

Wheathampstead Liberal Democrats

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Top Key Issues November 2009

Schools After considerable pressure on the County Council all children seeking an acceptable secondary school from September obtained a place. With the increases in housing in Wheathampstead and in the City & District generally obtaining places at both Junior and Secondary schools is likely to be an ongoing problem for many years. We will keep up the pressure but need the help of parents for them to put on pressure as well.

Roads Our surveys of potholes and highways and pavement problems show that the County Council is spending less in our village/district than in many/most others. We are pushing to rectify this. If you are aware of a pothole preferably contact County direct on 01438 737320 or Judy Shardlow as above.

Housing Developments Butterfield Road. The outline planning consent is still valid. Earlier applications for detailed consent have been refused. As at 12th November a new detailed application has been submitted. Do express your views. The district is required to build over 7,000 new homes and the regional office is trying to increase this number. Liberal Democrats are opposing this as to agree to yet more will encroach on our green belt and cause St Albans to coalesce with nearby towns.

Travellers After years of hard work and pressure the planning inspector has at last stated that the travellers on Lower Luton Road must move away. On a wider level Liberal Democrats continue to oppose attempts by region to impose more gypsy sites on our district. We already have more than any other Hertfordshire district.

Environment Judy is pressing hard regarding the desecration of woodland near "Badgers" on Cory Wright Way. Police are looking at possible legal action. We are working with all appropriate local organisations to introduce new safe cycle paths/routes. Our Green bin recycling work has now ensured we are best in the County with 55% of our waste being recycled. This saves large sums of money as well as The Planet!

Wheathampstead village centre and the local economy We continue to promote action to help shops and businesses in the village centre including efforts to bring to a conclusion the opening of Tesco Express (held up with procrastination by County Highways and Tesco themselves) and are pleased to help the Parish council and WEB to reinstate the old railway station as a tourist attraction. Sadly no trains! We are most impressed with the huge efforts by WEB a non political organisation we were instrumental in founding. The current team are most dynamic.

Cllr Chris Oxley is this year The Rt. Worshipful the Mayor of the City & District of St Albans. This is a non political and non executive role. However Chris continues to represent you and will be happy to deal with any/all your questions and problems. You can see what he is doing as mayor by logging onto the district council web site,