

FOCUS

FEBRUARY 2009

on Mile End and Braiswick

Edited by Anne Turrell

NORTHERN APPROACHES GRAFFITI CULPRIT APPREHENDED

You may have seen the pointless and pathetic graffiti on some of the flats on the Northern Approaches development. Two 14-year-olds were arrested for this act. One has admitted to the offence and been cautioned. The other was present but claimed not to have actually sprayed anything.

Martin said: "Crimes like these are totally unacceptable and those responsible are just frankly sad. I hope the parents take appropriate action. The graffiti should have been cleaned off by the time you read this."

Halfords have also been given a warning for selling paint to underage youths.



Councillors Martin Goss and Anne Turrell examining the graffiti prior to its removal.

TURNER RISE ASSAULT CAN YOU HELP?

An assault happened on a 17 year old girl at 4.45pm on New Year's Day on the footpath from Asda to Peto Avenue where the postbox is.

Anne and Martin have been working on improved lighting for this footpath and hope to have positive news shortly.

Anne and Martin have already put out a letter to all residents on Turner Rise warning them of the attack and appealing for anymore information to help catch the culprit.

NORTH STATION REDEVELOPMENT

There are currently plans to redevelop Colchester North Station. An initial project has been kicked off to look at different plans to improve this area. Initial plans include changing the main station entrance and rebuilding it, looking at improved parking, improved bus facilities and better lighting.

Obviously these are only ideas and fall in with the bigger strategic vision to improve the North Station area and ease congestion. This would be a multi-million pound improvement. It would cost at least £15,000,000 to put a 2nd road in at North Station and this would be many years away, if feasible.

Shorter-term improvements will include new signage from the Station to the Town Centre, improvements to lighting, more litter bins and the potential to make a ticket office in the old Victorian building on the south side.

Anne and Martin have already had the roundabout repainted outside the main entrance, street lighting outside the station repaired and now lighting on the pedestrian bridge is shortly to be repaired following many years of lights being out of service. Changes have also been made to the traffic light configuration at the station and the roundabout to try and help deal with congestion issues following intervention from Anne and Martin.



You never know who you may bump into at North Station! Liberal Democrat Leader Nick Clegg MP with Colchester MP Bob Russell and Councillor Martin Goss.



ASDA UPDATE

There has been a lot of work behind the scenes by Anne, Martin and Bob to deal with various issues with dumped Asda trolleys.

Site meetings have been held with the management of Asda which have resulted in the following:

- Litter bin being installed in Petrolea Close, the header road to Asda
- Regular litter picking of Petrolea Close by Asda
- Improvements to the trolley system to stop people stealing trolleys
- Letter drops by Anne and Martin to residents in hotspot areas reminding people that stealing trolleys is theft
- New signs installed at all exits reminding customers not to take trolleys
- Bob has written to the Managing Director of Asda requesting further improvements are made to the trolley system in 2009

NEW DOG BINS

Following a successful initiative by the Lib Dem led administration you should shortly see new dog waste bins for the following locations:

Stammers Road (off Mill Road)

Tower Lane by the water tower off Mill Road

Brinkley Grove Road near the Country Park

Fieldview Close (off Turner Road) by the Country Park entrance

Anne said: "This is hopefully great news for local residents. Martin and I were the only Mile End ward councillors to do anything on this initiative. The remaining Tory didn't request any!"



CYCLING TOWN STATUS

by WILL BRAMHILL - Colchester Cycling Campaign

Do you cycle? Would you cycle? Can you make cycling part of your daily life?

Last Autumn Colchester became a Cycling Town and the Government-approved status will mean £4.2 million funding for cycling between now and 2011. Essex County Council, Colchester Borough Council, and the clubs and groups that form the Colchester cycling community all support the scheme.

We were picked not because cycling here is necessarily good, but due to the potential we have for improving cycling and increasing the number of cyclists.

Work has begun on a route to connect the Stadium with Severalls Business Park, and then on to town via High Woods Country Park.

An official Cycling Town website will be launched soon. In the meantime, you can catch up on the latest news at www.colchester-cycling.org.uk. You can also join the Colchester cyclists' e-mail group by dropping me an e-mail - letting me know a bit about yourself - at will@colchester-cycling.org.uk.

A12 junction - latest

A12 by Weston Homes Stadium



You may have seen the front page of the "Gazette" on 30th December 2008 where Bob Russell MP has confirmed that the Minister for Roads has intimated very strongly following Parliamentary Questions from Bob that the new A12 junction will start in 2009.

Anne said: "As Colchester Council Leader I have been involved along with Bob, Cllr Lyn Barton, Essex County Council representatives and other third parties in getting ready to finalise the deal as early in 2009 as possible. If all goes well and the deal is signed, the road would be opened in 2011."

Your Lib Dem team working for you



ALL YEAR ROUND!

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Come and meet Anne, Bob and Martin over coffee at St Michael's Church Hall, Mile End Road between 10am - 12 noon Saturday 4th April 2009.

No appointment necessary - come and discuss anything that concerns you.

A MATTER OF TRUST.....

Your Lib Dem led administration would like to update you on the following:

1. Council Tax in Colchester is set to rise by the one of the lowest amounts ever - 2.76%, the lowest this century infact!
2. Progress is being made in recovering the £4,000,000 from Icelandic banks, along with the other 120+ councils who invested much higher amounts than Colchester. The money was invested exactly in accordance with strict investment guidelines, which were signed off by the full council, **including ALL Tory Councillors.**
3. Weekly waste collections are remaining and despite the false lies by the Tories, **they never were under threat** as they were in our manifesto which you elected us on!
4. Angel Court in the Town Centre will eventually be sold, due to the high cost of maintenance. Following an **expensive lease signed by the previous Tory administration**, a ground breaking deal has been formed where the former Anglian Water offices in Sheepen Road have been purchased by the Council for £8,000,000.

So this has not cost the taxpayer a penny and the deal is investing in Colchester's future. Infact the deal is £50,000 in credit per year even after all loan and interest payments!

MILL ROAD SPEED SIGN

It looks like a new speed warning sign will be installed at the end of Mill Road, near the Brinkley Grove roundabout.

Martin said: "We have been campaigning for improvements to Mill Road as this is what residents want and need. We hope to have good news on some other improvements for 2009 as well."

The sign should be installed after April 2009.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS IN MILE END



Work continues on improving crossings for all residents. The following is happening:

1. A new pedestrian controlled crossing is due to start at the end of March near the Mill Road/Oxley Parker junction. This has been paid for via developer contributions.
2. A new pedestrian controlled crossing is also due to start in Axial Way at the end of March to improve crossing for Stadium users.
3. Work continues to push forwards with the feasibility study for a new Zebra crossing near Bedford Road on Mill Road. This is being driven forwards by a grant application from Myland Parish Council with support from Ward Councillors Turrell and Goss.

Anne and Martin are also giving support to new crossing feasibility investigations for Myland School in Mill Road and the junction of Boxted Road/Northern Approach Road following petitions from local residents.

Please tell us what you think!

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Please return to: **Mile End & Braiswick Focus Team, FREEPOST NAT6287, Magdalen Hall, Wimpole Road, Colchester CO1 2BR**

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. Published printed and promoted by Anne Turrell on behalf of Colchester Liberal Democrats all at Magdalen Hall, Wimpole Road, Colchester CO1 2DE.

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 for 'Focus', 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