

FOCUS

Edition: 39



www.peterboroughlibdems.org.uk

SOUTH WERRINGTON & NORTH GUNTHORPE RESIDENTS' NEWSLETTER

"Working All Year Round"

TEAM CONTACT DETAILS:

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Useful Numbers:

* Police: 0845 456 456 4
* Street Lighting: 453523
* Abandoned Vehicles: 425338
* Noise Complaints: 747474/425300

DON'T FORGET! Come along to Cllr Fower's ward surgery. Every second Friday, of each month, from **6pm to 7pm** at Brookside Methodist Church. (With Police!)

HOW CAN WE SPEND YOUR MONEY?

It's that time of year again! Tell us what you would like us to spend Cllr Fower's share of the Community Leadership Fund (C.L.F) on? The C.L.F, is money attributed to each electoral ward, by the City Council, for anything that can be considered a one off expense and that does not normally come under the remit of the **City Council**. The amount Cllr Fower has is **£3,333** and we want your ideas!

So basically, is there anything you would like to see introduced to this area, perhaps a flowerbed or a bench?

All suggestions welcome!
Please contact a member of the **FOCUS team** (details above) or email
CLF@peterboroughlibdems.org.uk

**Working All
Year Round!**

NEW FOCUS EDITOR FOR YOUR AREA

Local residents can expect even more fresh and well thought out ideas, along with action over the coming months, according to **Cllr Darren Fower**, after local resident and existing **FOCUS** Team member, **Richard Olive** accepted an invitation to become Editor of the **South Werrington** and **North Gunthorpe FOCUS** newsletter.

Richard, who lives in **Beauvale Gardens**, has been a local **FOCUS team** activist for several years and lent his support to several campaigns, including litter picks, tidy ups, resident surveys and research projects into Council failings in this area.

Commenting, **Richard** told us, "**Liberal Democrats** believe residents have the right to be listened to and be involved in local decision making. We believe in balance and openness. The other two major parties are firmly placed in their 'Boxes', **Lib Dems** and your **FOCUS Team** on the other hand want to know about the issues that concern you and need attention.

"We are the only 'All Year Round' party and we do not rely on people outside the area to fund us, instead we communicate our hard work through the superb support of volunteers and I intend to give my all to this area, which has supported me and my family so well!"

Nip Bits:

- **Richard** was previously employed as an architect by Peterborough City Council and helped in developing the city, during its growth period of the 1970's.
- **Richard** is married, with a family and is also involved in several local voluntary roles.
- **Richard** has lived in this area for many years.
- Former **FOCUS** Editor, **Sheila Walsh** will continue to be part of the **FOCUS Team** and will be working on several projects in the coming months, continuing to make sure the City Council are listening to local

ARE YOU STILL MISSING OUT?

Hundreds of people have already signed up to the **FREE** and **REGULAR E-FOCUS** Newsletter? You can too!

Simply email, E-FOCUS_SWNG@peterboroughlibdems.org.uk and get the news for this area before your neighbours.



BITS & BOBS

- There are now new road markings making the T-junction at **Edinburgh Avenue** safer.

- Problems with graffiti, in the footpath leading from **Ainsdale Drive** through to **Pipistrelle Court** have been reported to local police and the City Council.

- By February, residents in **Ripon Close** and **Barnes Way** can expect to have a new road surface. Hopefully, problems with the footpaths will be fixed later in the year!????

- The **FOCUS Team** have designed, launched and in need of your help, by lending your support to 2 on-line road safety campaigns (1) **Lincoln Road** – Visit <http://campaigns.libdems.org.uk/LincolnRoad> and (2) **Gunthorpe Road** – visit <http://campaigns.libdems.org.uk/gunthorperoad>. It takes ten seconds to lend your weight to the argument, so please do!

- Following a request from local police and in support of efforts from **Norwood School**, the **FOCUS Team** have been successful in getting the Council to reintroduce no-parking road markings outside the school entrance along **Coniston Road**.

- **Cllr Darren Fower** remains the only one of your 3 councillors for this area who has been out with local police, to discuss matters that affect you!

- The **Lib Dem FOCUS Team** and **Cllr Darren Fower**, are happy to report that police have agreed to make speeding along the **Gunthorpe Road** and anti social behaviour in and around **Edinburgh Avenue**, two of their 3 community prioritise, over the coming months. The decision was taken at the December **Police Panel meeting**. For the record neither of your "Independent" nor **Tory** councillors attended.

- Whilst objections were made by **Cllr Fower**, the **FOCUS Team**, alongside those from residents and primarily as a result of the Councils planning committee failing to make a firm decision. The planning application for 7 flats at the bottom of **Amberley Slope** and **Storrington Way**, has been given the go ahead ☺. The committee is dominated by **Tory** Councillors, who neither live in nor represent this area!

- The **Tory** council have failed to act on calls from parents, residents, police and local schools for road safety measures along **Gunthorpe Road**, according to members of the **Lib Dem FOCUS Team**, who argued the **Tory** administration should have introduced road safety measures, as part of the multi-million pound work on the

LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER: **FOCUS** Editor, **Richard Olive**, has welcomed the news that, your **Lib Dem** ward councillor, **Darren Fower** has another success under his belt. The Councils Environment Committee have agreed to act on his calls for a working group to be set up, to respond to concerns about learner driving routes in this area. Commenting, **Richard** said, "Many residents raised this issue with us and even though he received no support from the **Tory** councillor for this area, **Darren** still took the issue to the Full Council, presented it as a formal motion and succeeded getting the matter referred to the Committee. It is another example of the **FOCUS Team** listening and acting on resident concerns. The Working group are also intending to look at problems resulting from Light Goods Vehicle (LGVs) learning schools as well.

Cllr Darren Fower added, "This is not about blaming anyone. It is about realising the need for proper planning and preparation, for the benefit of this community and learner driving schools, accordingly."

COUNCIL BUDGET £££££

Just before this edition of **FOCUS** went to print, **Peterborough's Tory** council leaders published details of their budget proposals.

Once again they are proposing a 1.4 per cent increase in Council Tax but this will be accompanied by **£3.5 million in budget cuts**.

Unfortunately, like last year, they are not giving enough details of where the axe will fall. Last year they cut school uniform grants, proposed closure of workshops for disabled people, chopped the landscape management budget by £320,000, cut grants to the citizens advice bureau and massively increased fees and charges. They said the cuts would have no impact on services - but the reality was different.

Already lined up for next year are new charges for day care for elderly people - a move opposed by pensioner groups in the city and even by the **Tory**-dominated council Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel. Who knows what else they have got up their sleeves?

FOCUS Editor **Richard Olive** said: "Given that they can apparently make such massive cuts without any impact on services, surely means that they must have been running a pretty wasteful and inefficient council up until now?"

● Meanwhile, **Lib Dem** councillor **Darren Fower**, along with his colleagues is trying to force the **Tory** council to say how it will fund its waste incinerator project. Council leader John Peach has published a decision to build the incinerator but has put almost all the financial detail in a secret annexe to the report. Expenditure of £58 million on waste facilities is proposed, which could make a massive hole in council finances.

Darren said: "We need more openness from the City Council. The Tories should be open about the council finances, especially in relation to waste management and the highly controversial incinerator. The council is a public body accountable to the people of Peterborough, not a secret society!"



"Um... perhaps we need to stress the green a little more, and the Tory a little less"