

Care Homes to be closed



The Tory County Council have announced plans to close 7 of their care homes, including Gernon Manor in Bakewell, where there are some residents from the Matlock area. A public consultation exercise is being undertaken, until 24 April, details of which are on the DCC website. Comments can be made on line or by letter and email.

County Cllr Sue Burfoot says "These are all homes for elderly and vulnerable people and closure would cause disruption or even trauma to their lives. This decision need not have provoked a 'blame game' between the Tory and Labour parties, but it does beg the question as to why the necessary repairs were not carried out when required and if the repair bill has been over-estimated".

Dog fouling - the fight goes on



Councillors are frequently being lobbied about the continuing problem of dog fouling on our streets and footpaths and rightly so.

The District Council is offering to increase so called 'patrols' in the main 'hot spot' areas reported to them eg the Cavendish Road area and the footpath at the back of Sheriff Fields, along with the Trail alongside the railway to Rowsley. More signs have also been promised and officers are organising a two-week litter and dog waste campaign in May to highlight the problem, with residents taking part.

It is however noticeable that since most dog waste bins were removed by the District Council, some litter bins are overflowing with dog waste bags. Certain neighbouring Councils have



introduced dispensers for biodegradable dog waste bags alongside dog bins, so **Cllr Martin Burfoot** has suggested to the District Council officers that something like this should be trialled in the Dales, in a bid to encourage **all** dog owners to act responsibly.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points



One initiative already being funded through the government and Derbyshire County Council, to the tune of £200,000 in Derbyshire Dales, is the installation of charging points for electric vehicles, initially in the District Council's Edgefold Road parking bays. **Cllr Martin Burfoot** says "If we want people to buy and use electric powered vehicles, we will have to make it easier to charge their cars at a fair price, but there are still many questions to be answered". Government grants are available for this purpose, as well as for the cars themselves from the Government's Office for Low Emission Vehicles. Our Councils must also buy electric cars and vans for their own use.

Demonstration Against Climate Change

Like many towns and cities throughout the country, Matlock's Park Head hosted a Climate Change demonstration last month, organised by local students (Youthstrike4Climate) and Matlock4Climate. The Government has declared a climate emergency and so have the County, District and Town Councils, and the working parties have been formed to prioritise ways in which they can reduce their own carbon footprints, as well as trying to influence the behaviour of others.

Affordable Housing? Cawdor Quarry and the Apartment Blocks

Some developers seem to be doing their best to avoid building the number of affordable homes suggested in the District Council **Local Plan**, arguing the cost of overcoming problems such as contamination or surface water flooding. Developers are adept at interpreting rules to their advantage and local councils are not always successful when developers appeal against any refusal of planning consent.

An exception is the long contaminated Cawdor Quarry, which the developers will be forced to remediate. This makes it more expensive to develop than the greenfield sites in Matlock. Major reclamation works will be required in Cawdor before the remaining 400 or so houses can be built. That is why the Council, supported by all parties, had to agree to the building of four apartment blocks alongside Matlock Spa Road, in order to provide the developers with sufficient capital to commence reclamation of the main site.

This first phase, once completed, will be a high quality scheme of open market properties, close to local amenities such as Sainsbury's and even with its own smaller shop, all within walking distance of the town centre. We have been waiting for development in Cawdor Quarry for over 25 years, so failure to develop there would mean having to find sites for over 400 houses elsewhere in the area in order to satisfy the Government's stringent demands for more homes.

Cllr Martin Burfoot says "Obviously, the entire site has been colonised by tree growth and become a wildlife haven since being vacated over 20 years ago, so the sudden clearance works to prepare for nearly 500 new homes has been a shock to residents on Matlock Bank. However, in another 10 years, the present phase of the development will have become well established, along with high quality landscaping".



Police & Crime Commissioner Elections May 7th



Kate Smith from Crich is the Liberal Democrat candidate.

With only 1 in 10 crimes resulting in a charge in England and Wales, clearly all is not well in the battle to reduce crime.

Kate says "Liberal Democrats will bring back proper community policing, and ensure that officers are visible, trusted and known personally to local people. Police officers and PCSOs must have protected time to gather intelligence, forge relationships and expand partnership working with schools, youth services and other community organisations. Some of this collaborative work is already good, but needs imaginative expansion and a lot more Government funding".

M&S Frontage, Bakewell Rd - Re-Paving

The old concrete slab paving in front of M&S and Boyes is a mess and should have been re-laid as part of the Crown Square improvements some years ago. Unfortunately this was not done so now the surface has become unsafe for pedestrians and puddled in several places. Cllr Sue Burfoot has asked Highways officers to prioritise the re-laying of this vital stretch of footway in our town centre, but we await a definite commitment and timetable.



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