

# on COLLIERS WOOD FOCUS

From Jenny Booth, John Oliver  
and George Hadjiyiannakis



## FIGHTING TO KEEP YOUR BILLS DOWN



Colliers Wood Lib Dems are challenging Labour's inflation-busting council charges.

In December, Labour Council bosses approved hikes to over 700 Council fees, from parking permits to sports pitches, allotments, and garden waste collection, driving up costs for residents, businesses and community groups.



Inflation was running at 3.4% in December yet 257 fee increases described as 'inflationary' were around 5% or more. Some fee increases are exceptionally high, for example application fees for home improvements up 29% and car park charges up between 5% and 33%!

Cllr Anthony Fairclough, who is the leader of the opposition on Merton Council, explained:

"The Council claims it is working to keep bills down, but these proposed fee increases do the opposite. Many are being put up by significant amounts - and the cost of living crisis wasn't mentioned once.

"We are challenging these decisions - calling on the Council to look at the impact these above-inflation increases could have on the people paying for the services, particularly on those households with lower incomes."

» **Residents' controlled parking permits up 7%, over double the rate of inflation.**

» **Pitch hire for football, cricket and other activities, are up above inflation.**

## KEEP IN TOUCH

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## NEWSLETTER



The quickest way to get updates on local issues and news about our work is to sign up for emails from our local team. **Sign up to stay in touch.**

[mertonlibdems.org.uk/keep-in-touch](http://mertonlibdems.org.uk/keep-in-touch)

## LABOUR SLAPS SCHOOL WITH BOILER BILL

**Lib Dems backed parents after Labour-run Merton leaves Singlegate School covering the costs caused by a boiler failure.**

The school arranged emergency heating to keep pupils safe, but the Council refused to fully reimburse the costs, forcing the school to dip into its already stretched budget.

Concerned parents contacted Colliers Wood Lib Dems, who challenged the council and demanded it take responsibility for poor maintenance.

Local campaigner Jenny Booth said, "It was wrong the school had to pay for the council's failure, which disrupted learning. We'll keep pushing the Council to do the right thing."



Local Lib Dems are standing with parents and Singlegate School

# INVEST IN OUR ROADS



Merton Liberal Democrats regularly report potholes and urge the Council to fix them.

Liberal Democrats are calling for more investment into local roads, after the condition of Merton's roads were given a red rating by Department for Transport.

This confirms what residents already know; our roads are still in a dire state. Last year, four in ten roads in our borough were already rated "poor", making them the worst in London and the second worst in the country.

Wimbledon's Lib Dem MP Paul Kohler has met with the Transport Minister to ask why boroughs like ours are still being overlooked for funding.

Labour has often been slow to repair potholes, allowing them to become bigger and more dangerous hazards, risking residents' safety and damage to their vehicles.

John Oliver, a Lib Dem councillor in Merton, said, "While Labour has allowed our roads to fall into decline, we're fighting for the fair investment needed to improve our roads."

## BRITANNIA TOWERS

Lib Dems are listening to residents' concerns

Your local team are listening to residents' concerns about both the developer and scale of what is being proposed with the three towers next to Britannia Point.

Merton needs more homes. Rents are too high and local families are being priced out. The Lib Dems support new housing, especially genuinely affordable homes. But this plan is not the right answer.

Labour has let Colliers Wood down, being asleep at the wheel and leaving developers to lead on plans for the site.

They passed a local plan in 2024 that opened the door to towers up to 52 metres high, yet they never delivered the resident-led design guides they promised. It was their inaction that gave developers a free hand.

Local resident and Lib Dem campaigner George Hadjiyiannakis said: "Colliers Wood Liberal Democrats will fight for a development on this site that prioritises residents' views, is high quality and provides affordable homes for local people."



# DOWN YOUR STREET

## CLEANING UP COLLIERS WOOD

Your local team have been reporting fly-tipping across our area, including at hotspots.

Local campaigner George Hadjiyiannakis said, "Keeping our streets clean is a council's basic job. Lib Dems will work to deliver a fixed-schedule of street sweeping.

"We will continue working in partnership with residents to identify hotspots for fly-tipping and graffiti, ensuring our area is a clean environment."

George also attends the Parks & Green spaces group, continuing to look after the Acre Road planters.

## PROTECTING OUR BUSES

Following reports from the Times that multiple Merton bus routes were under threat, your local team sounded the alarm.

We are delighted to have some assurances that the routes will be kept in some form. We will continue to fight to ensure the current frequency of our buses and their routes are protected.

# This election is a clear choice between the **Lib Dems** and Labour

LAB  
31

LIB  
DEM  
17

Number of seats won by each party at the 2022 Local Elections in Merton

CON  
7

CAN'T WIN HERE

OTHER: 2

Labour have let us down. They have failed to deliver the change people voted for and they are not standing up to Farage's Reform UK.

The Lib Dems are the only party taking the fight to Reform UK - and beating them!

The election here in May is our chance to send Keir Starmer's Labour a message and help stop Reform. The Conservatives and the Green Party can't win here.

Every Lib Dem vote can beat Reform UK - and deliver the change our country needs. Vote Lib Dem in May to send Labour a message they can't ignore!

"The Lib Dems .... will do very well in Merton" says respected pollster, Lord Hayward

London Evening Standard