

## ■ Working for Eastwood Park

# Eastwood News



Spring 2020

### ***A Sign of the Times***



At the start of the millennium Eastwood Councillors were successful in establishing a new Eastwood sign at Rochford Corner – 20 years later the post had rotted at ground level and the sign itself had seriously deteriorated – Cllr Moring took the lead and has been successful in getting the sign and post refurbished, rather than removed forever as originally required under the health and safety assessment.

*Chris Walker*

### ***London Southend Airport update***



A few weeks ago, at the request of Conservative Councillors Sir David Amess met with Glyn Jones, the Airport Director, to discuss the effects of night flights on the residents of Leigh-on-Sea; Sir David left them in no doubt that this is an issue which is not going to go away and which needs action now. He told them that the

night flights, as presently constituted, were unacceptable.

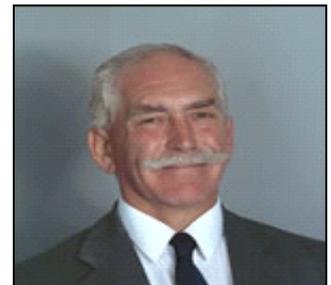
In terms of scrutiny, the Airport Consultative Committee is key to monitoring what is happening at the airport. Sir David is sending all members of the committee the most recent list of resident complaints. He hopes that these complaints can be addressed satisfactorily under present legislation. However, if the only way to resolve this issue is to change the legislation he will pursue the matter further. Sir David has expressed his hope that common sense will prevail and that the two parties involved in this issue will act quickly to reassure residents that this issue is being addressed.

If you would like information on the operation of Southend Airport please look at Southend Council's Web site at [https://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/6644/london\\_southend\\_airport\\_faqs](https://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/6644/london_southend_airport_faqs) or email Andrew and he will send you a briefing pack.

*Chris Walker*

### ***Your Conservative***

#### ***Ward Councillors:***



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### **Date for your Diary: Local Elections on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May.**

We are delighted that Cllr Walker will be standing again for re-election to Southend-on-Sea Borough Council - providing Eastwood with well over 20 years of experience as your Local Councillor. Please note that the Saffory Close polling station (that has been redeveloped) has now moved to the Saloon Bar, The Oakwood Public House, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood - the purchase of a drink is optional.

*Andrew Moring*

### 2020/21 Council Budget

The Council's budget for 2020/21 has been approved by the Majority Rainbow Lab/Liberal/Independent collation. Conservative amendments were rejected, including funding additional local police officers.

The budget will see an extra £5.7m invested into children's and adult social care, including £2.4m to cover some of the additional costs of placing more children into care, £400,000 to attract 16 new foster carers, and nearly £500,000 to support the elderly.

My main concern is that £9.5m will be used to buy more private housing to turn into council homes – if this is not controlled you could find that you buy your own home only to find that you live on a Council estate!

Council tax will rise by 3.99% this is despite the fact that the Conservative Government has increased our main grant in line with inflation – in effect the Rainbow coalition has increased your Council Tax well above inflation despite the Government grant being increased in line with it.

*Chris Walker*

### Queensway Redevelopment

When the Conservatives were in administration we gave an undertaking that the four lane Queensway underpass would be extended to segregate a significant amount of traffic from the new Queensway housing development, to enable residents easy access to the town centre and for visitors to access the seafront.

The final version of the plans for the Better Queensway project have now been published and it is clear that the Southend Labour, Liberal and Independent administration want to forge ahead with closing the Queensway underpass. This will bring chaos and gridlock to Southend.

*Andrew & Chris*

### Redevelopment of the Old Co-Op site in Rayleigh Road

The old Co-Op site at 367 Rayleigh Road is currently being demolished—it will be replaced by a block of 9 flats and two smaller, speculative, commercial units. We hope the developers cause minimum disruption to the residents of Eastwood, however, they have got off to a bad start by obstructing the footpath to Flamboro Walk & Close and blocking visibility for vehicles exiting 365 - I have banged the table and enforcement officers have attended the site, instructing the developer to rearrange the hoarding.

*Chris Walker*

### New web-site for Bulky Waste collections

You can now arrange for bulky waste to be collected more easily through the new online bulky waste collection portal that allows residents to book online collection for up to five large items directly from their own home.

The service costs £7.92 for the first individual bulky item and £5.28 for any additional item.

To book a collection or to find out more about the updated online service, please visit [www.southend.gov.uk/bulkywaste](http://www.southend.gov.uk/bulkywaste) or call Veolia on 0203 5676955

*Andrew Moring*

### CityFibre

Despite numerous complaints by us, not only to Council Officers but also directly to CityFibre, they persist in ruining roads and pavements and parking their vehicles on grass verges.

I have suggested to senior Officers at the Council that we should wait until they have completely finished in Eastwood and we should then employ a professional turfing company at the expense of CityFibre to re-lay all grass verges.

We are told that they are spending £45 million to give Southend super fast broadband - but only if you switch suppliers to Vodaphone. Residents have also advised that it is not easy to keep your old phone number if you switch.

I am looking forward to them moving into the area between Fairfax Drive and London Road when I will be interested to see if they carry on working the way they have in Eastwood or whether they will have to park their vehicles a little more safely.

*Chris Walker*