

# Sutton North Focus

Spring  
2016



Local news from your Lib Dem team

Cllr Ruth Dombey, Cllr Marlene Heron and Cllr Steve Penneck



## Looking to the future in Sutton

Our population is growing which means we need more housing and more schools. But we don't want to lose our special green, open landscape.

That's why Sutton Council is consulting on long term plans for the whole borough and a masterplan for the Town Centre.

The new Local Plan will set the policies against which future planning applications will be assessed. It looks to a sustainable future covering housing, employment, shopping, transport and community facilities.

The Plan is at an early stage, with a consultation on issues and options up to the end of March before feedback is sought on the draft plan in the autumn. The details are on the Sutton Council website and there are leaflets in libraries. The proposals will be discussed at the next meeting of the Sutton Local Committee at 7pm on 15 March at the Salvation Army, Benhill Avenue. This meeting will also consider an update on traffic and parking in our area.

### Improving our High Street

We thought you would also like to know of the plans to update and improve the northern end of the High Street.

The development of the Old Gas Works site - due to be finished with a new Sainsbury's by the end of this year - will lead to a much improved High Street on the corner with Crown Road. The plans include a new square with cafes and shops.

By comparison the part of the High Street from Marshalls Road to Benhill Road (outside Asda and beyond) has become unattractive, with a number of empty shops.



- Steve, Ruth and Marlene at the northern end of Sutton High Street which will soon be undergoing improvements.

Sutton Council has sought funding from the GLA to make improvements to this area. The plans for what is called the 'Northern gateway project' are still developing.

They build on a consultation with shoppers a few months ago. The Council is talking with local shop owners to increase the take up of shops, improve shop frontages and make temporary use of empty shops. There are also plans to rejuvenate the market (including an Entrepreneurs market), tidy up the street scene, and use the area more actively for performance arts and family events.

### Clean for the Queen

Sutton is taking part in the national Clean for the Queen campaign to clear up Britain in time for this year's 90th Birthday celebrations.

Ruth, Marlene and Steve have suggested the area between Crown Road and Angel Hill is covered. Let us know if you or your community group wants to get involved.

### Get in touch

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Your Councillors are here to help. They hold a surgery every Saturday from 11am until 12 noon at the Salvation Army Hall, Benhill Avenue, Sutton.

### New website

Your local Councillors now have their own website! Check it out here: [suttonnorth.focusteam.org.uk](http://suttonnorth.focusteam.org.uk)



# Caroline Pidgeon: our voice in London

**Caroline Pidgeon is the Lib Dem candidate for London Mayor.**

She is a fearless campaigner from a modest background, being the first in her family to go to University.

Caroline has served on the London Assembly for the past eight years - working to protect our neighbourhood police, improve local transport and get a better deal for Sutton at City Hall.

As a recent mum and regular commuter, Caroline knows the issues that Londoners face everyday.

Her no-nonsense approach and unrivalled expertise make Caroline the best person to represent the needs of ordinary Londoners.

**Make sure you back the London Lib Dems by voting Lib Dem on the orange ballot paper in May.**



• Caroline with Cllr Sam Bourne and London Assembly candidate Amna Ahmad

## Childcare that works for you



As any parent in London will know, the cost and availability of childcare puts a real strain on families.

Caroline Pidgeon's plan for a 'Tourist Tax' would raise £50m a year by 2018, with a £2 a night levy on luxury hotels.

This would mean we could fund more wrap around childcare including breakfast clubs and after school activities.

Similar policies have been very successful in Paris, New York and Berlin.

## Conservative MP votes AGAINST housing fit for human habitation

Sutton & Cheam's Tory MP recently voted against improving living standards in rented homes.

The legislation would have seen landlords forced to ensure their properties were fit for people to live in.

In contrast, Lib Dem MPs voted for the amendment.

It's a shame that our Tory MP chose to put his party ahead of the thousands of private renters he's supposed to represent.



• Local renters have been let down

## Mental health a top priority for Lib Dems

Liberal Democrats are committed to ending discrimination against mental health in our NHS.

In government we worked to build the foundations for equality between mental health and physical health.

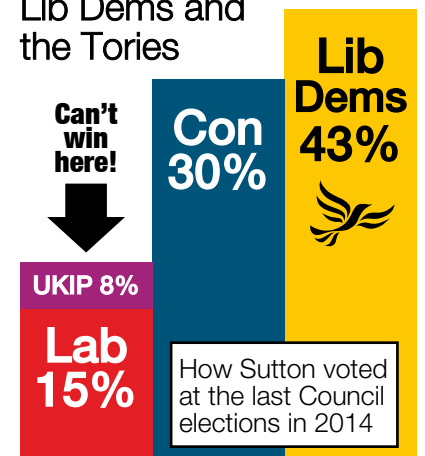
And here in Sutton, Lib Dems on Sutton Council are taking mental health seriously with more investment and access to talking therapies and counsellors.

Without the Lib Dems to stop them the Tories have taken their eye off, the ball and are neglecting mental healthcare.



• Lib Dems are committed to improving mental healthcare

Elections in our area are always between the Lib Dems and the Tories



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