



UPDATE: APPLICATION TO BUILD ON LAND OFF EVINGAR ROAD REFUSED - WHAT DO LOCAL RESIDENTS WANT INSTEAD?



Lib Dem Campaigner Steve Neilson talks to Local Residents

What Residents Want

Local residents have told Steve Neilson **“We don’t want developments like this. We want smaller homes for youngsters and in sensible places.”**

What was proposed

The application by the St. Cross charity was for up to 70 dwellings, with an additional 4200sqm of space allocated for business development. The outline plan proposed the development on land to the west of Ardglan road, extending south from the railway and north from Caesars Way. Had the application gone

ahead it would potentially have significantly added to the peak time traffic in Evingar Road. The outline plans also show the potential for a new access in to Caesars way.

What next?

Because of delays and procrastination by the Conservative led Local Authority and Whitchurch Neighbourhood planning committee there is currently no adopted or approved Local Plan incorporating a Neighbourhood Plan for Whitchurch. This leaves the way wide open for opportunistic developers to apply for development **against the wishes of Whitchurch residents.**

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - WHERE IS IT?

Background

The Whitchurch Neighbourhood Plan area was designated on 22nd March 2013. The Neighbourhood Plan’s own website says “It is estimated that the process of putting the plan together will take 18-24 months” but work on the plan has dragged on for three years so far. The website says nothing about when it will be ready for a referendum and the calendar has nothing on it for this month at all.

How are Oakley and Deane Doing?

By comparison the Oakley and Deane Neighbourhood Plan Area was not designated until 24th July 2014. Their plan has already gone through checks for compliance with the rules and will be voted on by the people of Oakley and Deane in a March 2016 referendum.

Why is Whitchurch so far behind?

Instead of getting on with the planning once we had the go-ahead, the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee spent ages setting up a huge bureaucracy for storing and handling data. Several of the original volunteers dropped out of the team. Without consistent

leadership, Whitchurch has fallen behind in the race to adopt a sound plan on which to resist demands for too many houses to be built in the wrong places.



Lib Dem campaigner **Steve Neilson** says:

“It would appear that private development companies are deciding where houses will be built. Locations for many of our allocated 350 new houses have now been decided without regard for the views of the people of Whitchurch. Our Town and Borough Councillors have fought off some bad developments but without a plan in place they often get overruled by inspectors on appeal. Worse still, developers then claim legal costs from the Council, our money. Developer led planning is not good for the Town.”

Community Action - Litter Spring Clean



The Whitchurch Association promoted a 3 day community litter pick over the 1st weekend in March. The event was also supported by Mayor Barry Jackman representing the town council. The initiative was choreographed by

Barry Carter who did an excellent job organising the collection teams and arranging subsequent disposal. The teams consisted of volunteers who mainly came from local walking groups and got involved to clear roads and paths in and around Whitchurch town centre. It was a fantastic effort resulting in 56 large bags of litter being collected plus other sundry items.

This article is provided as community information. The Liberal Democrats have no direct or implied connection with any of the organisations or people mentioned.

STEVE NEILSON

Lib Dem Campaigner

Supporting the Local Community



Volunteer Driver



Getting Stuck In with the Litter Picking



Helping with a Community Orchard Planting

Conservative Cuts - Could they affect You?

What's planned?

The Conservative Central government are planning unprecedented cuts in funding for council grants this year. As a consequence, the Conservative led Borough and County councils are planning to **increase** your council tax from **April 2016**. They claim the increase is needed to protect front line services, but don't want to say if the additional tax raised will fully offset the central government cuts until after the local elections in May.



Where is the axe going to fall?

However you dress it up, the most likely impact will be to:

- Services for vulnerable children and young people.
- Support for the frail and elderly.
- Roads and Neighbourhood upkeep.

Any cuts are very likely to limit quality of life and diminish support for all but the most urgent and extreme cases which manage to achieve a high public profile.

Why is this happening?

A large part of the problem is the current Conservative government is suffering a £multi billion shortfall in uncollected tax revenue because

of aggressive tax avoidance by **International business, Hedge Funds and extremely wealthy individuals**. These organisations and individuals are **not contributing their fair share** relative to the amount of business they transact in the UK. As a direct consequence, **local front line services are in jeopardy**.

They claim they aren't doing anything wrong, but in reality are playing the system at **all our expense**.

Most of the burden for funding local services falls on the shoulders of individual tax paying citizens and SME businesses limited to operating within the UK. Aggressive tax avoidance is a pernicious and pervasive danger threatening the fabric of a civilised society!



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