

# PRITTLE BROOK COMMUNITY GROUP

We are a group of volunteers who want to keep the Prittle Brook Greenway clean and tidy. We hold a monthly Saturday morning litter picking session along the Prittlewell stretch of the Greenway.

*New volunteers are always welcome.*

For further details please contact:

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[www.litteraction.co.uk/prittle-brook-community-group](http://www.litteraction.co.uk/prittle-brook-community-group)



## YOUR CONSERVATIVE TEAM IN PRITTLEWELL



### SIR DAVID AMESS MP FOR SOUTHWEST

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

David's surgeries are on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month from 10.00-13.00. They are held at different locations within Southend West Constituency. Following new Government guidance, face to face appointments are now available to those who would like them. To book a slot, please call **0207 219 3452** or email [amessd@parliament.uk](mailto:amessd@parliament.uk).

*Please do not attend if you are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms.*

## PRITTLEWELL WARD COUNCILLORS



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*Currently face to face contact is limited, but please do contact us by phone, email or letter and we will be happy to respond quickly. We are now undertaking "Ward Walkabouts" and visits to outdoor venues such as our recent visit with Sir David Amess to the Springfield Drive allotments (right). If you would like us to visit your neighbourhood, please let us know. In the meantime, please keep safe and well.*

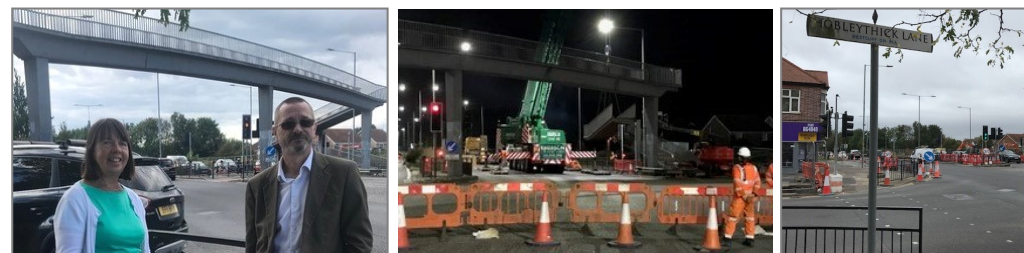
*Kevin, Meg & David*



Editors: Meg Davidson and David Garston

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## BELL JUNCTION REVAMP GETS UNDERWAY



*Before, during and after removal of the footbridge*

**Getting across the Bell Junction** should become easier for both motorists and pedestrians once the improvement works are complete. The preparatory work has progressed as planned, enabling the main work to start on time, starting with the removal of the footbridge. I am particularly pleased with the positive engagement we have had with Council officers in helping to determine the final design. Officers took on board the concerns raised by all three Prittlewell councillors and amended the plans to include a central pedestrian crossing refuge on Hobleythick Lane. This will allow pedestrians to cross safely, whilst ensuring the optimum efficiency of the junction for vehicles. Inevitably, there will be disruption over the coming months, but the benefits will be worth the wait. The work is due to be completed by summer 2021.

Kevin Buck

## GREAT BRITISH SEPTEMBER CLEAN

*Local councillors and members of the Prittle Brook Community Group (PBCG) were joined by MP Sir David Amess for the relaunch of PBCG's litter picking sessions on the Prittle Brook Greenway. The event was part of the Great British September Clean organised by the Keep Britain Tidy campaign. There were two teams at work, and they cleared 18 bagfuls of litter from the Prittlewell stretch of the Greenway.*





The Government White Paper “Planning for the Future” proposes huge reforms for the planning system in England. The government’s desire to “Build, Build, Build” and speed up the whole process will have implications for our town.

Building beautiful will be an important principle. Even though the Government requires quicker processes, they will also insist on good design of new developments. The role of the Planning Inspectors who determine appeals and the Southend Local Plan will be unchanged. There is a new Southend Local Plan being written now and the White Paper makes it clear that this process needs to be speeded up. Decisions on planning applications will also be quicker. Currently Councils are required to determine applications within eight weeks: the new proposal is five weeks including two weeks of public consultation.

There is a consultation on the White Paper which runs until 27th October 2020. The public is encouraged to view the proposals and respond via the online survey at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MHCLG-Planning-for-the-Future/>

**Planning notices attached to lamp posts could become a thing of the past, according to the Planning White Paper. Instead, the Government wants to harness digital technology to make it easier for the public to see and respond to proposals for their area. This system must be user friendly for all, however: I can foresee problems for residents who do not have access to a computer or a smartphone.**



**PRIORY PARK**  
Kevin, Meg and I recently conducted a “Ward Walk-about” in and around Priory Park. It was good to see the bandstand back in action and people enjoying the music. The walled gardens (left) are as attractive as ever, but the pond fountain and the fish fountain feature have been out of action for some time. We are looking into whether they could be restored and if so, what the cost would be.



**COUNCIL UPDATE**  
Meg Davidson  
Deputy Leader  
Southend Conservative Group



Meetings, meetings... we may be in the midst of a pandemic, but the Council’s meetings continue unabated. Virtual meetings will remain the norm for the time being. The technology is holding up well, though no meeting passes without at least one participant forgetting to turn on their microphone – a very easy mistake to make!  
Currently the Conservatives are in opposition, so our job is to hold the Labour/Independent/Lib Dem administration to account. We applaud the excellent work of Council staff, especially the Public Health team and our tireless refuse collection workers, to name but two. But we continue to challenge the Labour-led coalition when necessary.  
are strongly opposed to their plans to close the Queensway underpass: we fear this will cause horrendous traffic congestion. We have also spoken out against hasty and poorly thought out cycle path schemes, the handling of recent illegal traveller encampments in the borough and the ill-advised transfer of Southend Energy’s customers from Ovo to Robin Hood Energy (RHE) in February 2020. RHE was known to be in financial difficulties at that time and has now gone out of business.

### **MAKING PAVEMENTS SAFER FOR PEDESTRIANS**

*On a positive note, there was cross-party support for a proposal put forward by Conservative councillor, David Burzotta. David submitted a motion to the Council to tackle dangerous cycling on pavements. This has always been illegal but is rarely enforced by the police. The Council has agreed to consult on a scheme to give Council officers powers to issue fines to pavement cyclists throughout the borough.*



It was a pleasure to join Sir David Amess for a tour of the **Growing Together Community Garden** in Fairfax Drive. Chief Executive Matt King told us about Trust Links’ work to help people cope during the pandemic. *Blooming Well*, their summer project for families, proved very successful. Their new scheme *Talking Together* offers listening support to those who feel isolated and anxious.