

**SUMMER
2014**

FOCUS

**Whitchurch
and
Hurstbourne Priors**

www.whitchurchlibdems.org.uk

“Thank you for your confidence”

Keith Watts re-elected to Basingstoke & Deane Council

Following his re-election, with an increased majority, as Borough Councillor, **Keith Watts** said “ I am grateful to the people who voted for their confidence in me. I will continue to work hard, listening to what people have to say and exercising my judgement in the best interests of Whitchurch and Hurstbourne Priors.

“We face some interesting challenges. The Local Plan for Basingstoke & Deane is to be submitted for an Examination in Public by a government Inspector.

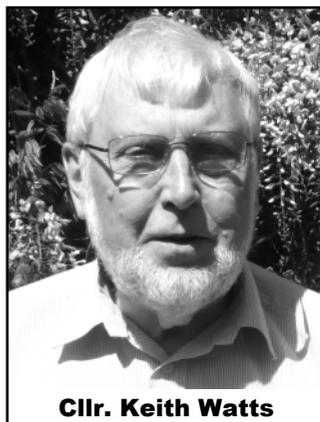
“Land owners and property developers are sure to press the government to say that we must plan for more new homes than we think we need.

“Here in Whitchurch we must decide what improvements to traffic management and parking are necessary and make sure that money paid to the councils by developers is spent here.

“We must also ensure that schools, open spaces, community buildings and the local surgery are brought up to the standard needed for the future. I will take the lead in making this happen.”

ELECTION RESULT 22 MAY 2014

1033 (55%) **Keith Watts** Liberal Democrat
469 (25%) **Tom Thacker** Conservative
203 (11%) **Simon Hession** UKIP
182 (10%) **Colin Phillimore** Labour



Cllr. Keith Watts



Catherine Bearder MEP

Catherine Bearder re-elected to the European Parliament

Following the re-election of **Catherine Bearder MEP**, the Liberal Democrat member of the European Parliament for South East England commented:

"I'm delighted to be elected to represent the people of the South East once again.

"The Liberal Democrats fought a strong campaign driven by our values, as a party that at its core is unashamedly pro-European. It was always going to be difficult trying to overcome so many decades of anti-European sentiment but we do not regret it and remain proud of our principles.

"Where other parties have sought to exploit people's fears we have continued to make a positive case for the importance of staying in the European Union.

"I will continue to work to represent all the South East in the European Parliament."

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“So, what do you think of the 20 m.p.h. pilot scheme?”

By Keith Watts

When 20 m.p.h. signs began to be put up in Whitchurch without warning I was keen to let everybody know that this was not done by me nor the Borough Council. I thought it was the job of Hampshire County Council to explain their “pilot” scheme to local people.

Later, a local person told me that I should tell people what I think about it anyway, so here goes. I think a pilot scheme is a good idea to allow people to make up their minds. But if I was running it I would

- begin by telling people what was going to happen through leaflets and meetings
- say how long the pilot would run for
- say what would count as success



Wind farm plan rejected



The application for a “Wind Farm” comprising fourteen turbines, each 125 metres tall, on land crossing the boundaries of three Council districts near Bullington Cross, was rejected by the three Development Control Committees.

Four of the turbines were proposed to be in Whitchurch. Local Councillor **Eric Dunlop** explained that he voted against approval of the scheme for several reasons, including :

- That the Clock Barn wedding venue would be severely affected, if

not put out of business completely, by the construction of these giant turbines.

- That the local area selected for the Wind Farm was too beautiful an area to sacrifice for financial gain.
- That the interference with the Chilbolton Observatory Radar was not acceptable .
- The aviation dangers that had been described by Popham Airfield and the Ministry of Defence could not be ignored.

Party politics plays no part in planning decisions.

- make a single pilot 20 m.p.h. zone instead of changing the speed limit here and there all over Whitchurch
- set up a ‘post box’ so that people could let me know what they think about it.

Hampshire County Council haven’t done that.

Now the Liberal Democrats want to know what you think. Fill in the form below and send it to FOCUS Editor Steve Neilson.

Working for you at Basingstoke

Eric Dunlop, a Lib Dem Borough Councillor for Whitchurch, has been reappointed to the Licensing Committee, the HR Committee and the Development Control Committee (which deals with planning applications). Fellow-councillor **Keith Watts** has been elected Chairman of the Council’s Scrutiny Committee.

Council still set on dumping public lavatories

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council is set to close its public lavatories in Whitchurch. An unfortunate employee has the job of trying to persuade pubs and shopkeepers to open up their loos for public use.



Keith Watts says “The Borough’s slogan is **Pride in our Place** but no-one can take pride in a place with no public toilets.”

OPINION POLL ON 20MPH

- Tick the comments that you agree with
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am against 20 mph limits altogether | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 mph is good for some local places |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Whitchurch is not suitable for 20 mph | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 mph is good near schools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All of Whitchurch should be 20 mph | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 mph is good for housing estates |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 mph is good for narrow streets |

Name(s)

Address

Telephone Email

If you return this slip the Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you have provided to contact you from time to time about issues we think you may find of interest. Some of the contacts may be automated. You can opt out of some or all contacts at any time by contacting us.

Return this form to Steve Neilson, 31 Hartley Meadow, Whitchurch, RG28 7BW or to Liberal Democrats, Freepost NAT6149, Whitchurch, Hants, RG28 7BR