

E-FOCUS

Liberal 
Democrats

Your electronic newsletter for Fareham's Western Wards

*Published and promoted by Graham Everdell for Fareham's Western Wards Liberal Democrats,
all at 75 Collingworth Rise, Park Gate, SO31 1DD*

Hi Friend,

May 2023

Welcome to the first of our regular email updates for the Western Wards. Please feel free to share with friends and family. If you have received this E-Focus from a friend or family and would like to receive it regularly, email us at graham.everdell@farehamlibdems.org.uk using the email address you'd like it sent to, and include your name, address, and the words: Yes please to E-Focus

The Liberal Democrats will use your contact details to send you information on the topics you have requested. Any data we gather will be used in accordance with our privacy policy at libdems.org.uk/privacy. To exercise your legal data rights, email: data.protection@libdems.org.uk

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Local NHS Survey Update

Many thanks to everyone who completed and returned the NHS Survey in our Spring 2023 Focus. We are still gathering responses and will, in the future, collate all responses received across the Borough to give us an up-to-date picture of how Fareham's NHS Services are performing for Fareham residents, and where we should be focusing our efforts as we campaign for improvements. In the meantime, we thought you would be interested in receiving an update on some aspects of the responses we have received so far in the Western Wards.

Dentists

Only 46% of respondents are registered with an NHS Dentist, with 53% having had to pay for a private dentist because they could not access an NHS dentist.

Comments included:

- NHS Dentist has gone private – no service available now
- Still registered in Basingstoke as unable to find one locally
- Impossible to get an NHS Dentist. Registration for Private Dentist is £44 before any treatment
- I had to wait six months to replace a front tooth crown that fell out and in the end went private
- Current dentist is on long term sick, cannot get a locum, have had to wait 18 months for tooth repair and no check ups for children and still no plan
- My six-year-old daughter couldn't get treatment on NHS so we had to pay private
- Excellent Services from Ranvilles Lane Dentist



With NHS appointments scarce at best and in some places non-existent, people are being forced to spend hundreds if not thousands on private dental care. Now those who can't are even resorting to DIY dentistry.

It is clear that our NHS dental system is completely broken, and the fault lies solely with this Conservative Government. They have done next to nothing to tackle this crisis.

Tooth decay is consistently the number one reason for hospital admissions among young children. Children from the most deprived areas are already three times more likely to have hospital extractions than their peers.

Liberal Democrats have a plan to ensure everyone can see a dentist when they need to.

For more details see:

<https://www.libdems.org.uk/news/article/access-to-dental-care-for-all>

GP and Hospital Services

Every respondent is registered with a local GP. However, 86% believe that GP waiting times are getting longer, and when they phone for a GP appointment 71% state that, on average, their hold time is more than ten minutes.

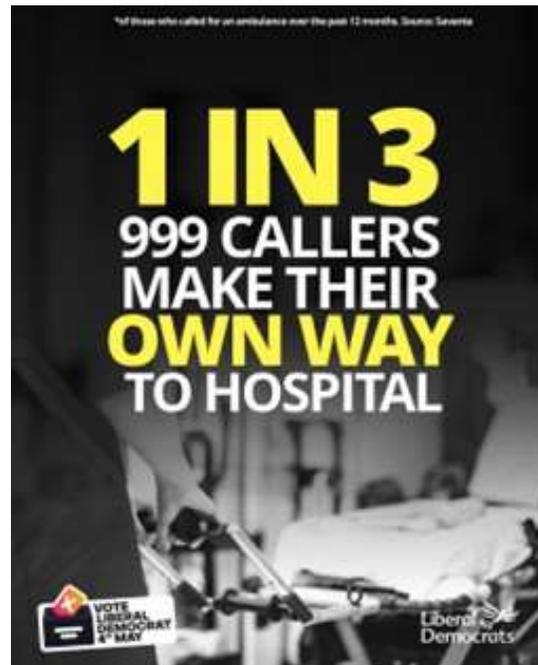
Comments included:

- 93-year-old Mum waited 4½ hours on the floor for an ambulance, and then spent 7 hours on a trolley, mostly in a corridor, at Southampton General before being assessed
- I work in the NHS and waiting times are significantly increasing
- Couldn't get an ambulance and had to be driven in by a friend of the family
- A 90-year-old neighbour had a fall and had to wait 5 hours for an ambulance
- Arrived at GP for 4pm appointment, got to QAH about 6pm, bed available at 1am

- Brook Lane Surgery is well managed and run. Other surgeries, especially those taken over by a group, less so
- Lockwood Surgery is excellent
- Brook Lane is wonderful, a surgery that cares and helps when needed

We highlighted the need for a nurse-led walk in unit for urgent treatment and minor injuries at Fareham Community Hospital. One of our respondents confirmed that they had witnessed an elderly gentleman, who had cut his hand and could not staunch the bleeding, seeking treatment at Brook Lane Surgery. No one was able to dress the wound and he was told to go to Gosport War Memorial Hospital. This was at 10am, and he was told that if he had no other way of getting there an ambulance could be available for him at 2pm. How much easier would it have been for him had he been able to walk next door to the Community Hospital?

Conservative broken promises are leaving far too many people waiting in pain and uncertainty. This Conservative Government has let the NHS crisis spiral out of control, failing to deliver the new hospitals they promised and making people wait years for treatment. Staff are exhausted, patients are left in pain, but still Conservative ministers are burying their heads in the sand. We need an urgent rescue plan for the NHS.



NB There are no local elections in Fareham on the 4th of May this year

Sewage Dumping Update



Data released by the Environment Agency shows **Southern Water** discharged sewage into waterways 16,668 times in 2022 - lasting a total of 146,819 hours!

Blue flag beaches are meant to be the best beaches internationally for clean water. The Environment Agency has confirmed that sewage was dumped on blue flag beaches more than 1,500 times in England and Wales last year.

Remember, Suella Braverman (Fareham) and Caroline Dinenage (Gosport) were among 292 Conservative MPs who voted to allow sewage dumping by water companies in our rivers, lakes, and coasts for at least 15 more years.

It's just shocking that our MPs put their residents at risk like this. People should be able to enjoy our world - class rivers and beaches without worrying about themselves or their pets falling sick.

Lib Dem leader Ed Davey has blamed the Conservative Government and Water Companies for failing to "take any meaningful action" to keep England's beaches safe and clean.

Ed said: "Britain's beaches are being ruined by profiteering water companies getting away with dumping sewage as the government has failed to act for years. Whilst these firms have been raking in multi -billion-pound profits, people have been left to swim in raw sewage. The whole thing stinks."

Sewage in Our Drinking Water?



Following the piece headed 'Safe to drink the water' in our Spring Focus, we have been asked to provide more information on Southern Water's proposal to pipe filtered wastewater from Budds Farm into the new Havant Thicket Reservoir, which is expected to open in 2029. Keep an eye out for a supplement to this E-Focus, which we will send out shortly.

Planning News

Local Building Planning Applications Awaiting Decisions

5 Heath Road North – Two storey side extension and single storey wrap around front/side extension. Under consideration with decision expected by 23 May 2023. Reference P/23/0501/FP

33 Home Rule Road – Rear Orangery. Under consideration with decision expected by 27 May 2023. Reference P/23/0520/FP

84 Peters Road – Widen existing vehicular access and reposition gate pier. Under consideration with decision expected by 28 May 2023. Reference P/23/0522/FP

1A Longacres – Lawful development certificate for existing shed in front garden. Under consideration with decision expected by 29 May 2023. Reference P/23/0524/LU

Further information on any local planning application can be obtained from the Fareham Borough Council website using the following link: https://www.fareham.gov.uk/planning/applications_and_advice/planningwee_klylists.asp

Here to Help - Your Focus Team

If we can help with a local issue, or if you'd like to hear more about the local Lib Dems, drop a note to Gayathri or Graham, or email us at grahameverdell.libdemsfareham@outlook.com with your contact details.



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Want to help us? Go to www.farehamlibdems.org.uk/get-involved

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Best wishes,

Graham Everdell
Gayathri Sathyanath

Your Western Wards Focus Team
Fareham Liberal Democrats



Lib Dems for Park Gate and Locks Heath
Fareham Liberal Democrats

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Preamble to the Constitution of the Liberal Democrats