

Heath Ward FOCUS

Liberal
Democrats
Maidstone



Caring for our community, our environment and for you

Winter/ Spring 2021

COVID-19 update

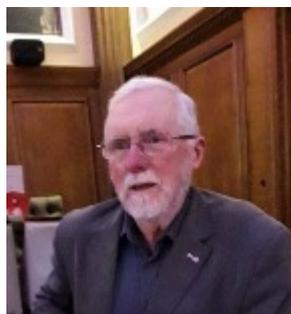
For many months local Liberal Democrats have actively supported the fight against Covid-19 by volunteering to assist local Groups, including delivery of food parcels, prescriptions and providing finance through their devolved budgets to support the active local charities. Lib Dem Councillors are meeting weekly with senior officers at Maidstone Borough Council as part of their role on the **Covid-19 Recovery Board** supporting recovery in our area.

Vulnerable residents, who do not have support from local friends or family or access to a computer, can seek support in gaining access to food, prescriptions etc, by contacting the **Kent Together helpline by dialling 03000 41 92 92**. Residents in this category that experience **COVID-19 symptoms can also call 119** (a dedicated NHS Covid-19 helpline set up during the pandemic to relieve the pressure on the general 111 NHS helpline).

Local Candidates selected for Heath Ward

Local Liberal Democrats have now selected all their candidates for the Maidstone Borough and Kent County Council elections in May.

Brian Vizzard has been re-selected to stand for the Liberal Democrats in Heath Ward Borough Council election



Brian has been the Borough Councillor for Heath Ward of Maidstone Borough Council for the last 13 years and has served on many of the major committees. He currently serves as a member of the planning committee.

Brian has served as a magistrate in West Kent for 30 years. In 2015, he retired from sitting on the bench and he has continued to provide support for the legal service as a Custody visitor. This entails visiting police stations to ensure that the correct procedures are in place for the people in custody.

He has been the chair of the Older Peoples Forum in Maidstone, supporting the provision of services to the older residents of the Borough and part of Age UK Maidstone, and is currently a trustee of Maidstone Mediation Service, which supports all areas of disputes throughout the Borough.

He is also a member of both Maidstone Rotary Club and the Maidstone Lions, working with both organisations with fundraising to support community and environmental projects.

Chris Passmore – Liberal Democrat candidate for Maidstone Central County Division



Chris Passmore lives in Barming and became involved in politics following the 2020 General Election, wanting to work in the local community to create a fairer and more caring society, especially following the challenges of Lockdown. In 2019 he was selected to stand for the Maidstone Central County Division for the May 2021 elections alongside Dan Daley.

HANDS - FACE - SPACE

www.maidstonelibdems.co.uk

He first came to Maidstone in the 1960's and returned in 1987 after leaving the Royal Navy to join his family printing business.

He now runs his own business employing 5 staff providing practical quality, environmental and Health and Safety consulting services to businesses across Kent. His business supports both the Kent Wildlife Trust and the Maidstone Mela 2019.

In the past he has been a School Governor and run a Church Youth Group with his wife.

He has been actively involved with both residents and local councillors to control the increasing development of the land either side of Hermitage Lane and is working to help develop a strategy for the community, wildlife and transport in light of recent house building pressures.

He is a keen cyclist and will be seen cycling around the Maidstone Central Division over the next few months leading up to the election.

**Dan Daley –
Liberal Democrat
Councillor for
Maidstone Central
County Division**



Dan has been re-selected to stand for the Liberal Democrats in the Kent County Council Division of Maidstone Central.

Dan was born in Shoreditch. His working life was mainly as a Director of Shipping concerns, working worldwide on such large infrastructure projects as railways, power stations, hotel chains etc.

Dan moved to Maidstone in 1974. He became involved in successfully saving school playing fields in Allington in 1985 by forming a Residents' Group against KCC.

This involved him in local politics and led him to stand for the Borough Council and the County Council.

Since 1990 he has represented Allington Ward and concurrently, from 2001 the Maidstone West and Central division for KCC.

He was Leader of Maidstone Borough Council from 1992 – 1999, and Mayor in 2000. He is proud to have had the confidence of voters during eight four-year periods.

He is still occupied in trying to stem the inexorable housing targets of central Government and preserving our precious open and playing spaces. His hobbies and personal dealings rest in art, music, writing and any form of cultural activity open to us in this County Town.

**KCC needs to secure Government
'Pinch Point' funding to bring
forward Fountain Junction
improvements**



Maidstone residents and motorists cannot wait indefinitely for crucial works -

This awkward junction lies at the intersection of the A26 Tonbridge Road with the Fountain Lane leading northwards to Hermitage Lane and Maidstone Hospital, and Farleigh Lane leading southwards to Farleigh Bridge. It has long been the cause of significant congestion, particularly during peak periods. It has some of the worst air pollution in West Maidstone.

The problems have steadily got worse as more and more houses are built in the West Maidstone area.

They are expected to worsen further once the full effects of lockdown on traffic volumes have diminished. Unfortunately, none of the proposals previously put forward by developers to alleviate the problems have proved viable.

Last October councillors were presented with draft proposals from Kent's Highways officers which would replace the current set of traffic lights with a new scheme based on two traffic islands. The officers had explored a number of alternative arrangements and this was by far the best. It is hoped that the proposed new scheme will allow traffic to flow much better than the existing configuration.

As can be seen from the plan, this scheme would require the acquisition of the Taj Barming restaurant to provide the necessary additional space.

Improvement projects programmed for parks in Heath Ward.

Oakwood Cemetery site

Following repairs and repointing to the boundary wall last summer, the Borough Council have now advised that around mid-March their contractors will commence work on a new footpath network around the site. This will consist of a tarmac path from the main entrance to the memorial and a self-binding gravel path around the edge of the site linking up with the kissing gate that was also recently installed in the boundary wall leading to Barming Heath Play area.

Barming Heath Play area to be refurbished

The Borough Council is currently tendering to appoint a contractor to refurbish the play area on Barming Heath. The play area will be enlarged slightly and new equipment for toddlers through to primary school children will be installed. As further contributions from housing developments are received additional facilities for older children and for adults for exercise are planned. These will include a new hard base around the games wall and extension of the footpath network around the site (Details are



shown on the attached photo/plan). Three new seats will also be installed beside the paths.

Planning application for Pea Fields!

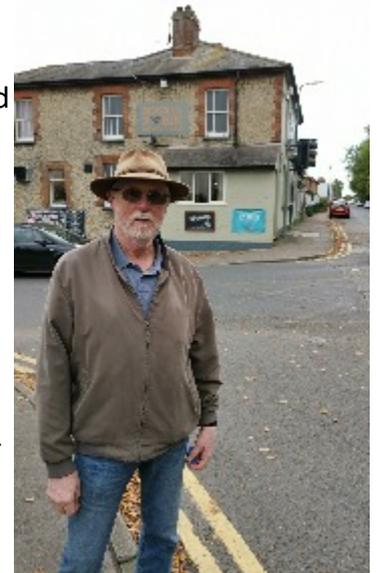
The Borough Council Planning Committee originally deferred consideration of the controversial application for 181 dwellings to seek to improve the quality of landscaping and level of open space along with improvements to Biodiversity and consideration of footpath and cycleway access. Many residents also raised concerns about the Highway congestion in the area along with geological issues.

Sadly, KCC did not object on grounds of congestion and without this there were no highway infrastructure grounds of refusal that could be put forward by the Planning Committee and any hope of success at appeal was lost. The plan was passed with agreement to seek further improvements on landscape, bio-diversity, public transport cycling and walking, rather than risk the loss of these conditions at appeal. While your local Lib Dem team Ashleigh Kimmance and Bryan Vizzard worked to improve the outcome to minimise the impact of the development, they could not support the application and voted to refuse.

Tonbridge & Malling Council have also approved the application for 106 dwellings on a neighbouring site, as **they too** were constrained by KCC's lack of a Highway's objection, and the strait jacket of Government Planning Policy and housing targets.

Reporting Highway Faults

Don't forget you can still report highway faults including potholes, blocked drains, faulty street lights, dangerous kerbs or overhanging shrubs blocking a public footway, to Kent County Council using their 'Report a problem' link under the 'Roads and Travel' section on the main Home Page or in an emergency ring **03000 418181**.



Can you help the Local Liberal Democrats win in Heath Ward.

Local Liberal Democrat Councillors have a good reputation for working hard for residents all year round, not just at election time.

This year in **Heath Ward** we are fighting for both the **Borough Council and County** seats to represent the area. For obvious reasons there will be less face to face contact, but we will still keep you informed using our Focus where safe to do so, by telephone and Social media. Please let us know if you can help for a few hours a month in Heath Ward with the following:

- Delivering Focus (when safe to do so)
- Helping with clerical work, preparing letters for residents,
- Displaying a window or Garden poster at election time.
- Attending social and fundraising events when rules allow.
- By joining the Liberal Democrat Party.

Please contact Bryan, Dan, Chris or Ashleigh if you can help them in any way.

Elections Thursday 6th MAY 2021
YOU WILL HAVE 3 BALLOT PAPERS

- Maidstone Borough Council -
- Kent County Council 2 seats -
- Police & Crime Commissioner-

4 Times to VOTE

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

Why not ask for a Postal VOTE.



Caring for our community, our environment and for you



CONTACT US

VOTE LIB DEM THIS MAY

VOTE VIZZARD MBC



MBC Councillor
Brian Vizzard
 07957 442 994
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Candidate for KCC seat
Chris Passmore
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MBC Councillor
Ashleigh Kimmance
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VOTE DALEY KCC

MBC & KCC Councillor
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