

From your local Liberal Democrat Councillors



Above: the site at Ettington that will be used for sorting the re-cyclable household waste. Neither this site nor the one at Ufton - to be used for the 'in vessel composting' of kitchen and green waste - were ready for the start of the new waste contract. So in the meantime waste for re-cycling is being hauled to Walsall for sorting.

The County Council said the reason the Ufton site wasn't ready was because they hadn't been told it would be needed at the time the Conservatives agreed to the new waste contract!

Parking plans slammed

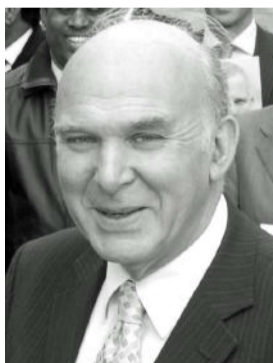
Lib Dem Councillors have refused to back proposals put forward for parking in Stratford.

The plan includes higher parking charges for residents and has as one of its main aims 'to improve the financial viability of the Stratford Park and Ride'.

Charges for both on and off street parking could rise considerably, with the number of spaces in the centre of Town being significantly reduced.

Lib Dem District Councillors voted against the proposals because they felt that overall the parking needs of local residents and businesses had not been properly addressed. The whole approach had been a revenue raising exercise, without properly consulting local people.

However the Lib Dems do support the proposal to make Arden Street a short term car park. This would make it easier for residents to use it for the hospital, avoiding the heavy charges in the hospital car park.



Above: Vince Cable, Deputy Leader of the Lib Dems and ex Chief Economist at Shell. Many commentators say he has been right on all the major economic issues.

Lib Dems call for tax cuts

Tax cuts for hard pressed families and those on lower incomes would be the Lib Dem priority, promised Nick Clegg at the party's national conference in September.

His aim is to boost the economy by cutting taxes from the bottom up. Identity Cards and some defence spending no longer relevant to the needs of today's armed forces would be cut and there would be a switch to pro-green taxes.

Locally the Lib Dems have always been the party pressing to keep Council Tax low. Since they took over the running of the District Council in 2000, the Conservatives have more than doubled the district's Council Tax. 'With inflation

at its present level, times are hard for many people. The Council has a duty not to make things harder. Council Tax should be kept as low as possible', said Cllr Hazel Wright, Leader of the Liberal Democrats on the District Council.

Rubbish!

'FIASCO' AND 'AN UTTER SHAMBLES' were just a few of the words used by a local paper to describe what happened with the changes to the Council's household waste collections. The Lib Dems have demanded an enquiry by the Council into why things went so badly - and expensively - wrong.

Cllr Hazel Wright, Leader of the Lib Dems on the District Council, said, 'it's vital to increase re-cycling but it doesn't help when changes are introduced with so many problems'.

Problems included -

- three changes of plans in as many months
- both the units intended to take waste for re-cycling - at Ufton and Ettington - weren't ready.
- not enough wheelie bins, with thousands of households having to wait to move on to the new system.

The Lib Dems believe residents should have been consulted before changes were made. But the Conservatives thought they knew best. Even simple suggestions from the Lib Dems were voted down - such as asking someone from Warwick Council to come and talk to Stratford about the lessons they had learnt when they changed to wheelie bins earlier this year.

And there are more changes still to come:

- in November green garden waste collections will stop
- in April the weekly collection of the grey bin will become fortnightly and the fortnightly collection of garden waste will start again, with kitchen waste to be added to it in alternate weeks.
- smaller bins will be made available in the new year - but only 'small' households with no more than two residents can have them!

Fiasco really isn't too strong a word to use when it comes to the new refuse collections...

...the constant uncertainty on the Council's part, the persistent changes, the total confusion, the sheer lack of public communication displayed throughout, it is an utter shambles.

Editorial in The Stratford Observer, 17th July 2008.

If you want to register to have your bins changed for smaller ones (120 litre, versus the 240 litre current bins) please call the Council on 01789 260925.

This swap will be free until the end of March, after which the Conservatives have decided to charge £15 for each swap.

Below right: Kate has been checking out the proposals for the KES playing fields.

The District Council is expected to refer the planning application for a holiday retirement home to MADE (Midlands Architecture and the Designed Environment). MADE is the regional architecture centre in the West Midlands supporting and promoting excellence in the designed environment.

Kate believes the proposals are unacceptable. She said, 'this is effectively a three storey building on a green open space. It would completely change the character of the area and lead to a significant increase in traffic in a residential area'.

KES plans meet stiff opposition



£317,000 spent on bridge

Now that the bridge over the Avon is not going ahead, the Lib Dems have been told that £317,000 was spent on costs that will have to be written off.

The Conservative leader said that the bridge had been cancelled on cost grounds. Several Tory Councillors are claiming that, 'at long last your local Conservative councillors have been listened to'. We'd hoped that it had been cancelled because at long last the Conservatives had decided to listen to what residents wanted!

Stratford's 'historic spine'

The Lib Dems believe that one of the best ideas to come forward for phase 2 of World Class Stratford is the 'historic spine', being promoted by the Stratford Society, amongst others.

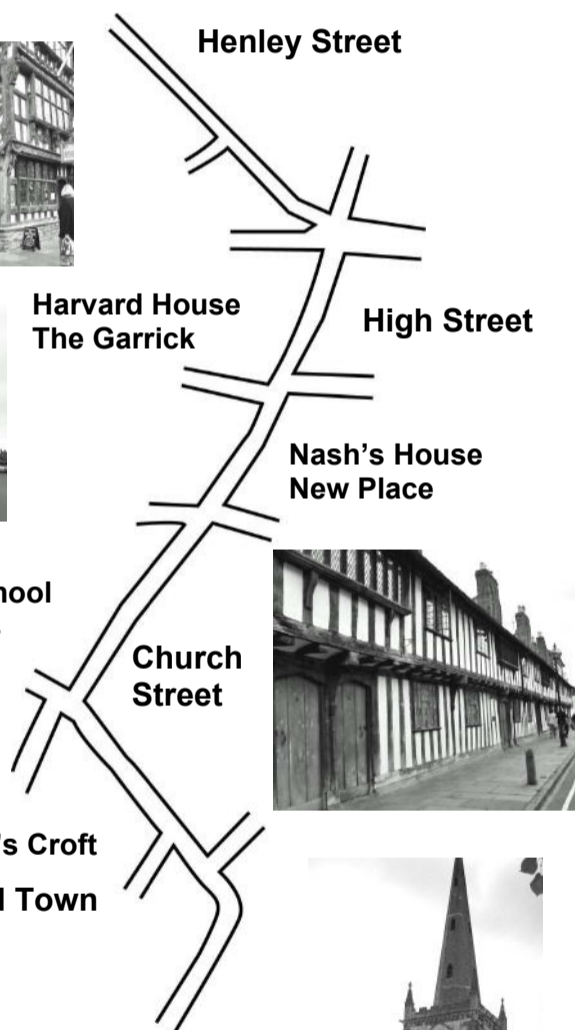
This would highlight and improve the central area between Shakespeare's Birthplace in Henley Street and Holy Trinity Church. This route contains many of Stratford's finest buildings. With improved shop-fronts, more sympathetic lighting, de-cluttering and better pavements and pedestrian access, we believe this could be a striking feature – benefiting both residents and visitors. And it shouldn't cost too much and some parts could be done quickly.

Below: the walk from the Birthplace to Holy Trinity passes many of Stratford's historic buildings.



**Guild Chapel
Grammar School
Alms Houses**

**Hall's Croft
Old Town**



**Harvard House
The Garrick**

**Nash's House
New Place**

**Church
Street**



Above: the 'historic spine' of Stratford includes many of Stratford's historic sites. But walking the route at the moment often means walking along poor quality and crowded pavements with cluttered views.

Simple changes could result in a much improved walk that could be enjoyed by residents and tourists.

Where now for Phase 2 of World Class Stratford?

Phase 2 of World Class Stratford is now being planned and the local Lib Dems are pressing hard for lessons to be learnt from Phase 1. The Bancroft and the bridge clearly show how things shouldn't be done.

Advantage West Midlands has provided money towards re-developing the theatre, which is a key part of the Town's tourist attractions. However, we mustn't lose sight of the need to attract long term, well paid employment. With the national economic picture growing worse the Lib Dems believe it's essential for the District Council to re-launch its Economic Development Unit, abolished under recent Conservatives cuts.

One single, simple plan

For the next phase the Lib Dems want all the proposals pulled together in a single, simple plan, so that residents can see the whole picture in a joined up way. We're keen to see the energy and experience of local groups used productively. It seems a waste to keep paying for consultants when local voluntary groups could be used. Why not let 'Stratford in Bloom' provide planting schemes? The Stratford Society has a wealth of talent to draw upon.

For Phase 2 residents must be properly

consulted and invited to play their part – especially on any plans put forward for the Recreation Ground. The Town Management Partnership, the RSC and others are doing excellent work looking at festivals and activities to enliven the Town. We're determined to make sure these happen without over-commercialising the Rec.

Don't concrete the Town

The Town's Urban Design Framework sets out long-term proposals and contains some good ideas but much of it depends on attracting developers. We don't believe that should be taken as a license to concrete the Town or allow unlimited development in unsympathetic design.

But ultimately whatever happens must be acceptable to the majority of residents. It looks as though the money from the cancelled bridge project could still be available to the Town. What would you like to see done as a priority? If you have views please let us know by filling in and returning the coupon below.

Let us know:

What do you think World Class Stratford should be tackling next? Lucy's Mill bridge and traffic were mentioned by many people in the Lib Dem's survey of views on the 'bridge', but do you have any other suggestions?

From: _____ address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Please send to Lib Dems, 55 Ely Street, Stratford CV37 6LN or reply through our website: stratfordlibdems.org.uk. Thank you.

The Liberal Democrats may contact you from time to time with information that we think may be of interest to you. Some of these contacts may be automated. Please write to us if you don't want to be contacted in this way.

Maples climate U-turn

Local MP John Maples has made a dramatic U turn, stating that he no longer feels that climate change is an urgent issue and not as drastic as many scientists and environmentalists claim.

His comments came as he announced that he no longer supported the Government's Climate Change Bill, despite previous promises that he would 'push to make it stronger'. He cites former Tory Chancellor Nigel Lawson as his main reason for changing his mind. The U turn has astonished local environmentalists. Martin Turner, Stratford Lib Dems' parliamentary spokesman, described the changes as 'baffling'.

On the District Council the Lib Dems have persuaded a Council meeting to reiterate the Council's aim of reducing its carbon footprint and supporting the inclusion on the Council's website of a link to allow residents to find out their own carbon footprint.

(Go to: www.stratford.gov.uk living in the district / environment / carbon footprint)

TRINITY MEAD RESIDENTS

Kate will be holding a Councillor's surgery for residents of Trinity Mead on:

**SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER
from 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
at St Peters Mission on Manor Road**

Please come along and discuss any problems you might have. If you wish to discuss something and are unable to be there, do call Kate on 01789 550624 or e-mail kate.rolfe@stratford-dc.gov.uk

SECURITY FOR THE ELDERLY

Our local Crime Prevention Officer will be available to talk to residents about personal safety and security in the home:

**TUESDAY 21ST OCTOBER
between 1:30pm and 3:30pm
at St. Peters Mission on Manor Road**

The information will be particularly important to those who live on their own. If you are unable to attend please let Kate know and she will make sure the information gets to you. If you need a lift please call Kate on 01789 550624.

Your local Lib Dem Councillors



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