



NEW HOMES REFUSED

A proposal by Quantum Homes to demolish four large houses and build 55 new dwellings in Worgret Road has been refused planning permission by Purbeck Council.



The Planning Board unanimously agreed a proposal by Cllr David Budd and seconded by Wareham colleague Eric Osmond that permission be refused. The Board considered the scheme to be overdevelopment of the site and out of character with the area.

TOWN COUNCILLOR TO BECOME NEXT MAYOR

The Focus team would like to congratulate Wareham Town Councillor, Sue Elmes, who is set to become the new Town Mayor in 2007. Of the six woman Town Councillors, Sue, Doreen Cleaton, Mary Wainwright, Judith Webb make up an important part of the Liberal Democrat team. They have all been involved in activities such as Wareham in Bloom, the Museum, which has produced a T.E. Lawrence DVD and Hauses Field regeneration. "All of these projects aim to make Wareham an even better place to live." Said Town Councillor Judith Webb.

There are Town Council elections this year and we are always looking for new people with different ideas. Anyone interested in standing should contact David Budd on 552017.

TOWN COUNCIL FIRST TO SET COUNCIL TAX

Wareham Town Council is expected to fix its portion of the Council Tax at a little over £39 for an average Band D property, an increase of 3.6% in line with the Retail Price Index, the Town Council's Finance Committee Chairman Cllr Eric Osmond revealed as Focus was about to go to print.

YOUR LIB DEM FOCUS TEAM

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(See above)

Eric Osmond
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Town Councillors:
David Budd Tel 552017
Doreen Cleaton Tel 553149
Keith Critchley Tel 552651
Sue Elmes Tel 552603
Keith Green Tel 556010
Eric Osmond Tel 551000
Mary Wainwright Tel 555288
Judith Webb Tel 553178

HAVE YOUR SAY JOIN THE WINNING TEAM

Please contact us with any local problems and/or concerns

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____

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

- I could give an half 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

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POST OFFICES - LIB DEMS CAMPAIGN AGAINST CLOSURES



Is Carey Road post office under threat? Ask Eric Osmond and David Budd. The North Street P.O would find it hard to cope with the needs of the whole town.

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 Conservative and Labour Governments.

Annette Brooke is concerned that Dorset post offices may well be threatened and has been lobbying both the Government and Royal Mail on hearing the bad news.

"Our Post Offices are very important to the community, particularly when combined with other facilities such as the local shop." Said Annette Brooke MP

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 local Councillor Eric Osmond

2 DECADES OF TORY AND LABOUR CUTS



The Lib Dem 5 Point 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 _____



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PURBECK SECOND IN WASTE LEAGUE TABLE



Purbeck has been rated as the second best district in the country for waste minimisation, according to the latest league tables published by the government.

Based on the amount of waste produced per head of population, each Purbeck resident generated just 305.8 kilogram's (674 pounds) of waste in 2005/6, only being beaten by Mid Suffolk District on 284.9 kilogram's (628 pounds). Weymouth and Portland Borough came third with 311kilograms (686 pounds).

Since the introduction of the 'Recycle for Purbeck' scheme the recycling rate in the district has increased from 16% to around 30%, well exceeding the original target of 24%. The amount of waste being sent to landfill in 2006 has dropped from 9,307 tonnes to 6,824 tonnes when comparing with the same period in 2005.

"This achievement would not have been possible without the support of the vast majority of Purbeck residents, they are to be congratulated" says Lib Dem Environment Spokesperson Cllr Eric Osmond. "Some have found the alternate weekly collection difficult, but it has boosted the districts recycling rate to a record level, which helps the Council financially" added Cllr Osmond.



Increased recycling reduces the amount of rubbish going into landfill, this is better for the environment and saves us all money," says Councillor Eric Osmond.

BRIDGE REPAIRS TO START



"The new expansion joints should put an end to the regular temporary patching of potholes," says Cllr David Budd

A 15 week contract is due to commence on 5 February to strengthen the parapets of four bridges on the A351 Wareham by-pass to meet latest safety requirements and to replace expansion joints to two bridges.

Work to the subway and two bridges between North Causeway and Worgret roundabouts will require temporary closure of the footpath and a 40 mph speed limit. There will be some delays to traffic during the progress of the work. Work to the bridge over Sandford Lane will be carried out from scaffolding and will not affect the main A351 road, but will restrict the width of the road below.

EXPANSION JOINTS

As part of the contract new expansion joints will be provided to the bridges over the railway and Sandford Lane to take up movement and prevent further pot holes appearing at the bridge joints. Cllr David Budd has been told that this work will be carried out at night to minimise disruption to traffic on this very busy route into the Isle of Purbeck.



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 Conservative 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 locally 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. Later, 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. "It came as no surprise that the controlling Conservative Group was less than united on such an important issue" remarked Lib Dem Environment Spokesperson Cllr Eric Osmond. "They 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 Eric Osmond.

Lib Dem Councillors helping the Environment



David Budd and Eric Osmond use their bicycles whenever possible for local trips

A CLEANER, GREENER, PURBECK

The District Council has accepted the recommendations of Purbeck's Clean and Tidy Local Environment Review, chaired by local Lib Dem Cllr Eric Osmond. The recommendations include:

- 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
- Reviewing the grass cutting regime of the Town Walls

The Council has agreed to draw up an action plan based on the reviews 33 recommendations. "The final outcome should be a cleaner and greener Purbeck for all to enjoy" says Eric Osmond.



Eric at one of many weed blackspots



"We will be monitoring this action plan carefully" said David Budd. "Weeds and litter must be dealt with properly."