconsider this decision.



Council Bed Blocking adds to NHS Crisis

Disappointing news from NHS tracker published in February - the Kings College NHS Trust that covers hospitals in the Bromley Borough is classed as requiring improvement.

We know that the NHS is under appalling stress across the country, but this tracker compares our performance against the national figures. For emergency care, the target is to treat patients within 4 hours - we managed only 77% compared with 85% nationally; for non emergency care we managed to treat 79% or patients within 18 weeks compared to the national average of 88%. Locally one of the biggest problems our hospitals face is bed blocking - patients who should be released but can't be because e.g. there's no place in a residential home or no support for them at home.



This is the direct responsibility of the Local Council. Statistics just published show that Bromley Council is the 4th worst performing borough in London for getting care packages set up for patients who need help from social services before they are allowed home - in the latest available figures for December, patients spent an extra 387 days in hospital waiting for the council to set up their care package.

We ♥ EU



Bromley Lib Dems spent Valentines Day delivering cards to the EU nationals living in Bromley. A small gesture but we wanted to make sure they knew how much they are appreciated. Many have lived in Bromley for generations, some just for a few years, but they all make a significant contribution to the life of our town - to our economy, our services and our culture. Without them we would all be poorer.

Meet the team

The local Lib Dem team want to hear from you on any issue, big or small, that you'd like help with.



Julie Ireland is a single parent with 2 grown up children. She has lived in Bromley for more than 25 years. An IT consultant and resolute campaigner for liberal values, she's particularly vocal about affordable housing, lifelong learning and the EU.

✉ Julie@bromleylibdems.org.uk

🐦 [@julieireland](https://twitter.com/julieireland)



Rhian Kanat lives in Bromley Town with her husband and two young children and is a solicitor. She is particularly concerned about education and the projected shortage of secondary school places in the Borough and was motivated to stand by the continuing poor quality of transparency and decision making in Bromley Council.

✉ Rhian@bromleylibdems.org.uk

🐦 [@rhiankanat](https://twitter.com/rhiankanat)



Sam Webber is married with a baby daughter and has lived in Bromley borough his whole life. He commutes into London to work as a Communications Adviser for a high-profile news website. He campaigns all year round to improve the local area and services. He has spoken out about the worsening crisis in adult social care.

✉ Sam@bromleylibdems.org.uk

🐦 [@samdwebber](https://twitter.com/samdwebber)

Official Veterans Badge



Are you a military veteran or in receipt of a war widow's or war widower's pension? If so did you know you are entitled to an official armed forces veterans badge?

The badge is available free of charge for anyone who served in the Army, the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the Royal Air Force or volunteer and regular reserve forces. We are keen to inform as many eligible residents as possible so they can take up the offer. Please help us spread the word. You can get in touch with us by email and we will pass on the form so you can apply for your veterans badge - please email Sam@Bromleylibdems.org.uk