

Bathavon South FOCUS

...covering Freshford, Hinton Charterhouse, Monkton Combe, Midford, Shoscombe, South Stoke, and Wellow.

Number of seats
on B&NES
Council
Only the Lib Dems
can beat the
Conservatives here!
*Others = 5 Labour
and 3 independent
councillors*

**LIB
DEM
26**



**CON
31**

**Others
8**

Edited by Cllr Neil Butters and Bathavon South Lib Dem Team

Autumn 2009

Community shop brings village together

The long-awaited community shop in Freshford is open for business!

It's the culmination of three years' of campaigning and organisation to create a new shop for Freshford and Limpley Stoke. It's called "Galleries" because it was built on the edge of the Galleries Field in Freshford.

Former Lib Dem Councillor Gitte Dawson, who started the project and has taken it all the way through to completion, said:

"We have come a long way! We explored every other option first – but in the end this was the ideal location and a new building the only option. The fundraising, organising, building, decorating and sourcing of supplies have already brought the villagers together like no other cause! Our shop has become the focus of our community."

The shop will follow the well-tested model of a community shop, with a paid member of staff - shop manager Christine McKenzie, and some 60 volunteers.

It is hoped that people from near-by villages will frequent this shop.

Freshford's temporary, two-mornings-a-week Post Office will move into the new shop in September.

But the plan is to sell stamps all week.

What will be shop sell? All villagers were given the chance to say what they wanted the shop to stock. Main themes are fresh local produce and organic, free range and Fairtrade products; but also the basics at affordable prices. Porridge, marmite, muesli and bird food were high on the list! Newspapers, wine and beer, local crafts as well as honey, jams, greeting cards, vegetables and fruit produced by locals will also be stocked.



Success: Cllr Neil Butters, Lib Dem Parliamentary Candidate (NE Somerset) Gail Coleshill and Bath MP Don Foster visit the shop during its construction.



Achievement: Cllr Neil Butters with project manager Gitte Dawson, volunteers and residents outside the new shop (photo courtesy of The Bath Chronicle).

And don't forget Bathavon South's other great, existing community shop - The Parlour - in Wellow.

For more information visit: www.wellowparish.info





Save Our Mobile Libraries

Lib Dems have reacted angrily to the possibility of B&NES cutting the mobile library service route to thirty-five villages in North East Somerset.

If the proposals go ahead, five parishes in Bathavon South will be without a mobile library service: *Hinton Charterhouse, Monkton Combe, Shoscombe, South Stoke and Wellow.*

The Council claims the proposals will make the service more attractive to users by having fewer stops and longer periods of time spent at each location.

Gail Coleshill, our local Parliamentary Spokesperson, said: **"I have been speaking to residents in these villages who are shocked at the proposals. Many users are elderly or have mobility problems and some parents with young children may not get the opportunity to take them to a library any other way."**

Campaigner Louise Bray believes the plans are outrageous: **"It's no good relying on public transport to get you to a central library from many villages because there isn't any. When I had an operation in my eye I could not drive and the mobile library was a Godsend."**

Lib Dem Cllr Neil Butters said: **"I am trying hard to get better transport for villages in my ward to save trips by car, but then the Council Cabinet seems to do nothing but make it more and more necessary to make car journeys."**

"Villagers in places like Wellow are fed up with being sidelined by the Council. Creating sustainable communities will increasingly mean getting services to people and communities - and not asking them to make lots of individual journeys to centralised locations."

There are three ways you can support the campaign and say what you think:

- ✓ Gail and Neil have launched an online petition. To sign visit: www.ourcampaign.org.uk/saveourlibraries
- ✓ Cut out and return the feedback slip on the back page.
- ✓ Contact Gail for a copy of the petition to handout to others (details on back page).



Save our mobile libraries: Gail (left) with local resident Louise Bray, Cllr Neil Butters, teacher, and pupils from Wellow Primary School next to the threatened mobile library.

Stop Press

"We've already had some success with the petition as Cabinet Member Cllr Gazzard has agreed to look at more options for the mobile library review including keeping the status quo. The more people that sign though the louder our voice will be." Said Gail

Land at Applecroft, Shoscombe

Cllr Neil Butters has been helping negotiate with Somer Housing with regard to handing over land at Applecroft for parking in Shoscombe. If negotiations are successful, more off street parking will be available for residents

News Alerts

If you like to keep abreast of the latest news affecting your area, why not sign up for occasional news alerts from Cllr Neil Butters?

Just send your e-mail address to Neil at CllrNeilButters@aol.com. (You can of course always come off at any time if you wish.)





RSS - Countryside under threat?

News that Baker Associates have put in a planning application for over 9,000 new homes south of Bristol before the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) has been ratified have worried local residents in the three areas of search in B&NES.

They are the south of Whitchurch, Newton St Loe and South Stoke. The RSS has been put on hold while there is a legal wrangle but developers are already in discussion about building new homes.

Council officers are hoping to consult residents in the autumn about areas for development. Residents are advised to look out for this or for any planning applications so that they can put forward objections or design suggestions. These might include: energy efficiency measures, allotment provision, play areas, community halls or landscape.

Contact *Save our Green Spaces* for more information: www.saveourgreenspaces.org



Gail overlooks the Bath Spa campus at Newton St Loe



Bus Service for Wellow?

Cllr Butters and B&NES officers are investigating the potential for a limited new bus service for Wellow.

Did you know?

The only phone boxes currently listed in the ward are those in Hinton Charterhouse, South Stoke, and Wellow.



Under threat: Neil (left), local residents and Gail Coleshill (centre) next to the threatened phone box in Monkton Combe.

Village phone boxes under threat Again

Telephone boxes in Bathavon South are again under threat of removal by BT. Notices have been posted in the red boxes offering communities the chance to 'adopt' them without the telephone service so as to preserve them as a heritage feature. However if the box is adopted, the telephone service will be withdrawn. And if it is not adopted, they will press for closure anyway.

At a meeting of Monkton Combe Parish Council on 25th August 2009 councillors expressed concerns about the move and pointed to the facts that there are 400

young people in the village, and that mobile phone coverage is restricted to Vodaphone.

Cllr Neil Butters said: **"Six telephone boxes in this area are now under threat. This follows BT's threatened removal of the service in Midford and Shoscombe last year which I and residents successfully saw off.**

"There is a good case for retaining the telephone service to these kiosks given the poor mobile phone signal locally and the fact that not everyone has access to a mobile phone. The geographical separation of the villages also means the service can be vital emergencies."





Your community blog

Don't want to wait 'till the next edition of *Focus*?

Designed to keep informed of what Neil and the Lib Dems are doing in your area a new blog has been launched that features news stories and information about what's going on where you live.

If you have any news for the blog, or anything you would like to see featured on it, please email your suggestions to Neil.
www.bathavonsouth.blogspot.com

Freshford Station Car Park

Cllr Butters has been working with Freshford Parish Council, B&NES officers, and railway industry colleagues to investigate the possibility of extending the size of Freshford's station car park.

Bridge Graffiti Removal

Cllr Neil Butters has used his railway contacts to help get the graffiti cleared off the bridge by the cricket ground in Bath.



Sat Nav Problems

Cllr Neil Butters has held two meetings with the Department for Transport regarding the problems motorists have been having with Sat Nav. B&NES have received permission from DfT to use two types of 'No Lorries' signs. Six of these are to be erected shortly in Freshford.

These photos were taken in Rosemary Lane and Ashes Lane (Freshford) recently. Each shows a lorry that has got stuck due to mis-guided directions from Sat Nav.



Can we help? Your Local Lib Dem Team

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E-News
You can now keep up-to-date with what the Lib Dems are doing in your area by subscribing to Gail's monthly e-newsletter.
Email: neslibdems@yahoo.co.uk with 'subscribe' in the subject line to join.

Save Our Mobile Libraries

We, the undersigned, support Gail and Neil's campaign to protect our rural mobile library service. News that this service is proposed for cuts by B&NES Council in rural areas could see more than thirty villages without a mobile library. Rather than a consultation on cuts to the service we should be consulting on how to get more residents interested in using the mobile service and what they want and need from such a service. People in these villages are fed up with being sidelined by the Council. Creating sustainable communities should mean getting services to people and communities and not asking them to make lots of individual journeys to centralised locations.

1. Name Email.....
Phone no House no. & Post Code.....
2. Name Email.....
Phone no House no. & Post Code.....
3. Name Email.....
Phone no House no. & Post Code

Return to Gail Coleshill, 17 Waldegrave Terrace, Radstock, Bath, BA3 3EY

The Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you've given to contact you. Some contacts may be automated. You can always opt out of communications at any time by contacting us.