

FOCUS

Edition: 50



www.peterboroughlibdems.org.uk

"Working All Year Round"

SOUTH WERRINGTON and NORTH GUNTHORPE RESIDENTS' NEWSLETTER

TEAM CONTACT DETAILS:

- **Councillor:** Darren Fower
- **FOCUS Editor:** Richard Olive
- **Tel:** 570238 or 573813
- **Mobile:** 07932 021 349
- **Email:** SWNG_FOCUS
- [@peterboroughlibdems.org.uk](mailto:peterboroughlibdems.org.uk)
- **Ward website:**
- www.campaigns.libdems.org.uk/SWNG
- **Post:** Cllr Darren Fower, 92 Swale Avenue, Gunthorpe, Peterborough PE4 7GT

Where's the cash?

Lib Dem councillors have called on the city council to explain what is happening about recovering millions of pounds of local taxpayers' money 'invested' with failed Icelandic banks.

Werrington councillor Darren Fower said: "The council continues to tell us that we will receive the majority of our deposits back but we in the Liberal Democrat group are not so sure.

"There remains considerable uncertainty about overall recoveries and timescales.

"The council is already budgeting for cuts in service and staff. The estimated overall loss to English authorities is somewhere in the region of £140 million and I am fearful our local authority will have even more reason to take the knife to services in our city."

USEFUL NUMBERS

- * **Police** – 0345 456 456 4;
- * **Street Lights** - 453523;
- * **Abandoned Cars** – 425338;
- * **Noise Complaints** – 747474;
- * **Council Tax** – 452258;
- * **Drains** – 863766;
- * **Elections** – 452249;
- * **Road Maintenance** – 453585;

BAD PARKING AT SCHOOLS

The city council has sent out a press release, following a request from local Liberal Democrat councillor Darren Fower, reminding drivers about the legal consequences of parking illegally when taking children to and from school.

The request came after Darren received complaints about parking by a minority of parents on double yellow lines while dropping their children off at school.

Pupils are at risk of being injured or killed outside city schools with car owners ignoring zigzag road markings and yellow lines. Drivers who do not comply with zigzag markings can be issued with a £70 penalty charge notice.



Clair George, road safety officer for the SaferPeterborough partnership, said: "Stopping on the yellow zigzag lines puts children's lives at risk. The markings are there for a purpose and provide a clear area in which children can cross more safely.

"We have distributed leaflets and posters to schools, with information about road safety including the importance of keeping off zigzag markings."

Robert Saunders, parking services manager at Peterborough City Council, added: "Most schools have yellow zigzag markings and signs to inform drivers when to keep them clear.

"Civil enforcement officers have the power to impose a £70 penalty charge notice. Officers patrol schools at random and also respond to specific complaints."

BUS SERVICE ACTION

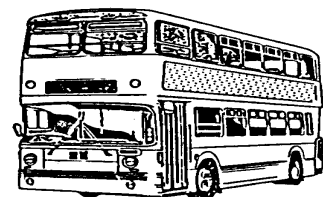
Two determined ladies from Werrington recently took their fight for a better bus service right to the top by taking a bus journey with local councillor Darren Fower, a senior council officer and Stagecoach's head of operations for Peterborough.

The reason for this mini bus-tour by the two residents was to raise concerns about the standard of the service and the need for seated bus shelters along the village section of **Church Street** for people with physical disabilities.

The number 1 bus has some 12-14 buses operating along it each morning. However, after 9:00 pm the service is funded by the city council as Stagecoach does not deem it profitable enough to maintain. The council has been forced to step in and hence the service is not of the same standard as in the morning.

Lib Dem ward councillor Darren Fower said: "I'd like to thank Stagecoach and the council for attending this event and thank the residents for raising their concerns. The council and Stagecoach have given us hope that issues will be resolved and we can improve the bus service for residents in Werrington."

It is now also hoped that local residents will be consulted on a plan to see at least one new bus shelter introduced within Werrington village.





DARREN REJECTS PARKING PERKS

Local Liberal Democrat councillor Darren Fower has handed in his parking permit because he believes councillors should give up some of their perks during the recession.

Councillors are given a permit that allows them to park for free, for as long as they like, in any of the council-owned car parks. The cost of a similar pass for citizens would be more than £900 a year.

Darren has made the gesture to encourage colleagues to give up some of their perks at a time when the recession is leading to cuts in services and job losses.

More than 50 councillors use the pass and Darren believes the authority could save almost £50,000 a year if the free members' parking scheme was scrapped.

He said: "Given that we are still in a recession, and that hundreds of council employees have lost their jobs and council tax went up again this year, I have decided to hand my expensive perk in.

"It is wrong that elected members should expect to receive this perk at a time when so many others are having to cut their cloth accordingly.

"I realise that some elected members will say that they only use it when they are on council business. However, I'm aware of councillors in the past using it when they go to do their personal shopping, or their partners using the pass when they drive the car."

Darren hopes his actions will also inspire his council colleagues to go green and give up their cars, helping Peterborough move one step closer to becoming the UK's Environment Capital.

He added: "Over the last year or so, I have made a conscious effort to use the bus or cycle. I now no longer use my car at all.

"As a city council, we are supposed to be aspiring to become the Environment Capital. Keeping the car parking pass sends out completely the wrong message."



Cllr Darren Fower – cycling to meetings

ALLOTMENT WAITING LIST

It seems it will be next year before residents waiting for an allotment on land between **Fulbridge Road** and **Storrington Way** can start on their new plots.

Local Lib Dem ward councillor Darren Fower, who recently visited the site, says there are around 60 people on the waiting list.

Earlier this year the council announced plans to expand the present allotment site. The land for the additional plots has now been turned over but council officers say that it will be after April next year before the plots are ready to be rented out.

Darren said: "The way we get our food, the levels of stock and waste incurred presently is not sustainable. The council has got to buck its ideas up. It needs to look at ways of expanding the number of allotments in the city, rewarding those who already grow their own food and providing incentives to encourage others to do the same."

FENCE REPAIR NEEDED

Residents in **Brookside** (off **Fulbridge Road**, **Werrington**) contacted the FOCUS Team about vandalism to a fence and gate that lead onto a nearby playing field.

The damage to the fence has resulted in access to the site becoming easier and led to vandalism of the former changing rooms building and litter being left all over the field.

Local Lib Dem councillor Darren Fower has now taken this issue up with the city council and the Voyager School. He commented: "If the school or local authority are not willing to fund proper supervision of the site, then at the very least there needs to be proper fencing."

PATH CLEARED

Local councillor Darren Fower is very happy to finally see action taken by the city council to remove the illegal barrier in the footpath from **Pipistrelle Court** to **Ainsdale Drive**. The barrier was preventing users of pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility vehicles from using the path.

WARD 'SURGERY' DATES

Speak to **Cllr Darren Fower** at one of his regular 'surgeries'. **Come along** to either:

Brookside Methodist Church,
Gunthorpe Road

Time: 6pm – 7pm Date: 3rd Friday each month

or

Werrington Village Centre,
Church St

Time: 6pm – 7pm Date: 1st Friday each month