

FOCUS



Newsletter from Rushcliffe Liberal Democrats Spring 2013

Sharphill Changes - We said No

Last year the developers submitted proposals for Melton Road to “*result in a considerable reduction in construction costs*”. Instead of an underpass, the plans are now for **surface junctions with three sets of traffic lights**.

We disagreed with these earlier proposals because:

25% increase in accidents. The projected accident rate, which was 3.2 per year, would rise to 4.0 under the surface junction proposals. Notts County Council have decided that this is not significant enough to support an objection. We fundamentally differ.

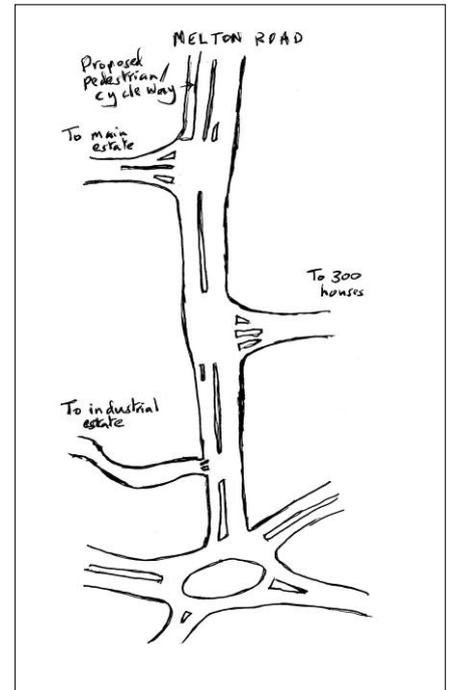
100% increase in delays. The projected delays for traffic moving along the A606, which was 30 seconds, would rise to 60 seconds under the surface junction plans. The proposed junctions are described as working within capacity.

Disregard of children and elderly. The reports give NO details of how children and the elderly will cross these junctions safely and in good time.

Lack of sustainability. The free bus service will not reach the residents of the 300 houses to the east of the A606. This disincentive to use public transport has not been acknowledged. No bus stops along the A606 are shown. Just one shared pedestrian/cycleway along the west side of the A606 is planned. Entry points into paths within the new estate and routes to schools are not evident nor analysed.

Recently a proposal has been submitted for a pedestrian/cycle-way on the west side of Melton Road to a pedestrian crossing near Village Street. We have commented about visibility and traffic speed.

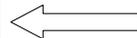
You can comment. The documents are on Rushcliffe Council's website under Planning ref:12/00883/VAR. (You may want to look beyond the first 8 which are about drainage; items 24 onwards are the newest items!)



Our hand drawing which shows the surface junctions



Melton Rd. The proposed signalised pedestrian crossing would be where the car is.



Melton Rd. Where the 3 proposed junctions with traffic lights would replace the underpass arrangement.



We remain vigilant and tell you. Your Liberal Democrat Councillors opposed the plans from the start.

Your Musters and West Bridgford Liberal Democrat Councillors

Contact us with views or help: Rod Jones 0115 914 6616 and Karrar Khan 0115 914 6758

Emails: cllr.rjones@rushcliffe.gov.uk & cllr.kkhan@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Visit www.rushcliffelibdems.org.uk

Focus Team - Working for you

Rushcliffe's Cabinet (Conservatives) give money to Notts County Cricket Club!



£730,000 The amount raised from residents in Green Bin charges in 2012 /13

£810,000 The amount of residents' money given to Notts County Cricket Club. [This is on top of the £900,000 which the County Council gave for a new scoreboard.]



Rushcliffe Conservatives have changed a capital loan to the Notts County Cricket Club into a GRANT. All Liberal Democrat Councillors objected. Now we love cricket e.g. Karrar was given a lifetime achiever award by the England and Wales Cricket Board. We recognise the special place of the cricket ground. BUT we think that there are other priorities, particularly during these times of austerity, than to subsidise a professional sports club.

Some time ago Rushcliffe's Cabinet lent a large sum to Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club towards the building of a new stand. Part of the deal was that the club would do some work with other agencies on a project to reduce youth crime in Cotgrave. Recently the Cabinet decided that the Club could keep £450,000 because crime had reduced - and to give another £360,000 over the next 4 years. The Conservatives called this hand-out an "**act of faith**" for continued services! The Police report major falls in crime all across Rushcliffe. The highest crime rate is in Trent Ward: where the cricket ground is located!

The Borough Council's act of generosity amounts to nearly £20 for each and every household in Rushcliffe. We believe that there are more pressing priorities for Council help. The money could be spent on building affordable starter homes for younger people or on helping local sports clubs. And now the Conservative leadership proposes to raise the Rushcliffe part of your council tax by more than inflation. We believe that the Conservatives should not be allowed to get away with it. Please remember this when the local elections come around. The Liberal Democrats continue to challenge this extraordinary use of public money. See <http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/media/rushcliffe/media/documents/pdf/councilanddemocracy/2012/december/20decpgd/Notes%2020%20December%202012.pdf>.



West Bridgford Hall

Rushcliffe Council is hoping to plan for the future of the Hall and are inviting expressions of interest. They want the public to be involved and to be aware of future proposals for the Hall. You can comment and find a survey at www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/bridgfordhall.

West Bridgford Owing Itself Rejected!

Our paper outlining the issues around a Town Council and requesting a public consultation was turned down by the Conservative Councillors at a Community Development Scrutiny Meeting.

Ward Boundaries in Rushcliffe will change from 2015. The Commission have just decided on 6 less Councillors. Musters Ward will include more residents.

GP's Mega Surgery

The £8 million project for the 5 surgeries (69 staff of whom 18 are GPs) into new purpose built premises goes ahead. The PCT backed it. The application scraped through Planning (Development Control Committee) on 12 December by 8 votes to 7. It was opposed mainly by local Councillors of all parties.

There were many objections to the flawed transport report and the consequences of the location on the Wilford Lane floodplain. An alternative on the Ambulance Station site was proposed by one resident with a design which could have taken 3 surgeries and been central.



Wilford Lane Mega Surgery.

The site is on the left – the hedge will go. Rivermead Flats are ahead in the distance

Being local matters to us

Street Lights

The County Council's scheme of replacement lights includes Musters, Harrow, Repton, Malvern and Haileybury Roads and Malvern and Haileybury Crescents. [On Patrick Road, the County Council are running a trial with LED street lighting.] We welcome this. The reinforced concrete pillars were tired; bits had fallen off and many were leaning.

The new lights are more energy efficient. Those on Musters are at 100 watts owing to modern standards for the width of the road, bus route and school. Those on others roads have reduced from 55 to 45 watts. The equipment used to switch on and control the voltage is more energy efficient.



The columns are higher than the old ones to comply with modern standards. The design of lamps reduce upwards and backward spillage of light, they increase the light and spread on the pavement.

In keeping with many other areas, columns are being installed to the rear of the pavement to avoid collisions with vehicles and provide better access for wheelchair users and pushchairs. This also provides better light for pedestrians and cyclists and a better visibility for vehicles leaving driveways. Columns may be sited to the front of the pavement in exceptional situations e.g. very wide pavements, where trees obstruct light, a bend needs to be lit or properties have cellars or no front garden.

Corporate Tax Evasion

Local Liberal Democrats want transparency and a level playing field for local businesses.

Starbucks, Amazon, Google, Boots, Vodaphone, Rolls Royce and others avoid tax in the UK by operating an office abroad. As part of preparation for this year's Budget negotiations, Liberal Democrats nationally are looking to introduce a minimum tax charge of 25% on multinationals on their global profits.

Cllr Rod Jones proposed to the December Council that the Leader should tell the Chancellor that we want firm action and stronger rules to stop the situation where firms do business here and do not pay tax. This was supported by all parties.

Reject Government's Proposal to increase Permitted Development Rights. We and all parties supported a motion to tell the Government that Rushcliffe opposes the proposals by Pickles and the Chancellor. To double the size for extensions and conservatories without planning permission would cause unnecessary disputes between neighbours and is unlikely to stimulate building or create jobs.

Lib Dems won the Eastleigh by- election

Liberal Democrats are trusted locally and trusted on the issues that matter to people: jobs, growth, protecting green spaces, taking the low paid out of income tax, best uprating of pensions and targeted money for schools.

Liberal Democrats' fairer tax policies

Vince Cable said "***Being in coalition with the Tories was 'not much fun'***", but he added: "It's necessary for our country that our parties work together at a time of financial crisis." We don't like many of the dominant Conservative policies in the Coalition but many original 'fairness' Liberal Democrat policies are part of the deal.

Cutting taxes for working families

The threshold before you pay income tax has gone up. 880,000 low income people were taken out of taxation and others will pay £700 less tax for last year. This Lib Dem part of the coalition deal will see increases each year to £10,000 when it will have lifted 3 million people out of tax altogether. Higher tax payers don't benefit.

Capital Gains Tax has been increased to 28% for higher rate tax payers. This will end the disgraceful situation where bankers paid lesser tax rates than their cleaners.

Pupil Premium has increased the allocation to schools in deprived areas.

Future State Pension Liberal Democrat Minister Steve Webb has introduced plans for a simple and improved state pension; bringing the self-employed in and requiring equal treatment to women and men.

Mansion Tax Liberal Democrats propose a "mansion tax" on expensive homes. We are the conscience of the coalition, restraining Tories from "looking after the super rich while ignoring the interests of the majority".

Being local matters to us

Looking after our area - interested?



Green Line Friends Contact Gary at GCragg@nottswt.co.uk

Green Line Friends

They are now a fully operational group. Why not join and find out? Contact Gary Cragg at GCragg@nottswt.co.uk.

Friends of Sharphill Wood

Working parties are on the 4th Sunday in most months; the next being Sunday 24 March, they meet at 9.45 a.m. at the top of Peveril Drive.



Friends of Sharphill Wood see www.sharphillwood.org

Rushcliffe Squash Club This thriving club based at Rushcliffe Leisure Centre is always open for new members. It offers coaching in squash, and **now, in an effort to include more women, racketball.** (Thanks to a community grant by Musters Ward Councillors).

Interested? Contact Neil Coles email: neilathome@ntlworld.com. tel:07973961034.

Great News - The New Library will open at 10am Saturday 16 March 2013.

This will follow the official opening on Friday 15 March. The building will also house a new youth centre (which will be used during the daytime by others) and a registrars office.

West Bridgford Summer Gathering is on Saturday 18 May in the Park. In addition to the regular contributors, young people will run part of the event. See: www.wbsummertgathering.co.uk

The Friary - Support for the Disadvantaged

Do you have an old working digital receiver box or unused fishing equipment or men's footwear or rucksacks?

The Friary (46 Musters Rd) can make use of them. Also donations of non-perishable and canned food are very welcome for making up food parcels. The next Second Hand Sales by the Friary are on Saturdays 11 May and 6 July 10-12.

Councillors Khan and Jones



We pointed out that the Boundary Rd crossing was wearing out with the volume of traffic. So it has been re-painted.

As local Borough Councillors we attend many Council meetings. We represent the interests of residents from helping spotting highway and lighting problems through to individual planning applications, appeals and many other matters.

We know our local area, the community and many residents know us.

We welcome contact from any resident and your views, suggestions and comments. We would like more people to help our efforts in the wider community in West Bridgford.

For our part we will keep residents informed about what we do and what we stand for. We issue Focus at least three times each year.

An increasing number of people also now receive occasional Community News updates by email. If you are interested - contact Rod Jones. 0115 914 6616 cllr.rjones@rushcliffe.gov.uk