

Colchester's investments in Icelandic banks

There have been many unsubstantiated scare stories circulated about the current banking crisis. We would like to reassure residents that Colchester's finances are strong and robust and capable of with-standing temporary setbacks.

After all, we have already dealt with a £10million black hole left by the previous Conservative administration. Work has restarted on the Visual Arts Facility to stop further deterioration of the building, opened the Community Stadium on time and restored the 9am bus start times amongst many other achievements.

When the Tories were voted out of office in May, **they left £12million invested in Icelandic banks AND £4million in troubled Bradford & Bingley.** Within months of taking control, the Liberal Democrats reduced the investments in Icelandic banks to £4million and have completely withdrawn from Bradford & Bingley.

We put our case forward at the news of the failing Icelandic bank and we were awarded a share in the assets the Government has seized from the Icelandic banks.



Not one Conservative Councillor raised concerns with Council Officers about the Council investment in Icelandic banks prior to October 2008, this despite:

- the warnings they now claimed to have seen;
- failed investments in Northern Rock last year; their investments later bailed out by the Government;
- it was the Lib Dems in October 2007 that called for a review of the rules for investing in banks. The Tory administration failed to do this!

These are difficult times, but accusing Council Officers of gambling with taxpayers money, when they are operating on established procedures that the Conservatives themselves introduced, is indefensible.

Unlike the FAILED Conservatives administration, the Lib Dems take financial prudence very seriously and will not sign blank cheques for art galleries or anything else.

Essex County Council proposals for Colchester secondary Schools

You will have read about the County Councils proposals for Colchester Secondary Schools as proposed by Tory Essex County Council Leader Lord Hanningfield, who describes Colchester as "Failing!" All families with children at the affected schools will be receiving a copy of the Consultation document and are invited to attend one of the following meetings where they will be able to hear the reasons for the proposals and be able to ask questions and make their feelings known.

- Monday 17 November at 7 pm at Alderman Blaxill School
- Wednesday 19 November at 7 pm at Thomas Lord Audley School
- Tuesday 25 November at 7 pm at Sir Charles Lucas School
- Tuesday 9 December at 7.30 pm at Colchester Community Stadium.



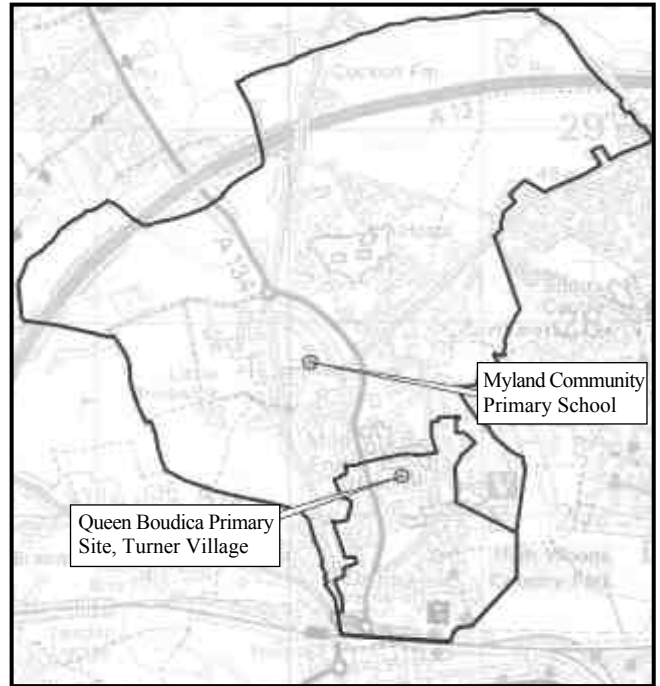
Please go along to the meeting that is most convenient for you. Anne and Martin do not support the shutting of any schools! You can also email your views to Anne and Martin at: colschoolcampaign@yahoo.co.uk

Queen Boudica School Boundary Update

There has been much debate about the catchment areas for the new Queen Boudica School at Turner Village (on Turner Road) and Myland School on Mill Road. Originally it had been suggested that Turner Rise and all housing on the Northern Approaches would feed the new school and most older housing near Myland school would be within the catchment. However, following input from parents consultation, agreement of school governors and with intervention from ward Councillors Anne Turrell and Martin Goss, the boundary has been changed.

In summary the top end of the Northern Approaches namely Tranter Drive, Cambie Crescent, Bolsin Drive, Dickenson Road, and Shepherd Drive remain as part of the Myland School catchment area and Hollymead Close, Wryneck Close, Lufkin Road and the bottom part of Turner Road are now within the catchment area of the new Queen Boudica school at Turner Village.

Lord Hanningfield, the Tory who is currently looking to close two secondary schools in Colchester, has signed off the boundary changes.



Vehicle activated sign in Braiswick

The vehicle activated sign has now been installed on Braiswick the road and we await for the power to be installed so it will be active shortly.



Vehicle activated sign on Mile End Road

Anne has asked for a study to take place to add a "Vehicle activated sign" to the bottom end of Mile End Road to stop speeding vehicles. We will keep you updated on progress.

Turner Road Crossing Person

Essex County Council have signed off and advertised for a Crossing Person for Turner Road/Mill Road junction in order to help the local parents and children cross the road more safely. However, nobody has applied for the role!

If you know anyone who wishes to apply for the role let Anne or Martin know.

Mill Road Traffic Calming

Anne and Martin met with Essex County Highways on October 20th and discussed over 20 matters relating to Mile End and Braiswick. We have some updates on Mill Road:

- The Oxley Parker/Mill Road zebra crossing which was meant to happen this year, will be starting work in Spring 2009.
- It looks like a vehicle activated sign will be installed at the far end of Mill Road near the Brinkley Grove Road area
- "Keep clear" wording will be painted on the road at the entrances to Bedford Road and Romulus Close
- Work on the Bedford Road crossing continues to the next stage of funding
- We have pushed for mini-roundabouts at Bedford Road/Romulus Close - the cost of this would be £80k

We will keep you updated on progress.

Road island cleaning

Following intervention from Martin and Anne, the majority of Traffic islands in Mile End have now been cleaned up. In particular they have been completed on Mill Road, Turner Road, Northern Approach Road and Braiswick the road.

Your Lib Dem team working for you



ALL YEAR ROUND!

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