

## To County Council: Keep our roads and pavements top of your agenda!

The Conservative run county council has recently announced a £10.8m overspend on its highways budget and will now have to get that money back over the next few years. The Tories have approved a new highways maintenance policy that will see potholes twice as deep and preventative work including drainage, neglected. And if you get an injury by tripping on a footpath or road, you are less likely to be awarded compensation from the council.

Under the current rules the County Council are obliged to repair potholes over 25 mm deep, but under their new proposals, **potholes will be allowed to get more than twice as deep** as present before they will be considered for fixing - increasing the minimum of 25 mm to 50 mm, thereby cutting back on many repairs that are required.

### How to contact your Mile End Focus Team



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## Were you a Land Girl?

The **Women's Land Army (WLA)** was a British civilian organisation created during the **First and Second World Wars** to work in agriculture replacing men called up to the military. Women who worked for the WLA were commonly known as Land Girls. In effect, the Land Army operated to place women with farms that needed workers, the farmers being their employers.

After all these years, the Government is at last recognising the efforts of the Land Army by commissioning a **commemorative badge**. If you were a member of the Land Army, you can apply for your badge by sending your date of birth, approximate dates of service, and the location at which you were stationed.

Unfortunately, Badges will not be awarded posthumously to people who died before 6th December 2007.

You can request application forms by writing to:

**Bob Russell MP**  
Magdalen Hall,  
Wimpole Road  
Colchester CO1 2DE



# Braiswick Focus

Spring 2008

Edited by **Martin Goss**

From your local Liberal Democrat Focus Team

## Removing the graffiti in Tuffnell Way underpass

Following complaints from residents, Martin and Anne have arranged for the Tuffnell Way underpass to be cleaned of extensive graffiti which actually happened within days of the initial work being undertaken to paint the tunnel.

The cause of the problem was that although the CCTV and lighting have been installed, they were never actually switched on! This means time and money has been wasted in painting the tunnel only for it to be wrecked and vandalised.

We have requested that the CCTV and lighting be switched on immediately, before the state of the tunnel deteriorates any further.



Martin Goss assessing the situation at the Tuffnell Way underpass

## It matters what you think...

We need to know your problems/comments on local issues. Please write them down in the space provided below.



### Help us to help you

- I will display a poster for the Lib Dems at election time.
- I can deliver a few leaflets from time to time in my area.
- I'd like to join the Lib Dems. Please provide us with your information.
- I enclose a donation payable to "Liberal Democrats" for £ .....

A donation of £10 or more entitles you to membership of the Liberal Democrats. Please tick if you don't wish to be enrolled

Published printed and promoted by Martin Goss on behalf of Colchester Liberal Democrats all at Magdalen Hall Wimpole Road Colchester CO1 2DE. We may write to you from time to time to keep you informed on issues we think you may find of interest. Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted for this purpose.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: **Martin Goss, Mile End Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST NAT6287, Colchester CO1 2BR**

## Search for the Braiswick sign continues!



Martin inspecting the site where the sign went missing back in November

Following the Braiswick Residents' Association meeting in November, Martin Goss has been working to get the missing road sign "Braiswick" replaced outside where the 3 Moody homes were built.

Currently Colchester Borough Council have confirmed they have a number of outstanding issues which Moody Homes need to address including the road sign.

Moody Homes have been given a list of these issues and a response is still awaited. We will update you of progress.



## Calling for pedestrian crossing to be repainted



Following complaints made by residents, Martin approached One Railways and requested that they repaint the pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Bergholt Road. There have been several near misses as the paint is badly worn away.

Martin said "I look forward to this work being completed imminently by One Railways"

## Railway bridge clean up

Following complaints made by residents about the state of the pedestrian bridge from North Station to Petrolea Close, Martin arranged for the railway bridge walkway to be fully cleaned. The area was full of moss and rubbish and was quite dangerous. A new bin is also being installed near this bridge to stop rubbish being dumped. Currently some of the lights are also out of service, so this has been highlighted to the Essex County Council.

Martin said "Having inspected the area, I am much happier that the bridge is of a better standard and I look forward to the lights that are out of service being repaired."



## 80 Tonne Trains in Bergholt Road

Martin and Anne recently met with Balfour Beatty along with Myland Parish Council to discuss the issue of 80 tonne trains being moved down Three Crowns Road and Bergholt Road on the back of articulated lorries. There has been issues with damaged property where a brick wall was knocked down twice and pavements have been damaged.

A number of positive actions came out of the meeting in order to help improve the situation for residents. Martin said "The meeting went very well and we will keep the residents informed of progress."

## Graffiti in Bergholt Road

On the evening of February 10<sup>th</sup> a number of garages, cars, roads and pavement were covered in awful and childish graffiti. Martin and Anne were working with residents to ensure the police were on the scene to try and catch the culprit.

Martin said "I have taken this and other issues from the Bergholt Road park to the Neighbourhood Action Panel so we can try and find a solution to the issues for all residents who have been affected."



## An update on big yellow licencing application

Some of you may have read in the press that Big Yellow storage have received permission from January 2008 to start a 24 hour delivery service for bulk alcohol purchases. Anne and Martin delivered over 300 letters to the surrounding area to ensure residents were aware of this, but alas the application was still approved.

We will monitor the situation and deal with any issues that may arise.

## Liberal Democrats - Keeping you updated on local matters

### on Bakers Lane Damage

Following complaints back in November about lorries using Bakers Lane for carrying mud and rubble to the Golf Club, Martin requested that the road be inspected for damage by Essex County Council (ECC).

Martin said "ECC have reported back and found the road surface to be of an acceptable condition. We will continue to monitor the progress of this issue."

### on Community Stadium

Work still continues on putting final touches to the Community Stadium travel plan. Anne is chair of the Travel Plan Group and consultation continues with various stakeholders in order for the final travel plan to be published.

Public transport plays a key role in this plan. We will keep you informed of progress.

### on Parking on Braiswick

Following complaints about the campervan being parked near the Golf Club, numerous people have been working together to get this parked in a safer place.

Martin Goss said "I want to thank the residents who raised this with me and I am pleased to say the Police have recently confirmed that this vehicle is to be towed away to safety by the owner."

### on Vehicle Activated Sign

Martin and Anne continue to push for news concerning the potential for the installation of a Vehicle Activated Sign on Braiswick the road. Currently the speed check showed 36 MPH was the average speed.