



A safe route at last

Cllr Sue Burfoot is pleased that re-paving of the well used public footpath between Dimple Road and Bakewell Road at the Premier Inn, along the top of Sheriff Fields, has been completed at last by the County Council. Sue says "This footpath is very important as a safe route to All Saints and Highfields Schools and bus stops, as well as the Arc, so the improved surface is welcome for all users". It is to be hoped that the surface will be well maintained in the future and vegetation cut back from the path edge.

Bone Shaker? Lower Dimple Road is still a 'Temporary Road Surface' following flooding last autumn when surface water surcharged from the roadside gully connections to the main drain and distorted the road surface. The extensive and costly work required has been confirmed to be the County's responsibility, but highways officers claim the road is not unsafe, so the work has to compete with other schemes for funding.

Good News - Road Repair Scheduled!

The recent wet weather has damaged our roads, but many residents agree with **Cllrs Sue and Martin Burfoot** that the top of Megdale was in an appalling condition, following the building of Barn Close and other drainage and water main problems. The surface was potholed and had subsided and County Council officers promised action for months, so re-construction of the surface by Severn Trent Water's contractor is long overdue.

Your Matlock All Saints Ward Focus Team

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Cut out and return to: Cllr Martin Burfoot, 12 Megdale, Matlock, DE4 3JW or email martin.burfoot@derbyshiredaleslibdems.org.uk

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Printed by CLD, Unit 39, Clocktower Business Centre, Works Rd, Chesterfield, S43 2PE. Published and promoted by Martin Burfoot on behalf of Derbyshire Dales Liberal Democrats all at 12 Megdale, Matlock, DE4 3JW.

on Matlock All Saints FOCUS



March
2020
No 172

Liberal Democrats - caring for our environment



The Floods

Following one of the wettest winters for some time, we can only hope for a drier Spring. The floods on 8 November 2019, after the September 2018 flood, left us wondering when it will end.

Thanks are due to District Council staff for all their out of hours assistance to residents and businesses in danger of being affected by recent flooding.

Cllr Steve Wain has been appointed as Matlock's volunteer Flood Warden and is working closely with the Environment Agency, Matlock Town Council and Derbyshire CC Emergency Planning to help ensure that our community is safer and better prepared for any future flooding incidents.

Steve says "Our town has had to endure a great deal over recent months, but we will make sure we are better prepared and more resilient in the future. I urge residents and businesses in flood zone areas to sign up for **flood warnings** from the Environment Agency website. You will then receive text or phone alerts when flooding is anticipated".

Some Facts In the November 2019 flood event, **Knowleston Place Pumping Station** was working at capacity, with no potential to increase its efficiency.

Levels in **Bentley Brook** have been rising over the previous 3 years, which is attributed to the development of green-field sites off Chesterfield Road. **(Source; Environment Agency).**

In the 2000 flood, before **Morledge** was built, the A6, close to the Premier Inn, did **not** flood, compared to last November, when about a metre of water closed Bakewell Road.

In a number of places recently, including **Matlock Green**, combined **sewers have been overloaded** and **raw sewage** has poured out on to local roads and beyond.

What lessons should we learn?

The County Council Report following the **2018** event attributed town centre flooding **not** to the river level but to **surface water run-off from the developed part of Matlock Bank and the land above it.** The Environment Agency are now working with the County Council (as Lead Flood Authority), who have informed the District Council's planners of their concerns.

We believe the evidence suggests that over-development of our greenfield sites is leading to additional surface water run-off, especially into **Bentley Brook**, which our **inadequate infrastructure is unable to deal with.**

Housing developers claim they can mitigate the water run-off, but evidence for this is not clear, as river levels have been seen to rise.

Matlock Town Councillors have been actively working to ensure that the concerns of residents and businesses are being recognised by the planners and their consultees, such as the County Council.

We call on our District Council planners and Derbyshire County Council to consider all the available evidence and put the health and well-being of residents first, by protecting us from over-development of the green fields above Matlock.