

BAGSHOT - SOLD DOWN THE RIVER?

CONCERN as Notcutts development gets go ahead

Finally the decision has been made. The land around Notcutts Garden Centre on the A30 is to become the site of a new estate of 182 houses built by Charles Church. Unnoticed by many, the Planning Committee met on the day after the August bank holiday and the application went through. The Committee brushed aside the fears of many Bagshot residents that the plans may not allow enough capacity for run-off water in heavy rain. On 20th July many areas of Bagshot saw the worst flooding in recent years. Guildford Road was closed and a number of businesses along the High Street were flooded out – several for the third time in 3 years. The ditch along the railway embankment overflowed and part of the Notcutts site became a muddy pool, the waters reaching up into the gardens of houses on Chapel Lane and totally filling the central area of St Mary’s Gardens.



Local Lib Dem campaigner **Cllr Meurig Williams** is concerned there will be more flooding on and around the Notcutts site (here) like that seen in July (inset).

Liberal Democrat Councillor Meurig Williams attended the committee meeting to speak up for Bagshot people. He fought to have the drainage plan brought back for detailed discussion by the Committee, but this was refused. He did succeed in getting agreement that all the Bagshot Councillors will be included in the discussions when this comes to be signed off.

Cllr Williams said: “Issues of such importance must be looked at in the open. Public scrutiny is essential if local people are to feel confident their interests are being safe-guarded. The Labour Government is trying to tell us more houses will have to be built in flood plains. How many of those MPs would be happy for their own families to live there?”



Bagshot Library is doing well following its reprieve last year (pictured).

Borrowers Up at Bagshot Library

In March last year the future for Bagshot’s library looked bleak. The Conservative County Council once again had set out plans to close it, but Lib Dem Councillors and the Bagshot community rallied round and fought for it and a reprieve was won. An official Friends of Bagshot Library Group has

been set up, which has started holding monthly Coffee Mornings. In September, Rhyme Time sessions for toddlers will begin, and later a Story Time for Older children. Now we hear from Rose Wilson, the Area Manager, that the number of active borrowers has gone up this year by 20%!

High Street Crossing to Come Soon!

If you've lived in Bagshot for long you'll know how hard it can be just to get across the High Street at busy times. Well, relief is at hand.

Liberal Democrat Councillors and many others have fought for a safe crossing for 15 years and at last the money has been ring-fenced in this year's County Council budget. So the end is in sight for those heart stopping dashes across the street in between a seemingly endless stream of fast cars. The crossing won't be lights-controlled however.

Local resident Ruth Hutchinson, said "It's been really bad for people with young children, and the older folk who aren't as quick on their legs as they used to be."



Local residents Ruth Hutchinson and Shirley Wheeler are delighted that Bagshot High Street will finally get a pedestrian crossing after a 15 year campaign.

Two Crashes in A Week on Whitmoor Road



Lib Dem Councillors **Meurig Williams** and **Joan Bailey** inspect the wall damaged by a car in Whitmoor Road.

Lib Dems are calling for action after a local resident witnessed two crashes in a week on Whitmoor Road.

Lib Dem Councillor Joan Bailey, who has trained for the Community Speedwatch programme, has been recruiting volunteers in Bagshot. She said "This is one of the worst places for speeding in Bagshot along with Guildford Road. "Not all drivers speed but at certain times of day it can be dreadful."

Local resident Margaret Williams said: "This has persuaded me to volunteer for the project. I used to be worried there might be a risk of road-rage from angry drivers but PC Adrian Passmore, in his surgery at Bagshot Library, assured me this does not happen. Now I'm waiting for a call to attend the training."

Volunteers are still needed - please ring Joan on 473049 for more information.

HELP US TO CAMPAIGN FOR BAGSHOT

I would like to help the Lib Dems campaign in Surrey Heath...

- I can display a poster at elections
- I can help with clerical work
- I can deliver *Focus* in my area
- I can make a donation of £_____

(A donation of £9 or more entitles you to party membership. If you do not wish to join tick here)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Give us your ideas on the traffic situation in Bagshot. What will help make Bagshot safer?

RETURN TO:

Bagshot
Lib Dems
FREEPOST
GI3420
Camberley
GU16 5BR

Bryan Ward

Councillor Bryan Ward is very unwell as we go to press and unable to deal with Council business. We are sure everyone will wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

Contact Us

By phone:
01276 476117

By e-mail:
info@surreyheathlibdems.org.uk

Published & promoted by Surrey Heath Liberal Democrats
Stella Maris, 22 Waverley Road, Bagshot, Surrey.
Printed by Alphaprint, 156 Maybury Road, Woking, Surrey

Published & promoted by Surrey Heath Liberal Democrats, Stella Maris, 22 Waverley Road, Bagshot, Surrey, GU19 5JL
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