

Pandemic road alterations divide residents

Road closures, restrictions on parking and layout alterations have proved controversial



Spencer and Charlie in a closed disabled parking space on Eltham High Street.

Greenwich Council's introduction of 'temporary' Streetspace measures on Eltham High Street has proved controversial with Spencer repeatedly asking when they will be reviewed following complaints about the closure of disabled parking space. Spencer spoke with shop keepers at the top of the High Street who revealed that the closed disabled parking space was seldom used by shoppers and the barriers around bus stops simply

meant passengers had to wait in the rain. At the same time Charlie has been working hard to improve the consultation the Council undertakes prior to introducing any road closures to make sure the views of residents are accounted for & the likely impact on traffic considered in advance. The latest campaign has led to a commitment from the Council to rethink a divisive new cycle route though Eltham's Page Estate.

In 2018, Charlie & Spencer joined Greenwich Cyclists to ask the Council for a better cycle route to Eltham—they did not listen.

How to contact Charlie & Spencer

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Charlie Davis & Spencer Drury

Working hard for Eltham

Progress on fences

Good news on Well Hall Rd as Hyde Housing undertook repairs of the damaged fencing following an intervention by Spencer. It is just a temporary fix for now but there is a commitment to properly replacing the fencing within the next five years.



Parking zone re-start

The Council's parking zone proposals led to Charlie & Spencer meeting with the owners of the Tudor Barn as the plans threatened their business. Discussions failed to produce a compromise, so it was back to the drawing board with new proposals due later in 2021.



Strongbow in bloom

In October, Charlie joined local residents and Eltham South Councillor Matt Clare to plant bulbs across the Strongbow Estate. The benefits of everyone's hard work could be seen this spring.



Supporting Deansfield School

This year 223 people signed a petition organised by Spencer, parents and staff to improve pupil safety at Deansfield School. The petition led to the introduction of a safer 'pop-up' street but more work needs to be done to bring a zebra crossing to Dairsie Rd.



Delay bowls privatisation

The Council's privatisation of community bowls clubs has led to the closure of the Well Hall Pleasaunce based Tudor Bowls Club. Following Spencer's intervention the introduction of charges for the remaining Vets club was delayed by a year, but is still expected in 2022.



Charlie has pushed for better anti fly-tipping signage.



Spencer wrote a bid for the new building at the Gordon School



Spencer visiting a 'Pocket Living' development which provides lower price flats.



Charlie stood for the Greater London Assembly in May 2021



Charlie Davis Spencer Drury

Reporting back to Eltham

Making a positive contribution during the pandemic

Dear Eltham resident,

Welcome to our third annual report. When we were elected in 2018 we committed to keeping you informed about what we were doing and we hope that these annual newsletters have helped to do that.

Despite the pandemic and associated lockdowns it's been a busy year with zoom in our own homes replacing face to face meetings at the Town Hall.

Between all the various organisations and individuals who have contributed to the vaccination programme it's been an amazing effort to get us back on the track to normality. As your Councillors we have tried to offer support and, where appropriate, constructive criticism to make sure the Council gets it right during this really difficult time. So on issues like targeted support for business; making sure the test booking page works correctly and smoothing the set up of the vaccination centre by the station, we have kept focused improving the way the Council responds to the pandemic and it's challenges.

This year the Labour Leader of the Council denigrated our efforts to stay in touch with Eltham residents, but we hope that, as the only Councillors in Greenwich who produce an annual report, you have an idea of what we have done over the past year. You won't only hear from us when there is an election on!

Yours faithfully,

SUPPORTING ELTHAM

Interested in bowls? Support Severndroog

Phone Ken on 07505 865020 for more information.

Severndroog Castle is struggling to survive. Please donate to support the Castle.



conservatives.com

Working to Protect Homes from Flooding

The heavy rainfall last winter meant that many Eltham residents faced the issue of flooding as streams and surface water ran from parks and woodlands through their gardens, garages and, in some cases, homes.

maintained: culverts under houses on Crookston Rd; drains on Oxleas Meadow or soakaways in Eltham Park North need to be working.

Having spoken with many residents Spencer has written to the Labour Cabinet Member with a suggested maintenance plan which would aim to avoid flooding again next winter.

In many cases the infrastructure to deal with the flooding issue already exists, but needs to be better



Councillor Spencer Drury chats a local resident affected by the flooding of Eltham Park North.

Supporting schools across Eltham North

The Ward Budget scheme for Eltham North has been busy over the last year supporting a range of projects.

Spencer has written bids for two local schools. At Deansfield School, Eltham Enviro have organised the planting of a 'Green Wall' to mask the playground from the Rochester Way. The Gordon School has benefitted from funding for a new log cabin to provide outdoor space for children now the old huts.

Spencer said "I'm so pleased the ward budget scheme has been able to make a positive difference for these two wonderful Eltham schools"



Charlie wrote a bid for to introduce planters at Eltham Station to help improve the look and feel of the forecourt. It is hoped this will brighten the approach to the ticket office.

Working to help Eltham thrive

SUPPORTING ELTHAM'S SHOPS IN LOCKDOWN

The impact of the pandemic on business has been a real concern nationally and locally. Over the last year, Charlie has been pushing for proactive policies to support Eltham's shops.



Charlie's campaign to support pubs even helped new businesses like the Berry and Barrel.

At the September 2020 Council meeting Conservatives pushed for Greenwich Council to use Government funding it had received to support local businesses, including an active 'Buy Local' campaign. In February 2021, Charlie wrote to the Labour Council's Cabinet Member asking for support for pubs and other hospitality firms based on schemes operating in

Greenwich's pubs and clubs 'need more help' Greenwich Council should follow its neighbouring boroughs in offering special support for pubs and clubs to get through the pandemic, a Conservative councillor says.

853 blog, Feb 2021

Bexley and Bromley. Following Charlie's letter and another motion to Council, the Council created a 'Hospitality Recovery Grant' to help businesses as Charlie had suggested. Other Conservative campaigns to limit rent rises in Council owned property have been successful in supporting Eltham's shops.

M&S car park saved from development

Following a campaign by Eltham Conservatives, Greenwich Council has withdrawn plans to build flats on two Eltham sites, including the Marks and Spencer's car park.

Council offices on Orangery Lane & the Whitewoods site.

Spencer commented "I raised serious concerns about the Council's plan to build over Marks and Spencer's car park from the moment it was proposed, so I am extremely pleased to see it removed from the flat building programme. The store itself originally



Spencer at the Marks and Spencer's car park which has been saved from development.

objected to the plan and it would have threatened its viability so this is good news. Getting the right sites and plans for building flats is essential. Charlie's work opposing the plans for Mecca Bingo has been essential in reversing that decision too."

Unfortunately the plans to build flats on the car park, Mecca Bingo and the post office remain part of the Council's Supplementary Plan for Eltham. Charlie and Spencer have asked for the 2012 plan to be updated.

Mecca Eltham bingo off council redevelopment list after election row

An Eltham bingo hall at the centre of an angry row during the last general election has been removed from a list of sites in Greenwich borough that could be redeveloped.

853 blog, March 2021

During 2020-21 Greenwich Council has continued to limit the ability of others to criticise its work, blame the Government for its own failings and waste large sums of money .

June 2020

Greenwich Council announces a review of "statues; monuments; historic figures and names of public spaces" throughout the Borough to consider their relevance.

September 2020

Under pressure from Spencer, the Council admits to spending £132,000 on maintaining scaffolding around a block of flats in Plumstead for three years as it had not fixed a leaking roof in that time.

November 2020

The Council takes advantage of the pandemic to change the way Council meetings are run, cancelling written questions to the Cabinet from the public and Opposition Councillors.

January 2021

Spencer formally requests that Greenwich Council write a strategy to deal with homelessness (as required by law) as the previous one has finished a year before. Despite the importance of having Homelessness and Housing strategies every single Labour Councillor votes against writing either of them.

Greenwich Council to write off £1.3m bad debt Greenwich Council are set to write off £1.3 million in bad debt from four organisations... Greenwich Tories have called in the decision which will be discussed next week at an Overview & Scrutiny meeting.

Murky Depths blog, May 2021

March 2021

Labour Councillors push through changes to the Constitution, permanently restricting the right of members of the public to ask questions. Limits are also extended on the ability of Councillors to criticise the Council & the right of Labour Councillors to use Council resources to intervene in elections is expanded.

7 April 2021

TaxPayer's Alliance research reveals that Greenwich Council has 29 employees earning more than £100,000pa; this is almost double Lewisham (15) and more the three times the Bromley (9) numbers.

28 April 2021

Spencer joins Cllr Matt Hartley in demanding a review of the Council decision to write off £1.3m in bad debt, including £330,000 which was lost due to poor record keeping and a £700,000 loan to a charity which went bust within six months of receiving the payment.



THE YEAR IN BRIEF

See it for yourself!

The Royal Borough of Greenwich Town Hall is based in Woolwich. There are regular meetings which are open to the public and over the last year have been streamed on the Council's YouTube channel.