

Care Homes to be closed



Gernon Manor in Bakewell

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

Many residents continue to express concerns about dog fouling and it has become increasingly noticeable that since most dog waste bins were removed by the District Council, many litter bins are overflowing with dog waste bags, along with public footpaths, including



the Trail alongside the railway from Bakewell Road (Premier Inn) to Rowsley. This proves that the demand by responsible dog owners is not being met, and that an irresponsible minority of dog owners are to blame for the problem in the first place.

Some neighbouring Councils have introduced dispensers for biodegradable dog waste bags alongside dog bins, and this may be trialled in the Dales in May, in a bid to further reduce dog fouling.

Coronavirus Councils Close Down

All our local councils have cancelled all meetings for the foreseeable future, in line with Government advice. This is a sensible move, in order to protect both members and staff.

However, Liberal Democrat councillors have asked what arrangements are to be made to make important decisions, in particular planning applications, for which democratic accountability must be paramount.

Liberal Democrats - keeping you in touch with local issues

Electric Vehicle Charging Points



One carbon reduction 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 Edgfold Road car park. The County Council has already installed

charging points at County Hall and purchased a fleet of electric cars.

Cllr David Hughes says "A move to an electric fleet is a start and proposals for more car and lift sharing being considered by the County Council could also reduce emissions as well as traffic congestion and on-street parking. Comprehensive action will be needed by all councils to eliminate carbon emissions and the County as well as Matlock Town



Council now have frameworks in place, but the District has yet to provide any staff resources to coordinate the effort needed. Action taken by our councils will only affect a tiny proportion of the carbon emissions produced in Derbyshire, so the County and Town Councils are hosting public meetings to spread the word. There are also many questions still to be answered, not least how to fund the changes needed".

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.



Road Issues at Tansley and Starkholmes

Cllr Sue Burfoot continues to argue the case for solutions to speeding traffic on the **A615** through **Tansley** and for a safe crossing point for pedestrians including children. This will be particularly important if further new houses are approved off **Thatcher's Lane**.

Sue has written to the County Council Cabinet members for Childrens' Services and Highways, expressing her concerns and those of residents. Hopefully they will agree joint action to make this road safer before anyone is seriously injured. Sue has had some success close to **Highfields and St Giles schools** after a meeting with a Highways officer and concerned parent governor. Sue says "Agreement was reached for the repair of footways, cleaning of road signs and correction of the timing of the flashing lights".

Sue has also had many meetings with residents and highways officers to find solutions to road safety issues at the top end of **Starkholmes Road**, in the vicinity of the 'Give Way' signs at the 'pinch point'. After two years the promised white lining has finally been done, but residents feel the effect is 'underwhelming'. The County Council are due to install another 'black box' monitoring device to record the number and speed of vehicles, but Sue says "This must be done during a period of heavy use and where agreed by residents. The safety of everyone in this area is of paramount importance, so I will continue to press for solutions".



Hurst Farm Regeneration - Brilliant News For Matlock



Cllrs Helen Legood & Paul Cruise

Liberal Democrats fully support the Friends of Hurst Farm and all the work they are doing at present. The Social Club committee has accepted plans for the first stage of its refurbishment, with the outside structure due to have a facelift to make it more pleasing to the eye. Work to upgrade the toilets, bar and extra rooms available for hire is also to go ahead. We hope a further grant application, being put forward for the Club, is successful.

Cllr Paul Cruise says "It's exciting times for the Community Centre and the Social Club building with this development and for the wider Hurst Farm regeneration project. With Lib Dem colleagues I will continue to support the local community to realise the Club development scheme, as well as the wider regeneration of the estate".