

South Ashford

FOCUS

Liberal Democrats

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College site concerns

James Galloway has been talking to local residents about concerns with the development of the former college site on Jemmett Road.

Local residents have been frustrated by a lack of response from Victoria Ward councillors over issues they have with the development.

While recognising the need for housing locally James Galloway and the local Liberal Democrats second many of the concerns of local residents.

The original planning applications for the site made in 2007 and 2011 limited the height of buildings in the development. However, recent revisions have included a number of three story blocks of flats as well as a four story block on the corner of the site closest to the park as a "landmark building". These revisions look like attempts to cram additional properties into the site without concern for the light and privacy of existing locals. One resident described the flats as "overbearing, overcrowding and ugly!"

The additional number of flats and houses has also raised concerns over an increase in traffic, particularly at the already busy junctions of Jemmett Road with Brookfield Road, Bond Road and Christchurch Road. The lack of a recent and comprehensive traffic survey to properly assess the impact is particularly worrying. The Liberal Democrat team on Kent County Council wants to reverse the policy of not opposing planning applications on highways grounds and fight applications that would add to congestion and pollution.

Local residents feel that Ashford Borough Council has not been responsive to their concerns over the development. James Galloway hopes to be a champion for the local people and do all he can to get their voices heard and acknowledged by the Borough Council. The redevelopment of the college site can be done in a considerate way that provides needed housing while minimising the impact on the existing residents.



 **Local Lib Dems - working hard all year round**

James Galloway stands for Victoria Ward in Ashford Borough Council by-election



JAMES GALLOWAY has been selected as the Liberal Democrat candidate to fight for Victoria ward this June 8th.

James said, "It was a real pleasure to get out and meet so many local people during the KCC election campaign when we were delighted to have George Koowaree reelected in Ashford East. The

people in Victoria Ward deserve a LOCAL candidate who be there for them and respond to their needs.

"Victoria ward has been served well by Liberal Democrat councillors in the past and I hope to be the next to do so."

The council by-election will be on June 8th alongside the General Election.

Caring for public spaces

Local Liberal Democrats are campaigning to improve the quality of our public spaces so they remain as a pleasant resource for the local community.

Victoria Park hosts numerous events through the year, including the Create Music Festival, fun fairs, and the weekly Park Run, and countless members of the public use it every day for exercise, walking dogs and or simply to enjoy the facilities.

The play area of Victoria park was refurbished in 2006, since then damage to the play surface has accumulated, with patches and bare concrete in places. The Hubert Fountain is clogged with rotting vegetation and litter, and would benefit from more frequent attention to prevent a landmark becoming an eyesore. Local candidate James Galloway wants to see our park get the care it deserves for all Ashford residents.



Get In Touch

Are there any issues you would like us to address in future issues of FOCUS?

Can the Ashford Liberal Democrats help you dealing with local government?

Would you like to get involved with the party locally?

Would you be able to help out for about an hour a month, delivering FOCUS in your area?

Please get in touch with us about any of these matters.

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