

BUS ROUTE SUCCESS - BUT THE FIGHT GOES ON

Thanks to a campaign by both local residents and your Liberal Democrat Councillors, a link to Dacombe Drive was restored in December 2006. Residents from the area can now get the number 128 to Poole which since 2nd January now serves Dacombe Drive, Meadows Drive and Palmerston Road.

The only petitions received by Dorset County Council and Poole Council were those from Fred Drane, with the Poole and District Pensioners Association and Corfe Mullen. It shows that the strength of public feeling on such issues can sway both Councils and bus companies.

"Thank you to everyone who signed the petition. We collected over 3400 signatures in protest at the cuts, this may well have made the difference," Said Councillor Fred Drane. "We need to go further as many elderly people with mobility problems are not able to travel to the Upton shops - the bus stop at the shops was removed," added Fred



Annette Brooke MP at a local bus stop with local Councillors Fred Drane, Andrew Starr and Wendy Starr

"Local residents made a stand against the cuts by Wilts and Dorset bus company. There are other public services, such as home care for the elderly and day centres, under threat from Dorset County Council. We will continue to do our best to protect Upton from any further loss of its valuable services," said Councillor Andrew Starr.

UPTON ADVICE SURGERY
Annette Brooke is holding an advice surgery with Andrew Starr and Fred Drane on Saturday 17th February at Upton Library. Call 693555 to book an appointment. Fred Drane holds a surgery from 10am-12pm in the Upton Library every first Saturday of the month and at Lytchett Matravers Library on the first Friday on the month from 4pm - 6pm.

YOUR LIB DEM FOCUS TEAM

Annette Brooke MP
14 York Road, Broadstone, BH18 8ET
Tel : 01202 693555

County Councillor: Fred Drane
4 Martingale Close, Upton, BH16 5QZ
01202 385114

District Councillors:
Fred Drane
(see above)

Andrew Starr
29 Heights Road, Upton, BH16 5QS
01202 631161

Wendy Starr
29 Heights Road, Upton
01202 631161

HAVE YOUR SAY JOIN THE WINNING TEAM

Please contact us with any local problems and/or concerns

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
_____ Email _____

Can you help? We rely on the support of local volunteers

I could give an hour a month delivering Focus

I could help with office work like addressing envelopes

I enclose a donation of _____ to help pay for printing

I would like to display a post/stakeboard at the next election

Thank you for your support

Return to: Liberal Democrats, 14 York Road, Broadstone, BH18 8ET

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POST OFFICES - LIB DEMS CAMPAIGN AGAINST CLOSURES



Annette Brooke MP will work with your local Lib Dem Councillors to fight for local Post Offices if they are threatened with closure.

The Government recently announced shocking plans to cut 2,500 Post Offices. This news came on top of the 7,500 post offices closed under successive Labour and Conservative Governments.

Annette Brooke is concerned that Dorset post offices may well be threatened. She has been visiting all the Post Offices in the constituency and has written to the Head Office of the Co-op to seek written confirmation that it will keep the existing Post Office site on Poole Road.

"Our Post Offices are very important to the community, particularly when combined with other facilities such as the local shop." Said District Councillor Andrew Starr

"It is important that local residents make their views felt now, while there is still the opportunity to pressurise the Government to change its mind." Said County, District and Town Councillor Fred Drane

DECADES OF TORY AND LABOUR CUTS



The Lib Dem Action Plan

- £2 billion to invest in our Post Office branches
- Open new branches where there is need.
- Retain the Post Office card accounts for benefit payments (in danger of being lost)
- Free the Post Office from restrictions to let it develop new business
- New legal requirement for the Government to maintain the local post office network.


SIGN OUR PETITION - STOP THE GOVERNMENT CUTS

"We call on the Government to support our Post Offices and not to close them. We rely on the important services provided by our local post office."

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ E-mail _____

Return to: FREEPOST Liberal Democrats, 14 York Road, Broadstone, BH18 8BR

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Arts at Upton Library

Councillor Fred Drane has arranged for an exhibition of photos depicting areas of Upton and Lytchett Minster taken by Mr Carroll Rawlings. Items from the Town Plan for Upton and Lytchett Minster will also be displayed there from January to February 2007.

Fred has also arranged for a local artist to teach children in the library in art work. Hopefully times and dates will be confirmed in the next Focus. Fred is trying to encourage local people to use the local Library, as Dorset County Council are considering reducing the hours of all Libraries. If anyone has any ideas about expanding the services of the library to include other events and classes, please contact Fred with any suggestions. (See back page)

County Cash

The County Cash crisis will not go away, despite attempts by cal Conservatives to bury their heads in the sand.

At the last budget review, the County Council was expected to have a **£15 million** budget deficit by 2010. They have also borrowed **£133 million** to pay for a number of capital projects. This is despite the Library book funds being slashed and bus services being reduced across the County.

Elderly to receive £2.4m grant

The County Council has received a £2.4 million grant to be put towards services for the elderly. Your local Liberal Democrat Councillors will fight to ensure that this money is put to good use and that Upton residents benefit from it.

"I am concerned that elderly people will not benefit from this money if the County Council is not properly scrutinised as to how it is spent. Under the Conservatives, Dorset County Council has increased Band D Council tax by £300 in five years Yet since then the Council has still had to borrow almost £133 million," said Councillor Fred Drane



Blandford Road Update

Poole Council are still considering the impact on Blandford Road from the planned regeneration project. Poole Council collects contributions from developers and if there is an impact in Upton from any development in Poole then Upton should get a share of that money. Fred Drane has asked Dorset County Council to raise this issue with Poole Council.

"Although the regeneration project will be a positive development for Poole, we want to ensure that Upton residents do not suffer and that transport infrastructure is improved to take the greater level of traffic," said Cllr Fred Drane.



Cllr Fred Drane (left) has been in contact with concerned Blandford Road residents who suffer from the traffic problems.

TORIES FAIL 'GREEN' TEST?

Most people accept that climate change is happening and it will have an adverse affect on our environment with rising sea levels, hotter summers and wetter winters upsetting the delicate balance of the natural environment and in the longer term impacting on the human race.

In a move supported by local Liberal Democrats, Purbeck District Council's leader proposed that the Council should sign up to the 'Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.' This declaration makes a public commitment to tackling climate change by working with central government to deliver the Kyoto protocol and other green targets, such as reducing carbon emissions.

However, some doubt was thrown on the green credentials of local Conservatives. Despite recent claims by the party that they are becoming greener, the proposal met opposition from a number of Conservative Councillors. It only just survived a vote in the all Conservative Policy Group, needing the Chairman's casting vote to save it. Meanwhile, in full Council it met more opposition when over a third of Tories present either opposed the declaration or abstained.

In stark contrast all the Liberal Democrat members of the Council gave the declaration their 100% backing. "Local Conservatives do not have a track record on the environment, they even opposed the Council's first recycling scheme introduced by the Lib Dems back in 1997." added Cllr Andrew Starr



Cllr Andrew Starr does his bit by cycling to work in Bournemouth most days.

A CLEANER, GREENER, UPTON

Recently Purbeck District Council has accepted the recommendations of Purbeck's Clean and Tidy Local Environment Review. The review panel included local Lib Dem Councillor Andrew Starr. The recommendations included:

- Dealing quickly with graffiti, vandalism and untidy areas
- Reviewing the programme of street cleaning, to address the problem of weeds in roadside gutters in close co-operation with Dorset County Council
- Reviewing the provision of litter and dog bins
- Improving the appearance of the area in and around the Railway Station



"We will be monitoring the action plan carefully" said Cllr Andrew Starr, pictured above with Fred Drane and Wendy Starr. In particular weeds and litter must be dealt with."

Councillors Fred Drane and Andrew Starr are doing their bit locally with the Lytchett Minster and Upton Clean and Tidy Committee. Set up by Fred Drane last year, the committee has a meeting in February with the Upton beat officer and head of the Purbeck environmental department to plan litter picks and discuss other ways to keep Upton tidy. **"We are all interested in improving the environment we live in,"** said Cllr Andrew Starr. **If you would like to join, ring Fred on 01202 385114 for more details.**

The Council has agreed to draw up an action plan based on the 33 recommendations. "The outcome should be a cleaner and greener Purbeck for all to enjoy." Said Cllr Fred Drane.

Fred Drane (left) with the chairman of the Upton clean and tidy committee.