

Serving the community - Keeping you informed

FOCUS

February 2012

Edited by
Marcus Annfield



On Benhall & The Reddings

www.cheltlibdems.org.uk

M5 bridge works are delayed



Protests by residents, businesses, MPs and councillors have forced the Government to think again about its plans to close part of Tewkesbury Road for up to a year from next March as part of a scheme to replace the bridge at junction 10 of the M5.

The scheme has now been put on hold for at least a year while the impact of the scheme is more fully investigated.

Councillor Nigel Britter has serious concerns about the project, which was due to start in March. "It would cause serious disruption in our part of Cheltenham. The fact that it will be impossible to access the motorway from Junction 10 during the works could result in a rise in journeys across Cheltenham to use Junction 11 instead. This would create a huge increase in volume of traffic especially at Arle Court."

County Councillor Simon Wheeler said "**It is absurd that the work will take up to a year.** There is hope that this will be shortened because the Minister for Roads has now intervened and asked the Highways Agency to look at cutting the length of the project, reducing the disruption to local people and businesses.

Simon has also criticised **the failure to upgrade Junction 10** to a full motorway interchange which would allow vehicles to enter and exit in both directions. He says: "I find it disappointing that the upgrading is not being carried out at the same time as the bridge replacement. This improvement would do a great deal to reduce unnecessary vehicle journeys across Cheltenham, especially en route to junction 11"

An on-line petition, set up by the Gloucester Old Spot pub, is available for all those supporters of the idea at:
<http://www.gopetition.co.uk/petitions/open-j10.html>



Marcus Annfield joins the team



Local resident Marcus Annfield has joined the Lib Dem team for Benhall & The Reddings

Local resident **Marcus Annfield** has recently joined the local Liberal Democrat team for Benhall & The Reddings ward.

Marcus has taken over as editor of the local **Focus newsletter**.

Marcus will be working with Councillor Nigel Britter and also with County Councillors Simon Wheeler and Chris Pallet to ensure that Benhall & The Reddings ward continues to get the best possible deal from the council in these difficult times.

Marcus lives locally with his wife Caroline and their family. After years of experience in property management, he has recently established his own lettings agency.

He is a member of a local Residents Association and has successfully campaigned for improvements to a local play area. In his spare time, Marcus enjoys local amateur dramatics is a proud member of **Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust** and fundraises for Gloucester Royal Hospital **Special Care Baby Unit**.

Marcus said "I joined the Lib Dem team because they get things done. Supporting the local community is dear to my heart and I will strive to work towards enhancing our community."

Libraries High Court judgment

A fresh consultation into new plans for Gloucestershire's library service is under way. Gloucestershire County Council has been forced back to the drawing board after its plans to make savage cuts to the County's library service were thrown out by a damning High Court judgement in November last year.

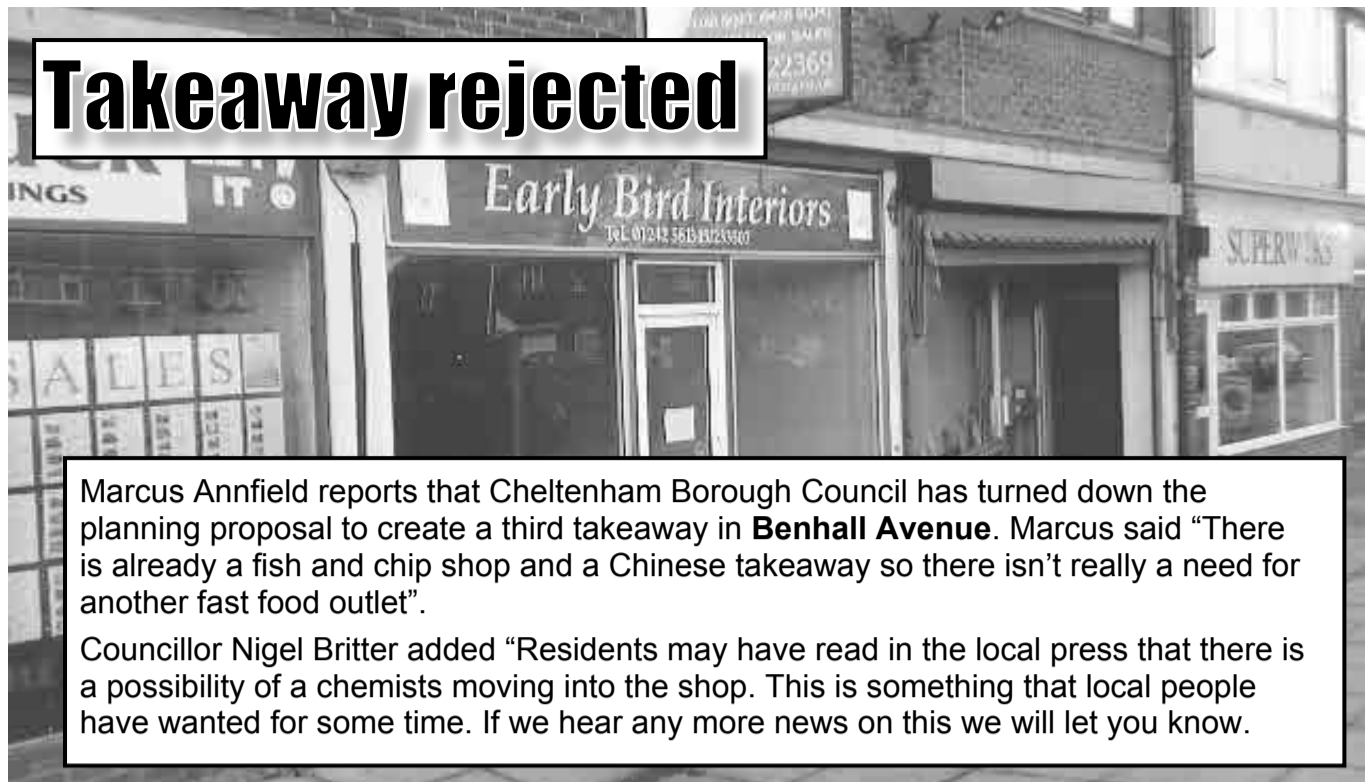


Councillor Chris Pallet said "The new consultation will run until **11th March**. It is also available to view online at: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries2012 and paper surveys are available in all libraries.

Less good news is the fact that it cost the Council over £100,000 in legal fees to fight the judicial review.

If only the council had listened to the thousands of residents who were against these proposals then the expensive court case could have been avoided.

Takeaway rejected



Marcus Annfield reports that Cheltenham Borough Council has turned down the planning proposal to create a third takeaway in **Benhall Avenue**. Marcus said "There is already a fish and chip shop and a Chinese takeaway so there isn't really a need for another fast food outlet".

Councillor Nigel Britter added "Residents may have read in the local press that there is a possibility of a chemists moving into the shop. This is something that local people have wanted for some time. If we hear any more news on this we will let you know."

Why won't the County Council repair our Pavements?



While talking to residents in **The Reddings** recently it was clear that many of you were concerned with the level of disrepair to many of our pavements.

Councillor **Nigel Britter** and **Marcus Annfield** did not have to go far before finding evidence of this for themselves. The picture below illustrates the problem when walking along Reddings Road.

With lumps of tarmac and deep holes many of you said it was unsafe to walk on the pavements and opted to dodge traffic by walking on the road. This is not acceptable and Nigel has taken up this issue with the County Council.

Nigel said "Residents' safety should be the number one priority of the County Council. Having people walking on the roads because of unsafe pavements is not only **neglectful** but also **extremely dangerous**."

You can report pot-holes on **08000 514514**, or on the Gloucestershire County Council website. Alternatively contact a member of your Lib Dem team and we will take up the issue on your behalf.



The highways team usually repair potholes that have the highest risk to safety. They are:

- More than 75mm deep
- Bigger than 300mm in diameter
- In the path of vehicles (in vehicle tracks or affecting cyclists or motorists)
- Typically on the main and heavier used roads

How to contact us

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Member of Parliament for Cheltenham

holds regular advice surgeries at his constituency office and at other locations around the town

Call 01242 224889 for an appointment



Double yellow lines proposed for Granley Road

Nigel Britter reports that following requests from local Councillors for many years, Gloucestershire Highways are to install double **yellow lines** at the junctions of **Granley Gardens / Granley Road** and **Swanswell Drive with Granley Road**.

Focus editor Marcus Annfield said "People have been parking cars dangerously close to the junctions. This will improve visibility issues for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians."

Make sure you lock up at night

Chris Pallet reports that there has been a spate of night-time burglaries and attempted burglaries recently, primarily from sheds and garages but also some houses.



Criminals are looking for easy entry where they won't cause disturbance. Make sure your property is well secured at all times.

Non-urgent **calls to the Police can now be made by dialing 101** who are very willing to give advice on securing your property. Only dial 999 if a crime is actually in progress or if you are in a dangerous situation.

Branch Road footpath

Councillor Nigel Britter has welcomed improvements to the footpath in **Branch Road** which links **The Forge** to **The Reddings**.

Nigel said, "I have been working with local residents for some time on this issue. The condition of this footpath has always been a key issue for the park residents, especially in bad weather. The improvements will now mean that they will have a cleaner and safer access to The Reddings."



Councillor Nigel Britter welcomes improvements to the footpath in Branch Road

Working for Benhall & The Reddings all year round