

Updates

Severalls Housing

A warm welcome to the residents who continue to move onto the current Phase 1 development. This development continues to move forwards and houses are being built at a reasonable pace.

The NHS who still own the Phase 2 land are yet to announce their preferred bidder and this is now unlikely until the summer. To remind you Phase 1 has planning permission to build 248 houses, although only 125 have approval until the Northern Approach Road extension opens and then the entry point for Severalls Phase 1 will be from the Northern Approach Road and the bus gate off Mill Road roundabout will become operational and residents won't be able to use it for access, unless of course they are on a bus.

Northern Approach Road

The Northern Approach Road extension from the A12 junction by the stadium is on track to deliver in the Summer of 2014. This road is a long awaited addition to infrastructure that should have been delivered years ago, so we are pleased this will finally start to join up and relieve the Mill Road area. It will also link up to the new Park and Ride which has now got the green light.

Dominic Graham "This road will give us the opportunity to make the Mill Road area a better environment for all residents, as we plan to work with Essex County Council and local residents to see how we can best spend the £100k set aside for traffic calming along this road."

Spring Lane bridge repairs

From Feb 17th Bakers Lane now has restricted access due to the Spring Lane bridge being repaired over the next 22 weeks. The project is costing £450k and according to ECC will take this long due to:

Smaller machines are required to access the area. Watercourse has various works due, phased demolition of the bridge, concrete will be implemented and cured in phases, diversion is required of utility cables and new lighting is required.

Bridge construction is complicated with various steel works and brick works due to be undertaken along with a temporary pedestrian access and full resurfacing.

We are pressing ECC to finish this work as quickly as possible as the timescales sound far too long to us and many residents have said the same.

Water Tower Mill Road

Crest Nicholson have agreed to fund a repair programme to bring the Water Tower back into a much better state of repair. The water tower is near the new Severalls Phase 1 development along Mill Road. This can never be opened to the public due to the utilities which share the fenced off area around the tower.

However, following repairs we want to see this local historic monument lit up and some kind of plaque added.

Dog mess fines!

Dog mess continues to be an issue in a number of places in Mile End. Most dog walkers are responsible and pick up and dispose of their pets mess. However, we seem to have an increasing small minority who choose to flout the law and allow their pets to foul everywhere. On the spot fines of £50 can be issued.

Patrols by undercover wardens have been requested and if anyone does see someone allowing their pet to foul without attempting to clear it up, they can report it to Colchester Council by calling 01206 282700 or by emailing waste@colchester.gov.uk – please take down the description of the dog and owner, location, date and time.

Colchester School of Gymnastic Centre expansion

Some more good news for our area – the Colchester School of gymnastics centre is expanding. Fund raising, a grant from Colchester council via developer funding and a small loan taken out by the Gymnastics centre has culminated in them raising enough money to expand the school.

Scott Greenhill said "As the Sports Champion for our area, I am absolutely delighted this has been kicked off having been involved in some of the discussions with the school."

Building work is just getting underway by a local builder.

SIR BOB'S CALL TO RELIGHT MILE END

Sir Bob Russell, MP for Colchester, has called on Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways to end the all-over blackout now in effect through most of Colchester. He has asked for partial lighting to be turned on in suburban streets whilst energy saving alternatives are investigated properly. There are several ways in which energy and money

can be saved as well as safety ensured.

Included in Sir Bob's letter was a request to meet the Cabinet Member to discuss this further.

Sir Bob supports a safer Mile End



Hospital Parking update

We have two issues to report back on:

Firstly we have been in contact with the hospital regarding the congestion caused on Turner Road where the barriers at the hospital don't lift when the car park is full. The hospital have responded stating they are looking at a range of options to increase parking and to also remove the barrier. Currently parking at the

hospital is down on spaces due to the expansion and building which is ongoing until Spring. We are also in discussion with the hospital about any possible plans for adding a multi-story car park in future.

Secondly, we are going to again look at the residents parking scheme for Beaumont Close, Fieldview Close, Kingswood Road, Hollymead Close, Lufkin Road and Wryneck Close.

Residents parking will be proposed for all roads, where anyone resident wishing to park on the street will have to buy a permit which costs £52 per annum. If you have a driveway and don't need to park on the road, then you don't need a permit.

Guests and visitors can be covered by a guest permit, which costs 70 pence per visit and can be done online.

We aim to look at this again later in 2014.

www.northstation.co.uk congestion petition

The petition requesting Essex County Council investigate and deal with the traffic congestion at North Station now has over 3,500 signatures.. A weekend of petition signing was held on 11th and 12th January at Asda with mostly residents manning the table in the foyer. Signatures are also being collected at Jolleys pet food store, Pizza Hut, Dunelm Mill and Iceland stores.

Local residents Trish Alford and Dominic Graham have been the main driving force getting the petition off the ground. **This is a resident led, non political petition and we are happy to lend our full support.**

Included in the Focus is a copy of the petition form which you can fill in, get your friends, family and neighbours to fill out and return to the team Freepost. Alternatively you can fill it out online at www.northstation.co.uk

We will be holding further signing sessions so if you would like to get involved to help us out like many other residents then please contact Dominic.

Please send to: North Station Petition, Mile End Lib Dems, FREEPOST NAT6287, Colchester.

Sign Petition and send back.

I/We the undersigned call on Essex County Council to take immediate action to relieve congestion at the North Station Junction and Turner Rise Retail Park where severe congestion and grid lock is a daily occurrence. This is costing our local economy and severely affecting the quality of life for North Colchester residents.

NAME.....
 ADDRESS.....
 EMAIL.....
 PHONE.....

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.

Food waste recycling bags Mile End Day of Action

When your food waste sacks run out, the nearest retailers you are able to purchase a new roll for £1 from are:

The High Woods Country Park visitors centre off Turner Road. Alternatively you can buy them from Lighter's newsagents in the High Woods Square near Tesco High Woods.

There is going to be a Mile End day of action on March 27th. A multi-agency approach to tackling issues in our area. This will include the police, street wardens, illegal parking, dog mess, street sweeping machines, graffiti removal and any other work local residents deem needs sorting out.

Please email U2US@mileendlibdems.org or contact any of the team with anything you would like to see tackled on the Mile End Day of action.

Any problems?... Issues?... Concerns?



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Visit our website: www.mileendlibdems.org

It matters what you think...

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Please take the time to let us know what you think. You can return this form to our Freepost address below.

Name

Address

.....Postcode.....

Email

If there was an election today, who would you most likely to vote for?

Lib Dem Con

Labour Green

Ukip Other.....

Would you like to join

Sir Bob's Team:

Russell 4 2015?



Please return to:

Mile End Lib Dems, FREEPOST NAT6287, Colchester, CO1 2BR

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YOUR MILE END LIBERAL DEMOCRAT TEAM WORKING ALL YEAR ROUND

Mile End FOCUS



County Councillor Anne Turrell - Councillor Scott Greenhill - Councillor Martin Goss - Sir Bob Russell MP - Dominic Graham Winter 2014

Braiswick School update

The Braiswick Primary School plans were displayed to the public on January 9th and online feedback has been received up to the 23rd January. The local community generally welcomes the school but strong concerns have been raised about access to the school, the amount of traffic this might generate and what impact it will have on New Braiswick Park, Bergholt Road and Braiswick.

the plans may be slightly altered again, prior to them being formally submitted via a Planning Application.

Once they hit the planning application stage in the summer, these plans will be formal and any further changes will be slim – therefore it is important to feedback at the earlier stages to help influence positive change.

A further formal consultation will be held in March by Essex County Council to show the next iteration of plans which will be updated following the initial feedback. Once the next set of plans have been displayed and further feedback garnered in March,

We will keep you informed as this progresses.



Park and Ride to happen!

Essex County Council have finally found funding of £5.9 million for the Park and Ride in North Colchester. This will be built on land up near the new A12 junction near the Community Stadium. The Park and Ride should have up to 1000 spaces and will have a direct link along the new Northern Approach Road extension in dedicated bus lanes which will meet with the existing NAR and travel down to the station and then into town.

This should be open by the end of 2014.

Greater Anglia Meeting

Sir Bob hosted a meeting with Greater Anglia that was attended by local residents. Dominic Graham and Martin Goss went along, not only as customers but taking their Mile End hats as well so questions could be asked. Questions posed included a request to sort out the car park lights in Three Crowns Road which appear to always be switched off, repainting of the double yellow lines along the main station access road and also regular road sweeping of the area, as it looks dirty.

Greater Anglia took all the issues away and promised to report back.

So what is Essex County Council's repair criteria for potholes?

Did you know that a pothole in the road needs to be deeper than 50mm or 75mm across to be considered for repair? For pavements this is 20mm. Most local authorities appear to operate on a depth of 40mm.

By the time a pothole has reached 50mm it has already become potentially dangerous and likely to deteriorate at a far greater rate than at 40mm.

In 2011 Essex County Council was given over £5 million extra funding from the Government to help repair potholes. So why are our roads still in such a poor condition?

Mile End Lib Dems are arguing for better road surfaces in our area, which must support the level of traffic we see. Using Quick fixes do not and won't work.