

Open Letter to East Church Street, Isleworth Residents Association

Parking and road management are a key feature of the Liberal Democrat Local Election Campaign and we have focused on both as we launch our drive for local elections success in Hounslow.

Ensuring motorists are not unfairly fined due to unclear signs and road markings is one of the party's key pledges. We have severely criticised the Labour-run council for its attitude to parking control in Chiswick, Feltham and other parts of the borough. Residents deserve better.

We have highlighted the examples of Chiswick High Road, which generated more revenue from traffic fines than any other stretch of road in England during 2012/13, and Feltham train station, where drivers were hit with more than £400,000 of fines in a year for parking in a bus stand.

Carl Pierce, chairman of Hounslow Liberal Democrats, said: "It's all very well raising revenue this way but the council should raise it fairly. Some very poor people have been caught out unfairly with these punitive fines."

It's not just parking fines with which we and residents of the borough have concerns, but the way the borough's road safety and maintenance are being managed. The 'traffic calming' measures introduced last year in Hatton Road, Bedfont, have actually put people's lives at risk.

Although Liberal Democrats supported the introduction of a 20mph limit in the road, we opposed the two one-directional traffic islands that the council introduced despite consistent warnings from residents' that they would cause accidents, before installing them.

Sheena Bourke, the Liberal Democrat Council Candidate for Isleworth, said: "We said it was dangerous because it's on the brow of a hill but they didn't listen and on November 1 last year alone eight cars were involved in collisions. About 400 people signed a petition saying they needed to remove it (the second island) but the officers have no clue about the area."

As Liberal Democrats, we are very much committed to listening to the views of the people who know best, the residents of the area. The three key actions that ECRA has outlined for Church St appear quite sensible and practical proposals for improving road safety in your street i.e.

1. The pavements are raised and widened to give pedestrians protection from traffic
2. The road is closed during peak hours (we would need to consult with you on the various schemes proposed as to how this may be achieved)
3. Measures are taken to reduce traffic speed at times the road is open

Kind regards,

Sheena Bourke, Liberal Democrat Council Candidate for Isleworth Ward

Note: Sheena Bourke is a former student of Gumley House Girls School in Isleworth and studied Psychology at Nottingham Trent University. She works as a corporate partnership manager with a national children's charity based in East London. Sheena is concerned with child poverty and is passionate about improving the delivery of child care services in the borough.