

Bathavon South FOCUS



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'Gail Coleshill for North East Somerset'

Edited by Cllr Neil Butters and Bathavon South Liberal Democrats

Spring 2008

Freshford Shop Planning Victory

In a breakthrough planning decision, Freshford residents gained outline planning permission for their new-build community shop on the edge of a greenbelt field next to their Village Hall. Planning officers wanted to see the application refused but 135 residents had written in to support it and the applicants, the Parish Council and Cllr Butters presented a strong case which persuaded the committee to approve the application. They showed that there really was no other feasible location for the shop, that its proposed location was central to all the people wanting to use it, and that, right next to the Village Hall, its impact on the openness of the greenbelt would be minimal.

Next steps are detailed design and costing of the shop, detailed planning permission, forming a charity to run it, and raising the funds to build it - still a major undertaking. Earliest possible opening date: March '09.



Photo courtesy of Lloyd Ellington, Bath Chronicle

Team effort: Cllr Neil Butters, with former councillor Gitte Dawson and other Freshford residents, at the Guildhall supporting the planning application.

Two Tunnels Project now underway



First outing: Three pig sculptures in Walcot Street

A BIG THANK YOU to all those who telephoned and emailed their vote in favour of Sustrans' Connect2 project – which includes our own Two Tunnels, the exciting level cycling and

walking route between Midford and Bath which will bring two disused railway tunnels back into use. Sustrans did win the "People's £50million", and £1million of this money is coming to us to finance the Two Tunnels Project.

Although the Council has committed £475,000 of its own to the project over three years and is part of the Steering Group overseeing it, there appears to be reluctance on the Council's part actually to take charge, with Sustrans as the main contractor, even though this would save over £300,000 in VAT. Negotiations are still going on. Clearing work has already started.

The project will proceed stage by stage as each stage is fully funded. A first major step will be digging out the entrance to the Combe Down Tunnel which is buried under tons of earth.

The total project cost is estimated to be £1.8 million, so fundraising is continuing to fill the gap. One innovative way of raising funds is King Bladud's Pigs in Bath – the public art event which will see 100 brightly decorated life-size pig sculptures all over Bath this summer, to be auctioned off in October, with net proceeds going to the Two Tunnels Project. Some are already out in the streets. Most will be in Bath but two will be in Wellow, one in Freshford and one in Monkton Combe.



Coffee with Don and Gail

**Saturday 10th May 2008
10am – 12noon**

@ **Hillside Farm, Church Lane,
Freshford**

Don Foster, Liberal Democrat MP for Bath, and **Gail Coleshill**, Liberal Democrat Future Parliamentary Candidate for North East Somerset, will be holding a joint surgery and coffee morning for you to come along and discuss with them any issues concerning you both locally and nationally.

The event will take place at the home of Gitte Dawson, Hillside Farm, Church Lane, Freshford, BA2 7WD.

Can't make it to the coffee morning? Please return the tear off slip on the other side of this newsletter with any issues concerning you.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener

Post Office Closures

Gail Coleshill, Lib Dem Parliamentary challenger in the new North East Somerset constituency, has been busy collecting signatures on petitions and writing in support of local residents against the proposed post office closures in the area:

“I have spoken to many residents who have pointed out the important role the post office plays in the life of our villages. It provides a service that enables many elderly people to retain their independence. Many women with young children don’t have a car and rely on the local shop and post office. Closing them will affect the most vulnerable people in rural areas.”

3,500 Post Offices were closed during the Conservatives time in office. 4,000 have closed so far under Labour and these latest Government plans will close at least 2,500 more including Newton St Loe, Farmborough, Marksbury, East Harptree, Bitton, Clandown and the Queen’s Road branch in Keynsham. When the owners of Freshford Post Office retired the new arrangement was for only eight hours a week instead of 40. Lib Dems have consistently opposed Post Office closures and are the only party to provide a viable financial solution to keep post offices open.



Campaigning: Gail with residents outside Farmborough Post Office petitioning to keep this village amenity open.

No urban extension in the AONB!



Gail Coleshill has been joining Neil Butters in supporting South Stoke Parish Council in opposing the building of thousands of houses on land which is within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This has been included in the area of search by the Council in their quest to fulfil the Government demands for more new housing to the south of Bath.

Gail said: “Lib Dems locally have consistently opposed the amount of housing the Government says we should have. We think the numbers are well over the top and building in an area of outstanding natural beauty is against Government regulations anyway. I hope the Parish Council can get this taken out of the area of search.”

Gail Coleshill

E-News

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



Your Local Lib Dem
Focus Team



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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.