



# FOCUS

On

Lytchett Minster and Upton

## Lytchett Minster School saga continues

Back in January, the County Councils held its presentation of plans for the re-building of part of the Lytchett Minster School that burnt down in June 2000. The school lost eight laboratories, a maths classroom and the school hall. The 'temporary' classrooms put up in the aftermath should have been replaced by permanent buildings long ago but 6 years on building work has **still** not started.

### The Good News

During negotiations, Councillor Fred Drane managed to obtain another £1m on top of the £10.9m budget for the school. Earlier this year the governors accepted Dorset County Council's proposals on the rebuild.

### The Bad News

Although the governors have accepted the plan in principle, the County Council has caused further problems by attaching conditions to the rebuild. First they said that the school must pay a £450,000 bond should any delay to the build be the fault of the school. The DCC have now withdrawn the Bond, but have set new conditions, asking the school to pay £200,000 for agreed alterations to the Build Plan. School Governors are to discuss the new proposals on 12 July 2006.

Your local Councillor Fred Drane and MP Annette Brooke have been chasing this project for several years now and will continue to lobby the Council about this issue. The children of Lytchett Minster and Upton deserve better service. A Government Minister may visit at Annette's invitation.



Annette Brooke MP and Cllr Fred Drane inspect the plans for Lytchett Minster School

## Where have all the buses gone?

Your MP, Annette Brooke and your Lib Dem Councillors, Fred Drane, Andrew Starr and Wendy Starr have been inundated with phone calls and letters expressing concern over the massive cuts in bus services. Annette Brooke has taken up your case with Go-Ahead, the bus company involved. The privately owned bus company is pursuing what it considers are its commercial interests. As a result many residents have lost out, particularly around Dacombe Drive, as Upton services have been re-routed or reduced.

Despite Upton having no fewer than 6 services, none of them cover Sea View Road, French's Farm Estate, Watery Lane, Policemans Lane and the Dacombe Drive area. Furthermore the replacement bus for the 92 service no longer covers Hamworthy train station. Many local residents are suffering as a result and in some cases have even had to change jobs because they cannot get to work on time.

**"If you would like to see the service increased to cover these roads, please contact us. If more of you request it, our case for the bus company to make changes will be stronger. We will continue to lobby Dorset County Council and Wilts and Dorset for better service."** said Councillor Wendy Starr.



# Most Vulnerable suffer as County Council proposes to cut home care



Home care for the elderly is the latest service which may be cut by Conservative controlled Dorset County Council. Elderly people with moderate service needs may be cut completely from home care provision, leaving only those with substantial need eligible for home care. Since the re-routing of bus services may have made it harder for those who are able to use public transport to access care, this decision has been strongly condemned by your County Councillor Fred Drane.

When Liberal Democrats ran Dorset County Council, there was no debt and home care was better provided for. However, cuts to other services are expected as the Conservative controlled council tries to clear its £20 million budget deficit.

**"I am appalled that the County Council is considering these cuts, and other cuts in bus routes and libraries across Dorset. The loss of home care provision could cause unnecessary suffering. I feel this is being proposed as a result of the County Council's inability to balance its budget rather than any reduction in the need for care."** says Cllr Fred Drane.

## SCHOOLS RETHINK

It seems that local concerns may have made the County Council look again at its proposal to site a new combined infant and junior school on Sea View Road Upton.

"Regarding the issues of parking and access, the officers of the Council will be investigating alternative sites for the new school. This follows my recent communications with DCC after receiving letters from many of you." says Cllr Andrew Starr

It all goes to show that if you have any problems, then you can bring them to your Lib Dem Councillors and we will speak for you and help to get your voice heard.

## Worried about future housing development?

Check out the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West 2006-2026. Copies are available at all libraries. Consultation goes on until 30th August 2006. Representations should be made if you support or object to any of the current proposals.

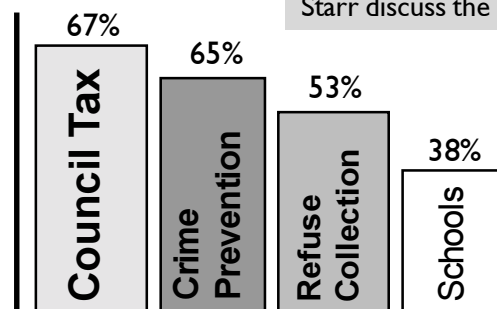
## Residents Survey

The results are back from the Have Your Say Survey in Upton and Lytchett Minster. Thanks to those of you who returned the Surveys, We were very interested to hear your views and concerns on a wide range of questions.

The big 4 issues were: Council Tax, Crime Prevention, Refuse Collection and Schools. Annette and your local Councillors will continue to act on your concerns.



Annette Brooke and Andrew Starr discuss the survey results



Local residents' top 4 listed concerns

## CONTACT YOUR FOCUS TEAM

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