

Future of Dunmore Schools

Councillor Alan Bryden reports:

"I am very disturbed about the way the consultation on the future of Dunmore Infant and Junior Schools was handled by the Tory-controlled County Council. Neither I, as local County Councillor, nor Dunmore School governors were consulted on the options chosen. I received many letters and e-mails from worried parents, and the depth of feeling was very clear at the two public meetings in November."

At the meeting on 21st November, local MP, **Dr Evan Harris**, called for more information and a better risk assessment of the likely consequences of the options. *"The present situation is destabilising both Dunmore Schools and Fitzharrys School"*, **Dr Harris** said.

At its meeting in mid January the County Council agreed to drop the option of combining the Dunmore Schools and Fitzharrys, and agreed to look with the Dunmore governors at ways of providing a primary school on the Dunmore site.

Councillor Alan Bryden says, *"I am relieved that the County Council has agreed not to go ahead with combining Dunmore and Fitharrys Schools, and that discussions are now taking place with Dunmore Governors. If these discussions had been held earlier then a lot of worry and anxiety among children, parents and staff would have been avoided. We must ensure in the future that no other school's children, staff or parents have to live through such a distressing time when changes happen."*



**Local MP Dr Evan Harris with
Country Councillor , Alan Bryden**

Bike and bus to Oxford

County Councillor **Alan Bryden** (pictured with **Laurel Symons** and **Angela Lawrence**) 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 Laurel Symons 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 and it's essential these issues are properly investigated."

Brown Bins Success

Since brown wheelie bins for garden waste and cardboard were introduced last year nearly 8,000 have been distributed in the Vale 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 Vale Cllr **Laurel Symons** (pictured, with **Angela Lawrence**) "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.



Residents' Surveys - what you told us

Survey Co-ordinator, Angela Lawrence, reports

Pool Re-opening a Success

In response to our Residents' Survey 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", reports **Cllr Pat Hobby**. On the very hot days the pool was so popular that it ran three daily sessions instead of two.



At the end of last year the Northcourt Lib Dem team conducted a survey on a variety of local issues. Around 50% of residents returned the forms. Thank you. All your comments have been noted and will be followed up.

We asked what you thought was the main reason for **current NHS problems**. An overwhelming majority thought bad financial management, then government interference, followed by the high cost of drugs.

Abingdon hospital - Almost all said it was very important to keep it. We are continuing to campaign.

Local services - we asked if it was more important to maintain local services or to keep council tax down. Most voted for local services.

Full access to the A34 at Lodge Hill - responses were evenly split between high & low priority. Many respondents said it was not needed.

The Leisure Centre - A slight majority never use it but most thought that over-all it was a good facility

Tilsey Park - The majority of respondents never use it, 1/3 sometimes do.

Abingdon in Bloom - Most said that the flower displays improved the town. A majority thought it was right to reduce them during the hosepipe ban. Next year yet more ways will be found to use recycled water.

Visit our local website at:
www.oxwabl.libdems.org.uk

Comments? Ideas?

Name:

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Telephone:

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**Please return to Angela Lawrence,
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Northcourt Ward Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST,
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Join the Team

We have a great team of helpers but people move away and we always need more help. If you can spare half an hour to deliver leaflets like this one please tick the box & return it as above.

- I can deliver a few Focuses locally
- I enclose a donation.
- I would like more information about joining the Lib Dems.