

Serving the community - Keeping you informed

FOCUS

On St Peters ward

January
2012



www.cheltlibdems.org.uk

Lib Dem budget freezes council tax



Councillor John Rawson welcomes the news that there will be no increase in Cheltenham's Council Tax for a second year

It's good news for Cheltenham residents. The Liberal Democrat administration on Cheltenham Borough Council has announced that there will be no increase in its council tax precept this year, meaning that council tax for Cheltenham residents will be **FROZEN** for the second year running. Car park charges will also be frozen for the second year in a row. At the same time, frontline council services will be protected.

This very positive result for Cheltenham taxpayers has not been easy to achieve. Although the Government has provided some one-off financial help to keep council tax down, it has cut its on-going support to the council by a further £534,000 in 2012/13. The Council has responded by making big savings in bureaucracy, and radical changes to the way some services are managed, in order to balance the books.

St Peter's Ward councillor **John Rawson** says: "I know only too well that many people are struggling to make ends meet in the current economic climate. It is right that we should avoid adding to their burdens."

M5 victory

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



Cllr John Rawson, on behalf of the Borough Council, was one of those who raised serious objections to the scheme. He was particularly concerned about the impact on **Princess Elizabeth Way** and **Gloucester Road**, which would have to carry even greater volume of traffic during the closure.



Now the Minister for Roads has asked the Highways Agency to look at cutting the length of the project, which could greatly reduce the disruption to local people and businesses. He says he is also prepared 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.

Christ College site – update



The Diocese of Clifton, which owns the Christ College site in **Arle Road**, says that demolition of the school building is likely to take place in February or March.

In the meantime, the school building has suffered some minor vandalism, so they now have a security guard located on site 24 hours a day.

The Diocese has told your local councillors they are still some way from submitting a planning application to redevelop the school site.

However, they have confirmed their promise to retain the Sports Hall and associated parking as a local amenity. Your Local Lib Dem team will continue to keep you informed.

Working for St Peters all year round - not just at election time

Gloucester Road safety improvements

Gloucestershire Highways is proposing two changes to Gloucester Road to make it safer to pedestrians and motorists. The pavement near Gloucester Road Primary School will be built out to provide a safe crossing point for pedestrians, including parents and children on their way to and from school.

Meanwhile, the right-turn lane and give way line into Market Street will also be moved closer to the junction to make them less confusing for motorists. The proposals have been warmly welcomed by your local councillors.

Bloomsbury Street/Gloucester Road junction

At long last, Gloucester Highways has published plans for new double yellow lines at the junction of Bloomsbury Street with Gloucester Road. Residents and councillors have been asking for this for years, to improve visibility for pedestrians, drivers and riders using the junction and to allow large vehicles such as refuse trucks to enter Bloomsbury Street.

There will also be new double yellows at the Station Street/New Street junction and the Alstone Croft/Arle Road junction to prevent dangerous parking.

Brooklyn Gardens

Following request from County Concillors Charmian Sheppard and Mike Skinner, white lines have been repainted at the Brooklyn Gardens/Arle Road junction and the internal Brooklyn Gardens junction to improve safety.

Abandoned trolleys

Your councillors have contacted local supermarkets about a number of abandoned supermarket trolleys around the ward in the past few months. Let us know if there are abandoned trolleys in your area – or you can contact the supermarkets direct on:

- Tesco 0845 6779161
- Sainsburys (01242) 222011
- Waitrose (01242) 241425

Former BMX track

Residents may be aware that the Cheltenham and County Cycling Club wants to revive the BMX track that used to exist on land between Arle Road and St Peter's Close.

This is causing some concern to nearby residents, as was shown at a recently public meeting organised by the Club.

Your councillors have been advised by planning officers that the old planning permission for the BMX track has lapsed, and therefore a new planning application would need to be submitted before a new track could be established.

If it gets to this point, of course, residents will be consulted and will be able to make their views known.

Contact your local Lib Dem team

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Martin Horwood

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

Tell us what's on your mind

Your local Liberal Democrat councillors would like to know your views about the problems in our area and how it can be improved. We would be very grateful if you would spare a moment to complete this simple survey and return it to us. Thank you.



CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Has there been a burglary in your street in the past year?

- Yes No

How concerned are you about crime in your neighbourhood?

- Very Fairly Not much

Do you know of any crime, anti-social behaviour, vandalism, graffiti, litter or fly-tipping that need to be sorted out round here?

- Yes No

If Yes, please give details:



YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

The Liberal Democrats take our local environment very seriously. If you know of any areas that require attention, please complete this section.

Are any of the following problems in your area?

- Potholed roads or dangerous pavements
- Faulty streetlights
- Damaged/vandalised/missing street nameplates
- Damaged street furniture (bollards, seats, triprails, signage, etc)
- Untidy and overgrown greenspace
- Dog fouling

If you've ticked any of the above, please be specific on their location.



HOUSING

Do you support the Lib Dem policy of building new housing on previously developed ('brownfield') sites in the town, in order to protect our green spaces and neighbouring countryside from development?

- Yes No



AXING THE COUNCIL TAX

Do you agree with the Lib Dem policy of scrapping the Council Tax and replacing it with a tax which is related to ability to pay?

- Yes No



LOCAL TRANSPORT

Do you use your local bus services?

- Yes No

If 'NO', why not?

Do you have easy access to local bus services?

- Yes No

Do you think the buses are regular and on time?

- Yes No



Use this space to tell us of any other local issues or problems

Name _____ Tel: _____
 Address _____
 Email _____ @ _____

Return to: John Rawson Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST SWC 0744, 16 Hewlett Road, Cheltenham, GL52 6ZZ