



PEOPLE FIRST

NEWS & ISSUES FROM YOUR LIB DEM TEAM

Stop Wasting Our Money!

Even in these difficult times, The District Council continues to waste our money on themselves while cutting services to the taxpayers.

Your Lib Dem team has been pressing the Council to cut out waste & useless spending but the Tories push on with their plans.

The District Council Press Office & PR department costs about £70,000 every year. Useless press releases pour out every day. In the old days, an officer with a real job could take five minutes to ring the Chronicle if something worthwhile came up. Now they use your money to employ press officers – all totally unnecessary for this small Council.

The District Council continues to publish their glossy “In Shape” magazine 3 times a year at a cost of over £30,000. This silly magazine should be cut immediately.

Cllr John Gilbert has called for this waste of £100,000 every year to be stopped & the money ploughed back into services. Last year the Council cut £45,000 from voluntary group budgets & halted any funding for pensioners minibuses.

He says **“let’s cut the costs of the public relations department & restore some real services”**



Greatness Clean Up

Town Councillor Merilyn Canet & District Councillor John Gilbert join the big Greatness clear up organized by the Greatness Residents Association and the Town Council in Summer 2010. Merilyn promises to repeat this saying

“it sounds like hard work but we all had great fun and piles of rubbish were cleared”

-Keep “The Lakes” Up To Standard-

Cathy Baker has asked the District Council to re-seed areas in The Lakes where the grass has all but gone and worn badly over winter with leaves & other debris blocking the light. Cathy says “The Bradbourne Lakes are a hidden treasure in the heart of Northern Ward & we must keep them in good order with simple jobs being well done. Some spring time grass seeding could help.”



Cramptons Road - HGV’s - for years residents have been asking for something to stop occasional rogue HGV’s trying to drive the full length of Cramptons Road. Lorries have to serve businesses at both ends but if they try to drive the full length it is just too narrow. Your Lib Dem team has secured funding from Sainsbury for new prominent signage at both ends of the road.

John Gilbert says **“this has been a problem for years and KCC have refused to do anything. Even this time KCC were going to let Sainsbury off the hook, but we pressed at the planning meetings & Sainsbury’s architect agreed that when they extend their store they will fund new signs so lorries use the main road only.”**

Cllr John Brigden is standing down as a councillor this year after representing Northern Ward on the Town and District Councils for 12 years. He said. "I have been very proud to represent Northern Ward during this time. I was voted back each time with a larger majority and hope that I have repaid the trust you all put in me – thank you"

As a councillor I fought for a speed reduction on **Bradbourne Vale Road, achieving a traffic calming island by Bradbourne Stables**. We have campaigned tirelessly for a fair deal for Northern Ward when it comes to Highways, Recreation, Planning and Community Safety. " I urge you all to turn out and vote on May 5th to ensure we continue to have proper representation in Northern Ward."

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HERE TO HELP



-Traffic Problems- Do you think there is a need for traffic calming measures anywhere round here? Let us know & we will push KCC for action.

-Crime & Police- We are concerned about the level of crime in parts of Northern Ward. Tell us what you think needs doing! - Telephone Write or Email

Quarry News

Every now and again we report back to you on what's happening at Sevenoaks Quarry, Bat & Ball – each time the news is bad – sorry!

When planning permission was originally granted the extraction of sand was to be followed up with a landscaped lake like Haysden Country Park in Tonbridge. Guess what – Tory KCC have allowed an extension for "The Dump"

- Do you know how much YOU pay them? -

The top three officers at the District Council earn £333,000 between them & by the time you add the standard cost of 24% for NI and part funding of their generous pensions, the cost to you the taxpayer rises to **£413,000 per year for just 3 members of staff !**

Cllr John Gilbert calls for restraint, saying *"while we need to employ good staff, the salaries & benefits of senior staff are just too much & the Tories have lost control. These people are not entrepreneurs, they are administrators. How can we ask pensioners on low fixed incomes to pay full Council Tax to fund such luxury salaries?"*

--Scrap The Evening Parking Charges--

Your Lib Dem team has called for all evening charges to be cut out & this forms part of our Manifesto. The income is small but the damage to local people large. Car Parking should not be seen as a cash cow.

SAVE THE MINIBUS PETITION

Please sign the petition & send it to the FREEPOST address below: We the undersigned call on Sevenoaks DC not to cease expenditure on the minibus service but to transfer the vehicles to other suitable organizations together with adequate finance to continue a service.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE

Can we Help?

Contact us at Sevenoaks Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST TN3442, No 8 Crownfields, Sevenoaks TN13 1EF