

GETTING ON TRACK WITH THE TRAINS

Local Councillors oppose 'One Line One Terminal' suggestion



Local Councillors Charlie Davis and Spencer Drury with activist James Shipp at Eltham Station.

Eltham North Conservative Councillors Spencer Drury and Charlie Davis have led the way in highlighting the two new consultations taking place on the future of the Southeastern rail network. In late March Spencer was the first local politician to highlight the issue on his blog and Charlie followed up with a question at the Full Council meeting

aimed at opposing the suggestion that trains from Eltham should go to Cannon Street only.

Our Councillors' activity has highlighted a divide in the local Labour Party with Eltham's MP following Spencer's line of opposing any cuts to London destinations like Charing Cross or Victoria but the Council's Cabinet Member insisting it would be 'premature' to make a judgement at this stage.

Spencer said "These are complex consultation documents but overground train services are vital for this part of London and our guiding principle must be that services need to improve in future not be cut to make it easier for operators to run trains on time. I would urge local residents to respond to the consultation before it closes in May."

A TRIBUTE TO DERMOT POSTON



Dermot pictured with the Mayor of Greenwich at the Town Hall when he stood down in 2014.

At the start of March Eltham's long serving ex-Councillor Dermot Poston passed away. Dermot had been on the Council for almost 40 years representing wards across Eltham, New Eltham and Horn Park. Tributes were paid to him from across the political spectrum and many Labour politicians including Council Leader Denise Hyland were among the more than 200 people who attended his memorial service at St Luke's Church. We are all grateful to Dermot for his years of service. Our thoughts remain with his wife Jenny and his family.

COUNCIL TAX GOES UP AGAIN

Labour-run Greenwich Council has hiked Council Tax for the second year running, voting down an alternative plan from Conservative councillors that showed Labour's 1.99% rise was unnecessary.

The total rise in Greenwich is 5% meaning bills will go up by £51 a year to £1,071 for a Band D property from this April with another 1.5% rise from Labour's Mayor of London Sadiq Khan.

CINEMA WITHDRAWS LATE LICENCE AFTER PROTESTS

In November, Eltham's Conservative Councillors joined residents, including those living close by on Roper Street, in objecting to Vue Cinema's licensing application to enable it to serve alcohol till 2.30am each morning and food till 5am. The application was subsequently withdrawn after Spencer organised a mediation meeting with local residents. It is expected that a further application will be submitted in 2017.

Local Conservatives want to see a cinema in Eltham but it has to be a cinema which fits into Eltham, not one which demands Eltham fits into what it wants to do.



James Shipp and Spencer Drury discuss the parking problems around Eltham High Street and Roper Street.

CATCHING UP WITH YOUR NEW COUNCILLOR

Six months after his by-election victory in Eltham North, Cllr Charlie Davis gives an update on his experiences so far.

I can't believe that it has already been six months since I was first elected to Greenwich Council. It was such an honour to be voted in by local residents and I was proud to follow in the footsteps of my Grandfather - who also served as a Conservative Councillor.

Being a new Councillor, it took some time to understand how things worked, but I'm pleased to be mastering the methods used to fix

street lights or negotiate with the Council on behalf of local shops. Full Council meetings seem to be a forum for grandstanding rather than setting targets. I tried to add to a Labour motion on sport a commitment to improving sporting provision across the Borough but positive suggestions were rejected as 'too detailed'. I never knew clear targets were a problem till I joined Greenwich Council!

It's been an interesting six months; I am still learning, but it remains an honour to represent the local community in which I've grown up.



In November, 22 year old Charlie Davis was elected to Greenwich Council

WARD ROUND-UP

Eltham High Street chaos

The slow pace of work and ability to produce clear road markings has been much commented upon. We are continuing to keep pressure on the Council in the hope work will be completed to a good standard this spring.

Restoration of war memorial

We are pleased to announce that Eltham North Councillors have secured £9,000 to improve the clarity of names on the war memorial. Greenwich Heritage Trust are organising the work.

Parking Zone update

Before Christmas the latest Controlled Parking Zone consultation was held. Results were not published by the end of March but the Council was not expected to announce new plans in a public meeting. With a second Conservative Councillor however, the decision can now be 'called-in' to try and ensure free parking is restored to western Glenlea Rd (pictured right) and common sense prevails. Other problems may arise if residents' wishes are ignored.



YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATIVE TEAM



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Council decides not to build homes

In a decision you won't see publicised Labour's Greenwich Council decided in December not to spend £18m allocated to it for new Council housing building homes but chose instead to buy them.

The £18m of funding comes from Council house sales which the government would like to use to replace each sold property with a new rented one. This Conservative policy of increasing the number of homes is being undermined by a Labour Council choosing to "Buy not Build".