

# FOCUS

On Springbank ward

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Edited by  
Chris Coleman

www.cheltlibdems.org.uk

## Future closure of the M5 bridge at Piffs Elm - Tewkesbury Road

### Government told to think again about road closure plans

Protests by local 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. They planned to do this as part of a scheme to replace the bridge at junction 10 of the M5.

The planned closure of the bridge at Piffs Elm on Tewkesbury Road, has been delayed while the **Highways Agency go back to the drawing board and work on a better way to do the needed repairs** which causes less disruption to the surrounding areas.

Gloucestershire Highways have already made plans to attempt to minimise the expected pressure on our roads from cars that need to travel through our area to complete their journeys. In truth, it is likely that we all know, that people will take the shortest route they can find and no amount of signs will make a difference. When we have more information on this, we will share it through Focus.

**Councillor Suzanne Williams** said, "We were particularly concerned about the impact on **Princess Elizabeth Way** and adjoining roads, which would have had to carry an even greater volume of traffic during the closure. We also want the government minister to look at the possibility of building a full **four-way interchange at junction 10**, which would help to reduce unnecessary traffic trips across Cheltenham."



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

## Tories keep their incinerator plans burning

Lib Dem Councillors from Cheltenham are stepping up opposition to the County Tories ill thought out and expensive plans to build a **£500M** (yes half a billion) incinerator.

At a recent meeting Cheltenham Borough Council agreed a Lib Dem motion asking the county to pause and reconsider the proposals.

The motion asked the County Council to pause and **reconsider their mass waste incinerator proposals**.

We understand the importance of getting the economics of any waste strategy correct, but there

is also a need to protect public health and the environment.

There are alternative, smarter UK technologies available.

**Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT)** is a fraction of the cost and is now operating at four plants across the South West. Use of MBT technology would push our recycling rates to **over 80%** and more importantly avoid the health risks of increased 5-8% cancer rates caused by waste incineration within 7.5km of the plant at Javelin Park - as reported by the **British Society for Ecological Medicine**.

## Tungum/White House site



We have recently acquired outline plans for the derelict **White House** and adjacent factory units on the corner of **Kingsmead Road** and **Village Road**, and delivered copies of these to the immediate neighbours of the site.

Your local Lib Dem team have been in contact with representatives of the owners on a number of occasions since **Tungum Hydraulics** moved to Ashchurch in Tewkesbury over 5 years ago.

Unfortunately, vandalism, fly-tipping and other anti-social behaviour has been a very real issue for the owners and the neighbours. We have at every opportunity pushed for progress on work to redevelop the site and asked that the views of local residents are taken into consideration.

**If you have any concerns about this development, do please get in touch.**

**Working for Springbank  
all year round**

# Local news from around the ward

## Springfield Park

Councillor Chris Coleman reports that the Council have confirmed that they will plant additional shrubs and bushes around the perimeter of Springfield Park to make the boundaries of the properties surrounding the park safer.

Chris said: "Springfield Park has been given a fantastic makeover in recent years and many local people enjoy spending time there. I have been made aware though that some residents living in properties neighbouring the park felt that their boundaries were vulnerable. I therefore asked the Council to carry out some additional planting which I hope will increase the security of local properties."

Your Liberal Democrat councillors regularly join up with the group of litter pickers in the park at **10:30 am on the last Saturday of every month**. Please come along and join us and help make a difference to our area.

## Parks and green spaces

The George Readings Way and Pilgrove Way green space improvement projects are progressing.



The final design will be available to view in the Springbank Resource Center, with the opportunity to prioritise the different elements of the schemes.

Councillor Peter Jeffries said, "This has been a long time in the planning and we have a way to go yet, but I'm confident we have been able to incorporate all of the local resident's ideas into the final design. We only have the grant application to sort out and then work can begin"

## Triscombe Way, Dulverton Close & Kingsbridge Mews

The above roads have now been officially adopted by Gloucestershire Highways.

This means that any issue about the roads, footways or street lighting, can be referred to them. You can either let one of us know by one of the methods listed and we'll pass the issue on, or you can contact Highways directly on **08000 514 514**

The handover of the green spaces to Cheltenham Borough Council has not yet taken place, but we will let you know when it has.



The regular monthly litter picks make a real difference to Springfield Park

## Streetlights

By the time you receive this, a number of the lamps that were removed for safety reasons, will have been replaced. Gloucestershire Highways have told Suzanne Williams, that all those removed will be replaced.

If you are aware of a light that doesn't work or burns through the day, you can either let us know, or contact Highways on **08000 514 514**. There should be a number on the light at about head height. Please have this number available whichever method you choose to use.

This is the same number that should be used for any highways issue.

## Bodnam Road

Following a request from Councillor Chris Coleman, a missing street sign on **Bodnam Road** will shortly be replaced by the Council.

Because Bodnam Road is split in two halves, the signs here previously, gave the name of the road and the numbers of the houses on each side of the road.

Hopefully, the new street sign will mean that there will be no more confusion with post and other deliveries.



## Arle Court Roundabout

Councillor Chris Coleman reports that major resurfacing works are scheduled to take place on the Arle Court roundabout from the 12th to the 20th of February.

**On Sundays this will mean closure from 8am until 6am on the following Monday and then through the week, closures will be between 7pm and 6am.**

If you normally travel through this area in the evenings, please plan your journey carefully, taking these closures into consideration.

## MEB site

Residents living around the **MEB** site off **Beaumont Road** and **Hester's Way Road** have had concerns about the lack of maintenance within the site, your local Lib Dem Team have passed on those concerns.

If you have ongoing concerns about maintenance on the site, you can in the first instance contact.

James Richards  
The Team Manager  
Western Power Distribution  
Pegasus Business Park  
Castle Donnington  
DE74 2TU  
Or email [jrichards@westernpower.co.uk](mailto:jrichards@westernpower.co.uk)

If you raise issues with them and you don't believe they are being addressed satisfactorily, do please let one of your Lib Dem Team know.

## Hesters Way Primary School

There has been an unexpected rise in the number of school aged children in the area and to cater for their needs, **Hesters Way Primary School** will be increasing the number of spaces available for Reception aged children to 60 this September.

The space currently used for pastoral care will revert back to being a classroom for one year only.

Having previously had separate infant and junior facilities, there will be adequate space to accommodate these children as they progress through the school.

There will also be a new eco friendly studio building in the playground, to enable the school to continue with the excellent pastoral care programme.

## How to contact your Lib Dem team



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