

Mile End FOCUS



Autumn 2011



Edited by Cllr. Martin Goss

From Cllr. Martin Goss, Cllr. Anne Turrell, Cllr. Scott Greenhill, and Bob Russell MP

Park & Ride Confirmed

Essex County Council have given the green light for construction to start on Colchester's first Park and Ride next Spring, with completion expected in December 2012.

Buses will run every 10 minutes into the town centre on six days of the week between 07:00 and 19:00.

Cllr. Anne Turrell, who is also Leader of Colchester Borough Council, commented: "This is a massive victory for Mile End. Once Park and Ride is up and running there will be a significant reduction in traffic through our area.

"This is culmination of years of hard work from when I first became a Councillor. Since the Lib

Housing Review

Colchester's Liberal Democrat MP Bob Russell managed to get the Cabinet Member for Communities Eric Pickles to visit Colchester recently to see the threatened fields in Mile End so he could view from a resident's window the beauty of the area. Mr Pickles was unable to make any specific comments in case this goes to a judicial review and he would be forced to make a decision.

Anne Turrell as Leader of Colchester Borough Council has managed to bring forwards a review of the Local Development Framework (LDF) from January 2012. The LDF governs the housing numbers, housing sites and policies which need to be followed in Colchester for any future major housing developments.

The review will be purely evidence based and will review all parts of the LDF policies, particularly the housing numbers and proposed sites.

No Hospital Parking Signs

Martin, Scott and Anne have funded new No Hospital Parking signs for Hollymead Close and Fieldview Close. Originally these were funded by the Myland Community Council, but since they became damaged, we have paid for replacements out of our own pockets. Please keep an eye on them.

Lib Dem Council leads way in high speed broadband

Colchester's Lib Dem-led Council is leading the way in providing superfast internet access across the Borough.

The Council's new Digital Strategy will see the Council use its assets to make the centre of Colchester one of the largest wireless internet areas in the country while the Council's CCTV infrastructure will be used to deliver high speed broadband connections to residents and businesses.

Dems took over Leadership of Colchester Borough Council we have delivered the new A12 Junction and Park and Ride."

The final extension of Northern Approaches should also be completed next year.



Cllr. Anne Turrell believes that Park & Ride, along with the extended Northern Approaches and new A12 Junction, will make a huge difference to congestion in Mile End.

Community Stadium Update

The car park has finally been resurfaced at the Community Stadium which leads to a much better area for visitors. The local community is also allowed to use the stadium for local events. When the stadium was built it was agreed the community could use the meeting rooms at cost price for local events.

Please contact us should you require any further information.

Turner Rise Retail Park

A number of new retailers are planning to come to Turner Rise Retail Park. These include Go Outdoors who will take the Focus unit, Jollys a pet food retailer and a budget retailer which sells various discounted goods.

Providing the correct planning consent is given, it should also mean the long awaited lighting along the Peto Avenue to Asda footpath will be provided at no cost to the taxpayer as the pathway is private and belongs to the owners of the Turner Rise Retail Park.

The Council is also working to deliver high-speed broadband to rural areas throughout the Borough.

Cllr. Martin Goss said "The Liberal Democrats are ensuring that Colchester will be one of the country's most connected places.

"Not only will this be good news for residents, this will also make the town more attractive to employers and boost job creation throughout the Borough."

Local News IN BRIEF

Mill Road repairs

Parts of Mill Road near the Myland School have been repaired after we helped push Essex County Council into action.

Mill Road will also be resurfaced from the Brinkley Grove Roundabout to Severalls Lane as this area is in need of repairs.

We continue to push for repairs to Defoe Crescent, Kingswood Road and other poor roads in our area.

More potholes

We have reported potholes in Bakers Lane and Defoe Crescent which need to be repaired before the Winter weather sets in. Please let us know of any potholes which are concerning you.

Drain Cover - New Braiswick Park

Martin had to escalate a sinking and noisy drain cover in Tufnell Way to the Chief Executive of Essex County Council as nothing had been done about it despite Martin chasing it relentlessly for over 4 months.

We are pleased to report the drain cover was repaired within 72 hours of the Chief Executive becoming aware.

Bruff Close cut back

Martin asked for Transco to cut back the vegetation at the Mile End Road and Bruff Close junction where the gas station resides. We are pleased to say this work has been undertaken and it no longer overhangs the pavement.

Verges in Braiswick

Martin has requested that the overgrown verges in Braiswick near the new houses at 35 are cut back as they are overgrown.

It is down to the developer to undertake this work as they built the new pavement and verges.

County Hall boss highest paid in UK

Joanna Killian, Chief Executive of Conservative run Essex County Council, is the highest paid Chief Executive in the country, it has emerged.

Despite taking a £4,000 pay cut this year, Ms. Killian received a £6,900 bonus, taking her total pay to a staggering £289,173.

Whilst Lib Dem led Colchester Borough Council has been protecting frontline services (see right), Ms. Killian's pay package is the latest in a series of damaging revelations for Tory bosses at County Hall:

- Lord Hanningfield and other senior County Councillors were signing off their own expense claims, prompting a police investigation
- £173.5 million spent on consultants between 2008 and 2011
- £700,000 spent on setting up the failed 'Bank of Essex', much of which was given to bankers and consultants.

Lib Dem led Colchester Council has:

- ✓ Cut backroom costs by £4 million to protect frontline services
- ✓ Increased recycling rates to record levels
- ✓ Overseen a significant increase in tourist numbers
- ✓ Invested in high speed broadband connections for rural households and local businesses

Delivering for Colchester all year round

Tubswick Planning Application - Mill Road

Martin and Anne recently attended the planning meeting to ask for a deferral concerning the Tubswick Planning Application off **Mill Road**.

There were a number of shared concerns raised by the Planning Committee members and they agreed to defer the application whilst the Highway aspects of the application could be discussed with Essex County Council (ECC).

An onsite meeting has been held with ECC and the planning application will return to committee in due course following the outcome of the meeting.

Northern Approach Vegetation

Work is currently being undertaken to vastly improve the vegetation along the **Northern Approach Road** in Colchester. Where the ivy is strong and well grown, it will remain, but where the vegetation is full of weeds, the areas will be cleared and replanted with grass verges and bulbs.

A new design is also being looked at for the Northern Approaches development from the

Rail Gateway for Bergholt Road

Taylor Wimpey and Persimmon Homes have kindly donated £17k towards the cost of building a dedicated gateway and path through the NCP car park at **Colchester station** for use by local residents.

We are working with National Express and Network Rail (who own the land) to find a way forwards, as funding was the original issue.

Shepherd Drive walkway along to **Hakewill Way** as this area is again less than adequate. Residents will receive proposals in due course with a chance to comment.

All funding for these works is coming from the money left by Coftons to cover the next 25 years of maintenance, so this isn't yet becoming a burden on the taxpayer.



Cllr. Martin Goss at Colchester rail station

Linden Homes Update

A big warm welcome to those new residents who are moving into the Linden Homes development off Turner Road. Around 50 new households have become inhabited in recent weeks.

If residents need any help or advice, please do not hesitate to contact us so we can help guide you through the local area.



Your Mile End Focus Team are here to help all local residents

Queen Boudica School Pathway

Your Lib Dem Focus Team are working with Queen Boudica School, Linden Homes, Primary Care Trust and Essex County Council to ensure a pathway is provided from the PCT building on **Turner Road** to the ever expanding Queen Boudica school.

We will keep you informed of progress as this community facility is desperately needed.

Contact Your Mile End Focus Team



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Tell us what you think

Want to tell us something? Something you'd like us to help with? Let us know here!

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

I will vote Lib Dem next time

I can help deliver FOCUS in my area for 1-2 hours per month

Return free of charge to:

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

If you return this slip the Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you provide to contact you. Some of these contacts may be automated. You can opt out of communications at any time by contacting us.