



FOCUS CASTLE WARD DECEMBER 2009



Ward Councillors



Jim Tootle



Olwyn Luckley



Colin Farmer

Response Cards

Together with our Lib Dem councillor colleagues in Dalston and Morton wards, we pay for our Focus Newsletters from our own pockets.

But to help to make this a two-way dialogue, the Lib Dem Group has now taken out a licence with the Royal Mail and have produced post paid, pre-addressed response cards with a common postal address. You will see that there is one of these cards in this Focus.

The response in the Dalston and Morton ward was very encouraging and we hope that we will see the same in Castle. Please do write to us if you have concerns that we can assist with.

WARD ISSUES



Mardale Road and Brookside Junction

The shrubbery at this junction has become very unsightly. Also, needles have been found within it, a danger, particularly to children. **The Lib.Dem. Councillors** have requested a tidy up, with bushes to be removed and the area to be flagged to remove the problem and safeguard the children.

Flytipping

This is a continuing problem in the City. All three Councillors have reported several incidents over recent weeks. **There is no excuse to fly tip.** There is a free tip at Bousteads Grassing and the Council will remove large items for a small charge. **Illegal flytipping affects the quality of life for us all. Please report any sightings to the Council or our selves.**

Last month, the councillors used some of the ward budget to increase the number of cigarette and chewing gum disposal boxes in the city centre in an effort to reduce this litter problem,

HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENTS

Howard Place

At the request of residents to **City Councillor Olwyn Luckley**, the parking signs in Howard Place have now been painted black to correspond with those in nearby streets and the new lighting columns. The feed back is favourable.



Lowther Street

County Councillor Jim Tootle reports that developments in regard to the traffic volume in Lowther Street are progressing. The Highways Authority, i.e. the County Council, plan to install barriers along the centre of the highway in Lowther Street which should improve safety for pedestrians in this busy street.

The Two Way traffic in Warwick Road prior to the Spencer Street junction is planned to be made permanent. When this was introduced last year concerns were expressed by residents. However, since the introduction the feedback from Warwick Road residents is mainly supportive. Also, it does appear that the volume of traffic in Chiswick Street has benefited from this change. Nevertheless, the Councillors wish to consult residents on this, perhaps you would let us know your opinion.

Head Street/Leatham Street – Car Parking

There are extra difficulties for residents in both streets in relation to car spaces. **County Councillor Jim Tootle** is progressing with the County Council, his suggestion that part of Canal Street could be made into a car parking area available to Caldew Lea School. If this suggestion proves successful, it could relieve to a considerable extent, the problems in both streets. Also, adding to the

difficulties for residents is the need for disabled parking. With the support of **City Councillor Olwyn Luckley** and a Resident who has a disablement, disabled parking marking, will soon be in place in Head Street.

Olwyn says thanks to all those in Duke Street who moved their cars recently so the street gullies could be cleaned. Parked cars so often prevent this vital work being carried out.

The question of possible parking meters has cropped up in debates about on-street parking. Again, we would ask if you have a view on such a scheme in your area, we would be pleased to hear.

CASTLE WARD EAST

Back Lane parking

People visiting the centre of the city often park in the back lanes of roads on the edge of the city centre. This can cause great inconvenience to the residents and we are tackling this with the help of the police and the City Highways section. **There has been success in this joint working, but if back lanes in your area are subject to this problem, please get in touch.**

On a more general note, we have concerns about the state of several pavements and walkways, due to **uneven paving slabs**. In law, there is a recognised limit, to which they are allowed to protrude, beyond which the Council is required to relay them. We would appreciate if you can help us to identify them across the Ward and will take it up with the Council. Perhaps you could use the response cards to let us know.

The Sainsbury Planning Application, Caldewgate

Studies have shown that a major development such as Sainsbury's proposes, can be a cornerstone in regeneration, possibly attracting other investments into an area. This is of special significance in Caldewgate. Employment in the 16 to 19 age range is disproportionate in supermarkets but we must explore **all opportunities for youth employment**. It can make a huge difference to young lives. We would love to hear your thoughts on this subject

November Floods - Update

Although the heavy weather experienced in November affected mostly West Cumbria, businesses on the Willowholme Industrial Site, Castle Ward, also experienced its affects.

The new Flood Defences did their job, but due to the extra volume in the public sewerage system, the Willowholme Sewerage



Plant was unable to cope and flooding occurred in the nearby business premises.

An urgent meeting was called on the Friday following the flooding, attended by Councillor Colin Farmer, Councillor Olwyn Luckley and City Council officials.

It was agreed that a further meeting was required with United Utilities, the owners of the Sewerage Plant. **That took place in early December and Olwyn is pleased to report that the representatives of United Utilities not only apologised for the affect on their neighbours on the estate, but also pledged to start in January an extra pumping equipment project, previously planned to start next July and to keep on site the temporary piping brought to the Sewerage Plant as a result of the flooding.**

They also promised to keep in regular touch with the businesses, the residents of the Showmens' Guild sites and the Councillors.

And Finally,

IN COUNCIL

The Council is now entering the 2010/11 Budget process. **The parlous state of the Government's finances is being severely felt at Local Government level, with the prospect of damaging cutbacks in the Government's support grant to Local Councils. All Local Councils depend on this for almost 75% of their income.**

Since about 60% of the City Council's revenue costs are staff related, this is driving the agenda for a comprehensive reorganisation of the staff and management teams and shared working arrangements with other local authorities in Cumbria. The purpose is to take costs out whilst maintaining front line services. The Liberal Democratic Group wish to see those services that the community value and require retained and in particular those that support the most vulnerable people in our community.

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