

FOCUS

March 2008



"Working All Year Round"

www.peterboroughlibdems.org.uk

Aster Drive, Larkspur Walk, Aubretia Avenue, Camelia Close + Blackdown Garth – SPECIAL EDITION!

TEAM CONTACT DETAILS:

Focus Editor: Richard Olive

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Address: SWNG FOCUS Team,
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Useful Numbers:

* Police: 0845 456 456 4

* Street Lighting: 453523

* Abandoned Vehicles: 425338

* Noise Complaints: 747474

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!) For further details visit: www.flocktogether.org.uk

HAVE YOUR SAY!

FOCUS Editor, local resident and activist, **Richard Olive** is asking **YOU** to have your say on planned housing development, described by developers as "eight executive four and five-bedroom homes in the peaceful village of Werrington", to be set south of the **Aster Drive** (see map).

Richard told us, "*The development will have an impact, additional cars and an entrance/exit to Aster Drive, at the very least. The Lib Dem FOCUS Team have worked hard to guarantee this goes before the Councils planning committee. This means people can have their opinion put forward to the committee.*"

Give us your views:

* See contact details above.

DEVELOPMENT LOOKS SET TO GET GO AHEAD



YOUR LIB DEM FOCUS TEAM – WORKING HARD FOR YOU!

A planning application for 8 dwellings to be built just off the turning into **Aster Drive**; was "pulled"; last year; just before it could be heard by the Council's planning committee, as had been requested by your local **Lib Dem** ward councillor, **Darren Fower**. The developers caved into pressure to from local residents and the **FOCUS Team**, regarding the positioning of planned homes in relation to existing dwellings, possible impact on existing garden foliage and a failure to include measures to provide suitable levels of road safety and waste removal.

However, a new application was submitted at the end of last year, which until Liberal Democrat intervention, was due to "swim through" without residents getting a say! While the so-called "Independent" (ex-Tory) and Tory councillors for this area, did nothing, **Lib Dem** ward councillor, **Darren Fower**, demanded the application be heard at the Councils planning committee (due to be held on 1st April 2008).

For nearly a year, your **FOCUS Team** kept their promise to 'call in' the application, ensuring it be heard by the Councils planning committee; raised public awareness of the scheme; instigated several site visits and maintained discussion with other interested agencies i.e. community groups, senior colleagues and residents. Commenting, **FOCUS Editor, Richard Olive** said, "*Here we go again! The Tory Council content not to give people their say! We on the other hand believe people deserve a chance to comment, before any 'nod' is given. Sadly, it seems none of the homes will benefit local first time buyers.*"



(Cllr Fower reviews plans alongside a council officer during a site visit.)

STILL QUESTIONS OVER FEASIBILITY OF DWELLINGS

Your **LIB DEM FOCUS Team**, led by **Richard Olive** and supported by **Cllr Darren Fower**, have registered their continued concerns regarding this latest application. They have now spoken with the Council officers and have said that they are still concerned by the latest proposals.

Highlighting the following needs:

- A communal household waste collection point facility
- Removing about 20% of the verge (on the right of the architects drawing) just after the entrance, to provide two visitors' parking spaces.
- For the city council to introduce double yellow lines along at least one side of the road, round until the first T-Junction.
- For developers to guarantee more foliage within the properties' garden areas, helping prevent soil erosion, providing habitat for wildlife, fertilisation of the earth and protection from elements.

HOUSING OPTIONS?

Did you know that the **Peterborough Liberal Democrats** are the only political party on the City Council to actually have a policy on local housing?

Peterborough Liberal Democrats

believe in:

- * Working to increase the provision of affordable rented housing and seeking to use legislation to bring empty homes into occupation.
- * Recognise the need for Peterborough to expand and to create more housing for local people and their families. However, such expansion must be at a rate that is economically and environmentally sustainable.
- * People should be able to find jobs within a reasonable distance of their homes and have access both to a sustainable transport infrastructure and to green open space of high biodiversity value.

PLEASE NOTE These are just a handful of suggestions that the FOCUS Team have received from residents. So if you have a comment, Richard and Darren want to hear from YOU!

FOCUS Editor and local resident, **Richard Olive**, told us, "If the Lib Dems managed this City Council, like nearby Cambridge City, we would run things differently, I can assure you.

"For example, I would like to see applications granted only if they clearly are clearly proven to be working toward carbon neutral properties, include a fixed percentage of affordable housing and developers make a financial gesture to the direct community, in whatever forms is appropriate.

"Sadly, this city council is presently controlled by the Conservatives. This means that the rules and regulations are different. Because there are only 8 proposed properties, there is no obligation to include any affordable housing, nor is there a requirement to include a section 106 contribution, i.e. a financial gesture to the community for something that will benefit them, paid for by the developer.

"Instead, it appears that the main benefactors of this project will be the developers!"

Aster Drive Planning Application:

Q: Will the council's planning committee hear this planning application: **Yes**

Q: When is the planning committee taking place: **1.30pm, Tuesday, April 1st**

Q: Can I have my views presented to the committee: **Yes, simply contact Richard or Darren.**

Q: Who actually did the work to ensure that this application was 'called in': **Members of the Lib Dem FOCUS Team**

