

# New Year FOCUS

on Bathavon South



www.nes-libdems.org.uk

Edited by Cllr Neil Butters and the Bathavon South Lib Dems

January 2009

## Lib Dems lead campaign against Government house-building plans

Neil Butters and the Lib Dems would like to wish all residents a **Happy and Prosperous 2009**



Cllr Neil Butters and Gail Coleshill, prospective Parliamentary Candidate for the new North East Somerset constituency, have presented a petition from South Stoke residents to Tom King, Assistant Director of the Government Office of the South West in Bristol. This was supported by 100 households, 95% of those approached in South Stoke village.

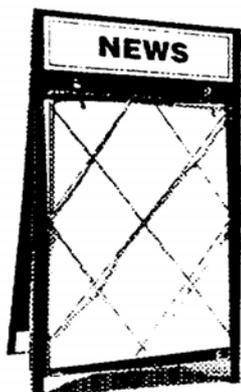
Cllr Neil Butters is supporting South Stoke Parish Council in fighting the plans to include the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in the area of search. The Cotswolds AONB plays a vital part in the landscape setting of the World Heritage City and should not be threatened with potential development of an urban extension.

The Government have proposed that a further 21,300 new homes should be built in Bath & North East Somerset over the next 18 years, by 2026. Neil asked how many had been built over the part 18 years, to which the answer came back '6,834'. Thus the Government is seeking a massive trebling of house-building, unlikely even before the recent economic

crisis. This is certainly not the time therefore to be putting our precious AONB at risk.

The above photo shows Cllr Neil Butters and Parliamentary Candidate Gail Coleshill outside the Government Office of the South West in Bristol before presenting the petition to Tom King.

## Pig Project - Amazing Success!



The King Bladud's Pigs project – the brainchild of former Lib Dem councillor Gitte Dawson – has proved an amazing success, raising an incredible £200,000 for the Two Tunnels Project.

Cllr Neil Butters' artist wife Charlotte Moore painted three of the pigs – *Pig Noir*, *Emily*, and *Porcus Dorcus*.

Four out of the 105 pigs were sponsored by Liberal Democrats.

The photo to the left shows Cllr Neil Butters (left), the Chair of B&NES Council David Bellotti, artist Charlotte Moore, and *Pig Noir*.



**Neil Butters - working all year round, not just at election time**

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**Twenty is plenty:** Cllr Paul Crossley (Lib Dem Group Leader), Cllr Caroline Roberts and Cllr Neil Butters in Portsmouth.

## Twenty is Plenty

Cllr Butters has been on a fact finding mission to Portsmouth where the City Council has implemented 20mph zones in all residential areas.



Locally, the Lib Dems are exploring the possibility of implementing more 20mph zones across Bath and North East Somerset. There has already been campaign success in Peasedown St John and Cllr Neil Butters would like to see the initiative rolled out in places like Hinton Charterhouse.

In the UK, an average of 57 people are killed on the roads every week and a further 350 people were so seriously injured that their lives are irreparably altered. Of these tragedies, **30% involve pedestrians and cyclists.** At 30mph, **48% of pedestrians in collision with a vehicle will be killed.** If drivers were travelling at 20mph the figure would drop to just **5%**.

Would you like to see a 20mph speed limit in your street? If so, contact your Parish Council, to seek their view.

## Freshford Village Shop -Update



Detailed planning permission has now been granted and building work is to start in January, with completion planned for June.

The photo (right) shows Cllr Neil Butters with Freshford residents, lobbying the planning committee for outline approval.



*Photo courtesy of The Bath Chronicle*

## Freshford - Bradford-on-Avon Bus Service



Freshford now has a once-a-week bus service (95) to Bradford-on-Avon Sainsburys and town centre. The bus departs every Tuesday from the Memorial Hall at 1120hrs and from the High Street at 1135hrs; for full timetable, including the return departure times, visit the village website '[www.freshfordvillage.co.uk](http://www.freshfordvillage.co.uk)'. This service is only being operated for a trial period, and there are still empty seats - so 'USE IT OR LOSE IT'!

## Shoscombe and Wellow Schools

Cllr Butters is working with B&NES Council officers and Shoscombe and Wellow Primary Schools to resolve their 'safe routes to school' problems.

## Fancy sharing your garden?

There has recently been an upsurge in demand for allotments, and there is a long waiting list in Bath and the surrounding villages. One idea we are exploring is shared gardens. If you would be interested in offering part of your garden for this purpose, please contact Cllr Neil Butters.

## **Bathavon South chosen for pilot project**

Bathavon South was chosen to form part of a pilot project, the 'Local Member Initiative', which makes £4,000 of local funding available for individual projects identified by each local councillor in their ward - subject to sign-off by Council officers and the Cabinet Member for Resources. This overall project is to be rolled out across the whole of B&NES in 2009/10.

### **Where has Cllr Butters allocated the money for this year?**

- £1,500: new fencing for Hinton Charterhouse's children's play area.
- £1,500: community composting project in Wellow - the first in B&NES
- £1,000: Freshford Pre-School Project.

### **And for next year?**

Cllr Butters is already receiving ideas from residents and local groups about funding possibilities. Further details will be made available, to Parish Councils primarily, as soon as they are known.

## **Two Tunnels Project**

After much lobbying by the Two Tunnels Group - led by former Lib Dem councillor Gitte Dawson, current Lib Dem councillors, and Sustrans, the B&NES Council Cabinet Member for Customer Services has at last agreed fully to support the project. Subject to appropriate safeguards, the Council has agreed to contribute £100K in each of the years 2008/9 and 2009/10. Similar amounts have been earmarked for 2010/11 and 2011/12.

The shared use path, at nearly four miles long, will link Bath to Midford - renovating the disused Tucking Mill Viaduct, and reopening Combe Down and Devonshire Tunnels. With Cllr Neil Butters' railway contacts, he has helped the Two Tunnels project to obtain an award of £40,000 from the Railway Heritage Trust for reinstatement work on Devonshire Tunnel.

### *Did you know?*

Devonshire Tunnel is still owned by BRB (Residuary) Ltd. Combe Down Tunnel is owned by Wessex Water. Both tunnels will ultimately be handed over to the Council.



## **Telephone Kiosk Campaign**

Cllr Neil Butters has been campaigning to preserve telephone kiosks under threat in the ward. For the moment, there is a stay of execution.

Cllr Butters believes retaining kiosks such as these is extremely important in small villages where mobile phone reception is often very poor.

Kiosks affected in Bathavon South are at Midford, Monkton Combe, and Shoscombe.

(Left) Cllr Butters is seen here next to the telephone kiosk in Shoscombe and (right) with residents in Midford.



## **Monkton Combe Collections**

Cllr Neil Butters has been campaigning to improve the poor record of cardboard and garden waste collections in Monkton Combe.

Recently residents had to wait 6 weeks before the Council collected any organic waste.

The case has now been taken up with the Conservative Cabinet Member and the *Bath Chronicle*.

Here on the right Cllr Butters is seen with resident and former Monkton Combe Parish Councillor David Fallon.



*Photo courtesy of The Bath Chronicle*

## Constituency boundary change

Currently, half of Bathavon South ward – Freshford, Monkton Combe, and South Stoke – lies within the Bath constituency and is served by Lib Dem MP Don Foster. The other half – Hinton Charterhouse, Shoscombe, and Wellow – lies within the Wansdyke constituency.

From the next General Election, all of Bathavon South ward will be part of a new North East Somerset constituency. The Lib Dem Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for the new seat is Gail Coleshill, who is already active and campaigning across the constituency. For more information about Gail and what the Lib Dems are doing locally visit [www.nes-libdems.org.uk](http://www.nes-libdems.org.uk)

## Lib Dems Criticise Parking Charges Decision

Lib Dems sought to overturn the Conservative decision to introduce evening parking charges in Bath. As a response, the Council agreed to reduce the fee to a flat rate of £1, but only in the Avon Street and Charlotte Street car parks. Cllr Butters believes that this is confusing, and penalises people who use the convenient small car parks.

Cllr Butters is pictured (far right) with Bath MP Don Foster and Lib Dem Councillors Nathan Hartley and Sarah Bevan protesting against the new parking charge arrangements.



## B&NES appoints new Director of Operations

Glen Chipp, formerly MD of Thomas Cook Airlines, has been appointed at Bath & North East Somerset Council as Director of Operations. He succeeds Peter Rowntree, Director of Customer Services, who is retiring at the end of 2008. The post will include oversight of all Planning, Transportation, Leisure, and Environment issues, and reports directly to the Chief Executive.

Cllr Neil Butters, who was involved in the interview process to appoint Mr Chipp, said: **“Glen comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience. The interview process was lengthy but worthwhile. I am looking forward to working with the new Director of Operations on both authority-wide issues and initiatives in Bathavon South.”**

### Gail Coleshill E-News

You can now receive monthly e-news from Gail, Neil and the Lib Dem team. Email: [neslibdems@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:neslibdems@yahoo.co.uk) with 'subscribe' in the subject line to join.



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**Can we help you?**  
**Your comments:**

**Can you help us?**

- I can deliver 'Focus' in my area
  - I can display a poster at election time
  - I would like to join the Lib Dems / make a donation \*   
(\*delete as applicable)
  - £50  £30  £20  £10 (minimum for membership)
- Please make cheques payable to  
"North East Somerset Liberal Democrats"

### About You

Name ..... Address .....  
Phone no ..... E-mail .....

**Return to Cllr Neil Butters, Hillside Cottage, South Stoke, Bath, BA2 7DN**

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.