

14/11/24 Derbyshire Dales Lib Dem AGM

Report of County Councillor Sue Burfoot ( Matlock Division)

Derbyshire County Council, under the Tory Leadership, continues to be a cash strapped council , with an estimated deficit of more than £39 m for the 24/25 financial year. Savings are unlikely to meet this deficit and as such the Council has, and is , continuing to implement tough savings proposals which affect the elderly, the disabled and children – in other words the most vulnerable in our society.

Today, the 14<sup>th</sup> November, the Cabinet members of DCC have met to approve the closing and selling off of 9 care homes and the closing of day centres for the elderly. One of the care homes is The Leys in Ashbourne.

Much consultation has taken place with overwhelming opposition to these closures.

The next move will be to end over £1 million of funding for community and voluntary groups, including those who provide advocacy, befriending services and social activities. Again the most vulnerable in our society paying the price.

As a Lib Dem group of 4 on the County Council, out of 64, we continue to challenge what we believe to be the unfair cuts, citing the Councils waste of money on projects such as the Sinfin deal with Derby City Council, money spent on the Elvaston Castle masterplan which is likely to be withdrawn, excessive use of expensive consultants etc.

DCC continue to sell off assets, many of them in Matlock including the controversial selling off of the former playing field/ car park at Cavendish Road listed as an asset of community value.

My case work continues to be road safety/highways dominated. Issues include speed management, residents parking schemes, traffic calming. In September I met with our new MP John Whitby, with members of Tansley PC to discuss traffic safety issues in Tansley and in particular the request for a crossing on the A615. Mr Whitby was sympathetic and supportive but I am yet to hear from him as to what action if any he has taken.

On a positive note, the 20 or so TROs in Matlock have now been implemented ( after more than 5 years) and I have received very little negative comments bearing in mind that all Orders were agreed with safety in mind.

Very recently, our group supported a motion criticising the cut in the Winter Fuel Allowance. The Labour group sought unsuccessfully to amend it . This was political posturing by both the Tories and Labour of the worst kind! Both Ed Fordham , our Group leader and myself spoke in the debate.

County Council elections take place in May 2025 and it is vital that we field a full complement of Candidates in Derbyshire Dales and hopefully elect many more Lib Dem County Councillors both in the Derbyshire Dales and the County as a whole.

Sue Burfoot County Councillor Matlock Division