

## County Cllr Sue Burfoot challenges county leader over 'original' Ashbourne traveller site

At a recent County Council meeting, **Cllr Sue Burfoot** demanded to know when Cllr Simon Spencer, Highways Cabinet member at the County, will reveal his chosen route(s) for a long awaited Ashbourne by-pass and why they can't be promoted on the Council's website.

Local geography, confirmed by a Study carried out by the previous County Council in 2010, indicates that only one route, through Watery Lane, off Mayfield Road, could actually pass through the long approved District Council traveller site. The County Council own the land and say that they need it for the bypass. The traveller family wish to be accommodated in the Ashbourne area, despite Cllr Spencer's assertion that the travellers wanted to move to Tansley! It is obvious that the County's intransigence has resulted in Knabhall Lane at Tansley being put forward now.



**The blame for the failure to provide a site that is appropriate for the family lies with our two Tory run Councils.**

## Climate Change - Town Council takes action

**Cllr David Hughes** said "Matlock Town Council is working hard to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. A new contract for electricity supply to the Imperial Rooms means it will soon buy its electricity



from sustainable sources. Also, after an exhaustive search for EV vans that meet the Council's needs it has accepted that an interim measure is needed. Therefore, the Council is replacing its diesel vehicle with a hybrid van with much lower emissions of harmful gases".

These actions represent quick wins from a plan that involves reducing heating requirements for the Imperial Rooms, introducing a more sustainable heating system and supporting the community in reducing carbon emissions across Matlock.

## Matlock Town Council's sustainable planting

Mindful of the challenges of climate change, Lib Dem run Matlock Town Council has planted all town centre planters this summer with



**perennial** plants, using **peat free** compost. Given the late start because of Covid-19, the plants are now beginning to establish and should provide an attractive display next year.

**Would you like a postal vote? Just visit <http://www.yourvotematters.co.uk> or Tel 01629 761335**

## Planning free for all?



The Conservative Government has proposed changes to the planning system that would massively **REDUCE** the influence of local people and local councillors - YOUR elected representatives - on the decision making process.

These changes would completely alter how Local Plans are developed and how planning applications will be dealt with. Changes to planning law currently being consulted about would see Councils like Derbyshire Dales required to develop a completely new Local Plan, within 30 months of the new legislation becoming law. The plan would allocate land for development but not say what it could be used for. It would only have to satisfy a predefined planning code, and if it did, challenge to the development would be very limited.

**Cllr Martin Burfoot** says "While these planning proposals might be attractive to property developers and their friends, residents should be clear that they would effectively 'drive a coach and horses' through the planning system as we know it. Local councillors would find their ability to influence decisions on behalf of the people they represent massively reduced should the changes go ahead. The plans, as they stand, are ill thought out, yet the Government has the votes to push them through Parliament".

## Risk of autumn and winter flooding?

Matlock and Tansley are located within the Bentley Brook catchment and any increased flows impact on the viability of the Knowleston Place Pumping Station. In last November's floods, it was acknowledged that the pumping station was at maximum capacity, due both to the high river level of the Derwent as well as the large amount of run-off from the urbanised slopes above Matlock.



Recent greenfield developments are considered to have exacerbated these flows and the Environment Agency have finally agreed to undertake an area wide assessment of the Bentley Brook catchment. At a meeting with the District Council's planning officers and County Council Flood Team the Environment Agency stressed that **any future housing development must not lead to an increased flow in Bentley Brook.**

It is hoped that both councils will take note of this directive and consider the potential impact of future developments when assessing new planning applications, hopefully looking at their cumulative impact, rather than considering each site in isolation. Local residents and businesses demand protection from the effects of flooding and our Councils can make sure this happens.

**Cllr Steve Wain, Matlock's voluntary Flood Warden**, is urging people to be flood aware, following a relatively wet summer. He has been communicating with residents and businesses in areas at risk in Matlock, encouraging them to sign up for flood warnings and offering advice about how to be better prepared.



**Cllr Steve Wain**

Steve asks residents to report any blocked drains to Derbyshire County Council highways department via 'Call Derbyshire' on 01629 533190. If the drain is next to the pavement and it is safe to do so, clearing the top of the drain of leaf litter will help surface water flow where it is supposed to go.

To sign up for Flood Warnings visit: [www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings](http://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings) or call the Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

## Hurst Farm food box scheme

The 'Food for Friends' food box scheme launched on Hurst Farm estate, in conjunction with the Friends of Hurst Farm, has been a tremendous success and will run to the



end of October. The Friends group hope to extend a veg and fruit bag scheme provided sufficient interest is shown. **Cllr Paul Cruise** says "During the lockdown last spring Lib Dem District Councillors were pleased to work with the Friends group to support the launch of the food box programme and help make fresh produce and groceries available on the Estate, especially for those who were shielding.

## Hurst Farm Forest School



**Cllr Helen Legood**

**Cllr Helen Legood** has been fortunate to be selected, along with other Hurst Farm residents, for the Forest School training in and around Hurst Farm and Lumsdale. Helen says "I have walked the many footpaths over many years and

eaten blackberries, made jam from damsons and elderflower cordial from the flowers alongside. I hope the Forest School will teach me more foraging skills and survival in the wild, as well as day to day living. Once the adults have been trained there will be a great opportunity for young people to learn about the great outdoors. Exciting times ahead!"



**Liberal Democrats - caring for our environment**