



Seasons Greetings from your Focus Team

A personal thank you from Anna Curzon



At this time of year many people tend to take out a little time to pause and reflect. I am no exception and as I look back over 2007 I feel a great sense of pride and gratitude.

You can never say thank you too many times. So I make no apology for yet again expressing my appreciation for all your support. I live in the ward and walk the streets of Halton View on a daily basis and hardly a day goes by without somebody stopping me to share their thoughts on what needs doing or simply to offer some words of encouragement. Many of you will also be aware that since May we have been busy visiting all the voters in the Halton View area. Lots of you will have met either me or one of my colleagues. This has been a great chance to listen to your concerns and get to know you better.

As you speak to me one thing is clear, you want a change. The results from last May highlighted this fact because the overwhelming majority of voters in Halton View do not want Labour. Since the election of 2006 support for the Lib Dems has grown all over Halton and if this trend continues we will be in a good position to make a real difference in next years local elections.

I would like to finish by wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a Happy and rewarding New Year.

With every good wish.

Anna Curzon.

Ps Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to speak to me but were not in when I called.

Telephone 0151 422 0873

email anna@haltonlibdems.org

Anna's Ward Issues

Crow Wood Park and The Bongs

Those of you who are regular visitors to Crow Wood Park and to The Bongs will be painfully aware that the area has become a popular place for the local youth weekend party. Dog walkers and families with young children are regularly met by a sea of glass and general vandalism to the park. Recently the swings were burnt and there has been a huge problem with wheelie bins being set alight.

Local people living adjacent to the park have complained of vandalism and rowdy behaviour affecting the enjoyment of their property. The Police have been made aware of this problem and are treating it seriously. I have personally seen them patrol the park area in the evening when hordes of teenagers have climbed over the gates. Whilst not condoning such behaviour it cannot be denied that there is not that much happening for Youth in our local area.

Through my contacts with the local Police I have been informed that a project is planned for an internet café at Warrington Road nursery and there are also talks about providing a sheltered area of the Bongs near the bridge. For these schemes to work they must receive support from the local community.

Moorfield Road

At the weekends the parking situation at Moorfield Road near the Sports and Social Club tends to be horrendous. I have raised this issue on your behalf on many occasions. The official line from the Police is that as long as there are no parking restrictions there is not a lot that can be done. This does little to solve the problem and I share the same fears as many of you. The Sports and Social Club provides a real benefit to the community and are keen to live in harmony with their neighbours. We all need to work together to try and find a solution to this problem.

Council Tax

Happy New Year? Well that depends. Watch out for another large council tax increase next year, courtesy of the Labour Party. Halton can expect another poor settlement from the Government. Increasing social costs and an aging population mean that once again the Council will have a tough job finding cuts to keep the increase in line with inflation.

Liberal Democrats Give You Service and Action - All Year Round !



The Liberal Democrats have continuously asked for an increase in the kerbside collection of recyclable materials. So it is no surprise that we welcome a trial involving 6000 Halton householders. If it is successful the scheme will go borough wide in two years.

In the trial, householders are asked to put cardboard, plastic, glass bottles and cans with paper into their recycled paper bin which will be collected fortnightly instead of monthly. The existing weekly collection remains unchanged. All the material collected in this new scheme is being sent to a recycling plant outside the borough.

Local Focus team member Anna Curzon welcomed the plan. "This is great news for everyone who is concerned about the environment. It will also relieve the pressure on the local recycling sites such as The Crows Nest Pub and Johnsons Lane".

Post Office Closures

As we feared the government plans have been announced for three Post Office closures in Halton. There are two in Widnes -Hale Road, and Appleton Village- and one in Runcorn, Stenhills.

The Lib Dem Focus Team believes that local Post Offices are an essential part of our community and should be protected. The Labour Government has systematically withdrawn services e.g. TV License renewal adversely affecting their viability.

Anna Curzon local Focus team member is passionate about local services and sees the Post Office as vital. She had this to say "Whether you are collecting a pension, applying for a passport or just buying some stamps, our post offices are there for us. But all this will change if Labour gets their way. The Government's new post office closure programme will mean the loss of another 2500 local post offices across Britain. Several are expected to close in our area". She continued "I am urging people to join the campaign to keep Post Offices open before it is too late. I believe we must act now to save our post office network. The last Conservative Government closed 3500 post offices. Labour has already shut 4000 more. These new cuts will decimate the remaining network. I believe we need more post offices where needed - not more closures".

The Lib Dems want to invest in our post office network to give local customers a better deal. We believe that post offices should have a bright future. Please contact your local Focus team via the Freepost address on this leaflet to express your support to keep Post Offices open.



Building Schools for the Future (BSF)

The second stage of consultation has just finished relating to secondary school provision in Halton. The proposals have been revised following feedback from the first exercise and the setting up of a cross party members group.

The proposals for Runcorn are to build new schools for The Heath and Halton High, explore options for a shared faith school for St Chad's and the setting up of an all-through school for The Grange. In Widnes rebuilds will take place at The Bankfield and Wade Deacon. Saints Peter and Paul will remain. But Fairfield High will be closed and this has caused a great outcry.

Anna Curzon has been active in the Widnes campaign to scrutinise the Councils proposals and remains highly sceptical. "I am uncomfortable on a number of issues. Firstly I am not a fan of large schools; secondly the implementation of a zone that splits the town into two and removes choice runs counter to my liberal ideology. There are real concerns over the statistics used to develop the plan and also funding under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) needs to be carefully scrutinised". Anna continued "No one can tell us what is going to happen to the land on the Fairfield site if the school closes. The way things are going it looks as if the plans are now going ahead but it needs very careful management. Children only get one chance at school and we need to make sure that the transition arrangements are properly managed".

Get in Touch

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