

The Carshalton and Wallington
Gazette
Comment
The future of
Carshalton

Residents can be reassured that there are no plans to demolish historical buildings or to reduce the amount of open land in the Carshalton Village conservation area as part of the Council's "one council under one roof" proposals.

Protecting our heritage
The Liberal Democrat Leader of Sutton Council, Sean Brennan, has told Carshalton residents that 'This is an important part of our heritage and we plan to protect it for generations to come' The Council's Executive is due to decide at its meeting on 7th November whether or not to go ahead with the "One Council under one roof" proposal. If the decision is to go ahead, then there will be extensive public consultation over possible alternative uses for the four buildings in Carshalton - the offices in Denmark Road, the Grove, Stonecourt and the Lodge - that would cease to be used as Council offices from probably the autumn of 2013.

No historic buildings demolished
The local Lib Dem councillors for Carshalton have sought and have been given assurances that no historic buildings will be demolished. Despite rumours being circulated to the contrary, there are no plans to dispose of either the Grade II listed Old Rectory building or to get rid of, or to reduce the size of the Ecology Centre grounds. They do however accept that, at a time when the Council is having to make very large savings, it is not realistic to expect the Council to keep staff in buildings for which it no longer has a use and are expensive to maintain.

The local Lib Dem councillors are committed to continue to work with all local residents on ideas as to how best to safeguard and further enhance the Carshalton conservation area for future generations to enjoy.

Threat to vital rail link

Local commuters face losing direct link to the capital

Local Lib Dem Councillors have accused Network Rail of turning their backs on Sutton's commuters over plans to cut a direct rail link across London.

Many commuters from Sutton use First Capital Connect's Thameslink service to get to work in the City and central London every day. Other local people use it to catch the Eurostar and other rail services at St Pancras International and Kings Cross, as well as getting to Luton Airport.

However the future of the line is in doubt after Network Rail said it will terminate services at Blackfriars after the Thameslink upgrade is completed in 2016.

The new Chairman of the Thameslink Loop Line Campaign, Lib Dem Executive Councillor Simon Wales, said "Network Rail is letting down the thousands of commuters in outer London who rely on this service every day. The reasons for the plans are purely financial. They seem to care more about the long distance travellers from outside the capital who pay more for their tickets and are ignoring the plight of people across south London, many of whom have moved here because of this direct access. We already get a raw deal when it



Local Cllrs Colin Hall and Simon Wales along with Tom Brake MP are campaigning to save the line.

comes to rail services, suffering serious overcrowding and having to pay for Crossrail, without getting any substantial benefits. Losing this lifeline is the final straw and that's why we are determined to do all we can to save it."

MP for Carshalton and Wallington Tom Brake pledged his support for the campaign and raised the matter directly with Transport Minister, Theresa Villiers. She has given some hope to the campaign by stating that the final decision has not been taken yet. Tom has also met recently with representatives from Thameslink to raise local commuters' concerns about the service.

You can show your support for the campaign at <http://sutton-libdems.org.uk/en/petition/save-train-services-to-central-london>

I/We the undersigned call on the Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust to pause the planned merger with St George's NHS Trust, listen to local peoples' concerns and come back with a better proposal.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

Return to: FREEPOST SEA 5492,
CARSHALTON, SM5 3BR

Tom Brake MP, the Liberal Democrats and their representatives may contact you from time to time about issues which may be of interest. Some of these contacts may be automated. You can opt out at any time by contacting us.

Exclusive: No Libraries will close in Sutton

The Gazette speaks to Deputy Leader of Sutton Council
Cllr Ruth Dombey

At a time when councils are struggling to deal with Labour's economic legacy of debt, Liberal Democrats on Sutton Council want local residents to know how "Sutton is doing it better".

Like other councils, Sutton is facing cuts in funding - £30 million over the next few years. But unlike other councils they are not cutting the vital services that local residents value so much.

Protecting our libraries
"Our library service is a great example," says Cllr Ruth Dombey. "While Tory and Labour run councils across England are closing almost a third of their libraries, we have decided to keep all of ours open."

A listening Council
The Deputy Leader says Sutton is managing to cope with cuts due to Labour's financial chaos better than other councils, because they're listening to staff and residents. "Their suggestions ensured we won't lose the services, but deliver them in a better way which saves the tax payer money" said Cllr Dombey.
However, the council's plans don't just protect libraries, some of them will be open for extra hours each week.

A real community hub
Cllr Dombey makes it clear that a key part of the decision to protect all the libraries in the borough is to make them real community hubs.



Under Sutton Liberal Democrats no libraries will close, instead they will become community hubs offering more services.

"We've seen first hand the difference good community facilities, like the Phoenix Centre and the Life Centre where people can just drop in, can make to an area.
"This is why we are bringing more and more services into our libraries, such as garden waste collection sacks and offering free Internet access," she says.
With such tough economic times facing the nation it is clear that the work being done by the local Lib Dems is helping to protect vital services across Sutton.



Tom Brake MP celebrating National Apprenticeship Week last year at The Hair Sanctuary in Carshalton.

The Coalition Government has delivered more than 100,000 extra apprenticeships, twice as many as expected, which will benefit young people across the country.

100,000 Extra Apprenticeships

Getting Britain Working
Figures released by the Government show that there are over 28,000 people who first started an apprenticeship last year in London. Together with the recent big fall in unemployment across the country, it shows that the Lib Dems are getting Britain working again.
Tom Brake MP for Carshalton and Wallington has welcomed the news, "Apprenticeships are an excellent way to help young people gain the skills and knowledge to start out in the job market."
Tom added "It is of huge value to young people and to the businesses in our area that over 28,000 apprentices started work in London last year, an increase of over 12,000 from 2009 and the biggest numbers in our history. With every £1 of Government money delivering a return of some £40 to the wider economy, this is an excellent investment for London and its young people."
Here in Sutton, the Liberal Democrat controlled Council offer paid apprenticeships in various departments including Business Administration and office work, Human Resources, Environmental and Leisure works and Adult Social Care & Elderly Care.
Sutton Council Work Clubs
The Council has also launched two work clubs that give people the opportunity to get advice on job hunting, CVs and interview techniques and to build contacts, learn about voluntary opportunities and share tips and experiences with other jobseekers. You can find out more on council apprenticeships and the details of both work clubs at www.sutton.gov.uk