



Dunmore Focus

Autumn 2006

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Town Cllr Colin Walters

In last November's by-election you elected **Colin Walters** as a Town Councillor by 652 votes to 365 over his Tory opponent. Since then he has been very active serving on the Planning, Britain in Bloom, and Amenities committees.



Colin with Vale Cllr Janet Morgan and County Cllr Alan Bryden

"Planning applications are considered first by the Town Council committee. Our comments are passed to the Vale Council, who makes the decisions," reports Colin. *"It's very helpful to us to have comments from applicants and objectors but you need to get them to us as soon as possible."*

Footpath victory



Local councillors Alan Bryden and Colin Walters check the footpath

Persistence by local residents with the support of local councillors will lead to reopening of the footpath between North and South Avenues. The path had become so blocked with rubbish that it was impossible to use. A Public Inquiry last February resulted in the Planning Inspector ruling that the footpath should be added to the definitive footpath map.

Pool Reopening a Success

In response to our residents' survey last autumn you told us overwhelmingly that you approved of the Town Council's decision to put money into supporting the pool. There were nearly 13,000 visits to the open air pool during the 14 weeks it was open. On the very hot days the pool was so popular that it ran three daily sessions instead of two.

Radley Lakes

The Lib Dem run Town and Vale Councils have always strongly opposed the filling up of lakes with fuel ash from Didcot Power Station. The Tory controlled County Council gave permission for it. Campaigners hoped the decision would be called in by Labour Government Minister Ruth Kelly but she has now dashed that hope by refusing to intervene.

Bike and bus to Oxford

County Councillor **Alan Bryden** (pictured with **Tim Smith and Colin Walters**) is pressing for the installation of cycle racks near some Oxford Road bus stops so that people can safely leave their bikes while they catch the bus.



A New Reservoir?

Thames Water has published proposals for the construction of a large reservoir (covering 4 square miles) in the Steventon / Hanneys area. Councils at all levels are responding to the consultation. The Environment Agency is also considering the proposals and its views are crucial. It is an independent body and Thames Water would need its agreement to abstract water from the Thames to fill its reservoir.

Vale Cllr Janet Morgan comments *"At this critical stage councils and the Environment Agency are asking what the level of need is for more water in the area supplied by Thames Water which includes London as well as Oxfordshire, and what are the options for meeting this need. Thames Water has set a very tight timescale for consultation but its essential these issues are properly investigated."*

Visit our Party websites at: www.libdems.org.uk and www.oxfordshirelibdems.org.uk

Brown Bins Success

Since brown wheellie bins for garden waste and cardboard were introduced last year nearly 8,000 have been distributed and demand is such that another 4,000 are being provided.

The annual charge of £29 covers the cost of the bins and fortnightly collection. "You may have heard that bins are provided free in Cherwell District" says **Janet Morgan**, (pictured, with **Tim Smith**) "This is correct, but it means that **all** council tax payers in Cherwell have to pay extra whether they have a bin or not." Such measures mean that the council tax for a band D property is **£17.78 more** in Cherwell than in the Vale.



A REAL Green Agenda



Liberal Democrats have long been at the forefront of promoting green policies. At this September's Lib Dem conference the party's Environment spokesman, **Chris Huhne MP** (pictured left), put 'Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change' as top priority. He argued that it is the role of government to lead us away from dependence on fossil fuels and spoke of the need to focus on practical solutions to climate change. Lib Dem policy is to tax pollution not people without increasing overall taxes. This would include raising taxes on gas guzzling cars and taxing aircraft flight emissions, not passengers, thus encouraging full planes.

"At local level the Vale Council has adopted the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change which commits the Council to working to tackle the causes and effects of climate change locally," reports Vale Councillor, **Janet Morgan**. "The Council already has a Green Travel plan to encourage car sharing and bus and bike use by staff and councillors. It will now be developing a wider strategy and we would welcome your views and ideas on this issue."

Do you think Climate Change is:

a serious problem a minor concern not a problem

Are you taking any actions to reduce energy use / reduce carbon emissions ?

If yes, please give details:

What actions would you like to see the District Council take ?

Please return to Tim Smith, 8 Alexander Close, or send FREEPOST to:

Abingdon Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST, Oxford, OX1 1YA

Name:

Address

Telephone: e-mail:

Comments? Ideas? Problems? Please ring any member of the team, listed overleaf or write to us at the FREEPOST address above



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