

## 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 intend to weaken the criteria to fix potholes and other street repairs in an attempt to balance their books. Regular street cleaning will also stop under their proposals.

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



# Mile End Focus

Spring 2008

Edited by **Martin Goss**

From your local Liberal Democrat Focus Team

## KEEPING OUR STREETS CLEAN!

Martin and Anne have been working with various Stakeholders to deliver cleaner streets in Mile End. Currently, there have been issues with various litter hot spots in Mile End and a number of these have been resolved.

The bottom of Bergholt Road is already on a regular cleaning cycle after Anne met with Colchester Borough Council in October 2007 and a new bin has been installed in Three Crowns Road. We are pushing for further bins along the footpath from Three Crowns Road to Tuffnell Way.



Martin Goss - clearing up litter.

Martin also had a meeting with Asda to discuss the various issues with dumped Asda trolleys being left in the Mile End area. Martin and other residents are reporting to either CBC or Asda up to 8 trolleys a week.

There are also issues in Petrolea Close with lampposts which went out of service and have not been repaired. Currently Petrolea Close is unadopted which means that Asda are responsible for maintenance of the road and keep the area clean.

## 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**



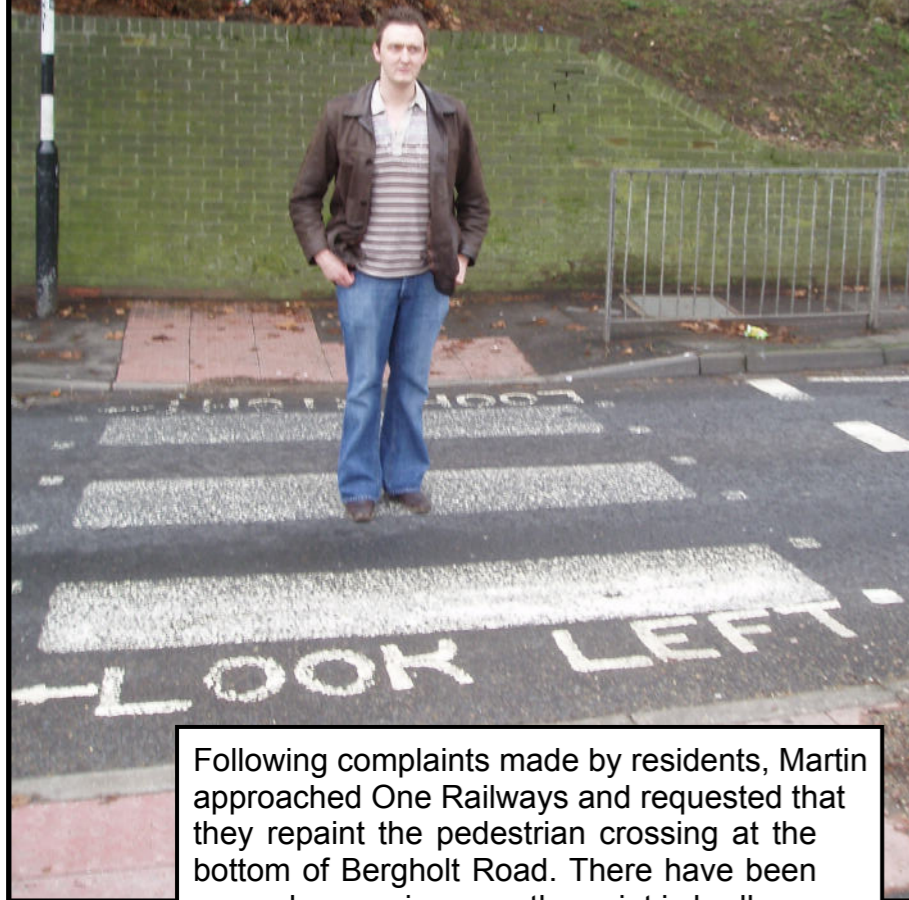
Martin Goss - helping to take the stray trolley back to the supermarket.

Martin said "I met with the Asda store manager in October 07 and have been working with Asda, Essex County Council and Colchester Borough Council to resolve the various issues. Progress on the street lights has already been made and some repairs were done. I will continue to push this until the roads and pavements are repaired. I will also continue to push for the rubbish to be cleared regularly."

Myland Parish Council have also employed a part-time street officer who will be keeping the streets cleaner. Martin and Anne supported this initiative.



## 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"

## 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.



## Keeping our lights on!

Martin and Anne have been working to ensure streetlights that go out of service are repaired in a timely fashion. Martin has reported various streetlights on Turner Rise, Bergholt Road, Northern Approach Road, Turner Road, Mill Road, Wryneck Close and Hollymead Close.

Please do not hesitate to contact Martin or Anne with any other lights you see that are out of service and we will help get them reported for you.



Martin Goss inspecting one of the repaired streetlights.

## 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."

## Turner Village planning consent granted

We wanted to update you on the Turner Village planning application following the many of you who objected to the planned 7 storey flats. A huge number of residents attended the planning meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup> and after 2 hours of debate, two Conservative Councillors who live in the Country decided to propose the application went through. They did describe this application as "exciting!" The traffic survey used was from 2001, well before the Northern Approach Road was built and many of the current new developments exist. We did manage to get one concession which was to reduce the biggest set of flats to 6 storey.

Martin and Anne want to personally thank the residents who turned up at the meeting and also to the resident from Turner Rise who spoke at the meeting against the application. Martin has lodged a complaint about how this whole application has been handled.

## MILL ROAD TRAFFIC SURVEY

Following the questionnaire which was delivered to every resident of Mill Road in August 2007 from the Mile End Lib Dems we are still working with Essex County Council to carry out a new speed check after April 2008, when the new financial year starts. We will keep you informed of progress.

## COMMUNITY STADIUM UPDATE

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.

## CLEANING UP DOGS MESS!

Martin and Anne continue to receive various complaints about dogs mess in most parts of Mile End. It is totally up to the owners of their pets to ensure they clear up and bin the dog mess that is left behind. It is dangerous to leave this on the pavement as children can be blinded by this should they touch and rub it in their eyes. Owners of pets who refuse to carry this out will be fined by Colchester Borough Council.

Please let us know of issues in your area so we can try and help improve this and deal with the issues at source.



GRAFFITI ON TURNER RISE

After a resident got in touch with Martin Goss about graffiti on the post boxes in Peto Avenue, he wrote to the Post Office and requested they cleaned up both post boxes – the one for residents post and the storage facility used by Royal Mail personnel.