

FOCUS



WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE
NORTH NIBLEY
KINGSWOOD
HILLESLEY
ALDERLEY
TRESHAM

Editor: County Councillor John Cordwell

No. 126: Liberal Democrats - keeping in touch with you *all year round*
Telling you what the papers don't print and other parties don't want you to know.

Investigation into abuse and bullying blocked by Tories as:

County's Adult Care Services Rated "Poor"

At February's full meeting of the County Council in response to a Liberal Democrat motion the Conservative councillors all voted to block any investigation into cases of abuse and bullying found by inspectors from the Commission for Social Care. Key findings of the report include:

- Social Care for vulnerable people is poor;
- Financial abuse of people who sign over control of their finances to care homes and agencies;
- People with learning disabilities have had to put up with being bullied; and
- Young people who move into adult social care are at risk of abuse.

Cllr Deryck Nash, Liberal Democrat shadow cabinet member for adult care said: "The commission's report was the most damning I've read in my time as a councillor. The Commission discovered cases of people with learning disabilities who have been bullied and elderly people who have been left stranded without support. The leadership at Shire Hall is disgraceful, the Inspectors' report is clear: a new team of cabinet members must take charge of social care to reverse the poor performance that leaves vulnerable people at risk".

SAVE OUR SORTING OFFICE

Please sign the on-line petition to the Prime Minister: <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/wotton-sort-off/>

The traffic orders for Wotton (Focus 125) are making progress. Following a request from John Cordwell they include consideration of a length limit on lorries using Tabernacle Pitch to stop damage to properties, the cemetery wall and the road.



* * * Slip Up * * *

- Pavements in town centre shopping areas are no longer a County Council priority for salting and snow clearing. The Conservative administration has removed them from the list of Key Routes.
- The Gloucestershire pothole situation is now so serious that it has its own website address:
<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/pothole>

BOOK FAIR

On Saturday March 21st we are holding our 14th book fair at the Chipping Clubroom, Wotton, between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. If you have any books, CDs, or DVDs you wish to dispose of, please get in touch; we will collect them. Please ring June on 842439.
Thank you to everyone who has given us books previously or supported our sales.

Would you like Focus earlier and in colour? Just let John have your e-mail address. It will save postage and cut fuel costs, helping to protect the environment.

Working for You

John Cordwell is defending his place on Gloucestershire County Council June 4th.

John has lived in Wotton for almost 40 years. His unrivalled experience includes chairing the County Council and its Environment Committee.

Always on hand to answer your questions and deal with your problems he has served four times as Wotton's Town Mayor and is currently Deputy Mayor, chairing its Planning Committee.



Other Elections

There are no parish council elections this year. The county election is being held a month later than usual to coincide with European elections.

Postal Votes

- Please note the election is on **June 4th**. Anyone can have a postal vote. If you may not be able to get to the polling station — on holiday, through illness, disability, bad weather or even a heatwave on the day perhaps - apply now.

Forms for postal and proxy votes are available from Stroud District Council, including via their website, and from us: either ring 01453 842439 or go to www.cordwell.clara.net

Out of Touch

Some of our readers have drawn attention to a recent Conservative newsletter. To put it kindly, the content is highly inaccurate, which is hardly surprising since it has been written by a Nailsworth town councillor and a Tory district councillor who usually shows little interest in our area and doesn't even live in the county. The table below puts the record straight.

Tory article	Reality/Comment
County Council Tories propose the lowest ever council tax rise of 2.9%, a £30 increase at Band D, which the county council approved.	Wrong. Lib Dems proposed the lowest council tax rise of 1.8%, just an extra £18 at Band D through £2.5M of efficiency savings which the Tories had not taken. This was opposed by Labour and Tory councillors. We know how difficult it is becoming for some residents to pay. Also, councillors' allowances were frozen.
Save the Royal Mail Sorting Office campaign is supported by the Tory "team".	This is a <u>community</u> campaign which some local Conservatives are trying to make into a political issue. Sadly their only contribution has been to sign the petition. They have taken no part in the Action Group. However, thanks are due to our MP for the active support he is giving.
Tory District Councillor (apparently) supports the planning approval for the nursing home etc at Potters Pond and will ensure it goes ahead soon. There is no lack of vacant sites for light industry in "lovely Wotton".	This is the first time he has expressed a view on it, having not spoken at either Wotton or Stroud councils when the application was considered. In fact he does not seem to have ever attended a meeting of Wotton Town Council's planning committee. Permission was given in the face of massive local opposition. We know of none. This seems to echo the Potters Pond developer's claim of an "abundant supply of local employment land" in Cam and Dursley.
Tory District Councillor gets Nibley's Tyndale Close footway into the County's road programme.	Not quite. He contacted the county council and was told it was in the draft programme for 2010/11. This was as a result of John Cordwell pressing for it with county highway officers. John has since sought to get it brought forward a year.
They are spending more on road maintenance than the previous county administration.	The £130M road repair backlog has not been reduced in four years of Tory control. The condition of minor roads is amongst the worst in the country. Much of their spending on roads uses borrowed money, so the county debt is increasing.

Liberal Democrat Councillors: living locally; working for you.

ACTION SHEET - Tell us what needs doing!

If you know of a local problem which needs attention, if you have a good idea for our area, or want to comment on something you have read here, please get in touch with your local Liberal Democrat action team, using this space to have your say.

Name.....
 Address.....
 Phone..... e-mail.....

Your opinion:

CAN YOU HELP US?

helping deliver Focus (just a few helps!)

displaying a poster at elections

making a donation

join the growing number of local members (minimum £6)

TO HELP YOU

Please return to John Cordwell,
 13 Haw Street, Wotton-under-Edge
 or to Cotswold Liberal Democrats
 Freepost SWC 5108, Cirencester GL7 2ZZ

Wotton Electric Picture House
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Liberal Democrats

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