

FOCUS

April 2009

on Mile End and Braiswick

Edited by Anne Turrell

A step towards Park & Ride

Lib Dem led administration secures funding to improve A12 junction

Great news! We now have funding to improve the A12 junction, and are close to securing funding for Northern Approach Road 3. This means Colchester is one step closer to having a long-overdue Park & Ride.

The Park & Ride site will be just north of the A12 & Essex County Council are already working on the details whilst we work to secure the final funding. The new junction should be in place by 2011.



Cllr. Anne Turrell at Colchester North Station

Progress on redevelopment of North Station!

Anne and Martin are pleased to update on some good news about the station & the redevelopment of the surrounding area:

- * New carriages to make some peak time trains longer are on their way!
- * A formal bid has been submitted for the complete upgrade of the North Station railway station at both entrances. If the funding application is successful then work could begin as early as April 2010.
- * Track and signalling improvements are ongoing in order to get the infrastructure ready for the 2012 Olympics which will help boost the Colchester economy.
- * Further meetings have been held to discuss upgrading the road junction at North Station. Currently one of the mooted plans is to build a second road and make a tunnel which would go under the road and come up somewhere near the Cowdray Centre. These discussions are still at a very early stage and upgrade work would be many years away, but it is a start.
- * A residents group has also been set-up to come up with a Village Design Statement to ensure that the proposed housing between Bergholt Road and Mile End Road does not repeat any mistakes made on previous developments. If you want to be part of the residents group please contact Anne or Martin.
- * Bulbs and grass have been planted on fallow mud beds around North Station to help improve the area
- * Contrary to recent claims, during 2006 the Tory Administration added the proposed housing development between Bergholt Road and Mile End Road to the Colchester Masterplan. The overall Masterplan was adopted recently and this was voted through by ALL Borough Councillors at the last full council meeting. These minutes are available for anyone to view. A residents group has been set up to ensure that this development does not suffer the mistakes of previous ones in our area. If anyone would like to get involved with this, please contact Anne or Martin.

Colchester Litter Pick at the Community Stadium

A very successful litter pick was organised around the Community Stadium area on Saturday March 21st by Martin and Colchester United. This was completed as part of the Keep Britain Tidy campaign which was running events across all of Britain.

There were around 10 residents and we collected over 20 bags of rubbish.

We want to thank all of those who took part.



Turner village silver jelly bean flats to go?

Some of you will remember the Turner Village flats which will look like silver jelly beans were approved under the previous Tory Administration. Due to the economy and also conversations with Anne and Martin, Linden Homes are considering re-planning the site and this will potentially mean the Jelly Bean flats will disappear and be replaced with better housing. Early discussions and early hopes, but we will keep you informed of progress.



Lib Dems explore smarter ways to increase recycling

Colchester Borough Council have set up an all party panel to look at a range of ways in which we can all increase the amount of waste which is currently being recycled.

The Lib Dems plan to stick to their promise of weekly black bag collections for the foreseeable future while an all-party panel considers all options.

We feel it's important to consult residents and all political groups on the Council before we make a major decision on this issue. Anne & the administration would like to encourage people to send in their thoughts on the options to the 'task and finish' group.

The Lib Dem team in Mile End realise that there are issues surrounding the high volume of flats in the ward. From April 2009 a review will be carried out on all flats in Colchester with a view to installing recycling facilities at as many as possible. We have asked that Tufnell Way in Colchester be included as part of the first review as well as other areas of Mile End such as the Northern Approaches.

Northern Approach Road Vegetation

Some residents have contacted Martin and Anne to express concern about the cuts made to bushes on the Northern Approach Road. We wanted to update you on the exact facts:

The Northern Approach Road deal was signed in 1998 with Cofton Ltd, with the landscaping and maintenance funding agreed with central government.

When any builder plants vegetation or open space which will eventually be handed across to local authorities to maintain, they have to give a "commuted sum" to pay for 25 years of maintenance, before it becomes a liability on the taxpayer.

However, due to a Central Government foul up the money will only last until 2018, as not enough funding was negotiated for the

maintenance. The plantation then becomes the taxpayer's liability.

This has therefore resulted in the plantation being cut back 0.5 meters to a low level in order to reduce the maintenance costs and ensure the money lasts until 2033. The plantation scheme with hindsight was also not suitable and something with a lower level of maintenance should have been planted.

A team will be starting work to clean up the area and some new low level planting will also be placed in the gaps.

We aren't happy with the situation and have inherited a legacy which was forced on Colchester via Central Government. John Prescott actually signed this whole deal off in 1998!

Lib Dems introduce street wardens across Colchester

From April 1st, Mile End will benefit from the extension to the Street wardens service, thanks to the Lib Dem led administration running Colchester Borough Council.

Anne has lined up for Tufnell Way to be the first area in Mile End to benefit from this service. Anne said "It will be great for Mile End as they can issue enforcement notices for dog fouling, litter, and cycling on pavements. They remove graffiti, work with young people and the elderly and generally become part of the community and help to improve the area".



What your Lib Dem Cllrs. Anne & Martin have been doing for you:

- Getting new dog bins for the Bergholt Road Recreation ground & the Cymbeline Meadows.
- Thanks to publicity in the Focus, there is a new lollipop person at Turner Road crossing.
- Reporting graffiti on the Braiswick bridge over the A12 to the relevant authorities
- Working with the owners of Turner Rise retail park to improve lighting on the path from Asda to Peto Avenue
- Securing two new bus shelters on Bruff Close (below), with another to come on Mill Road.
- Getting improvements made to Petrolea Close, (the header Road to Asda), re-done due to faults with the tarmac.



RECENT WARD SURGERY SUCCESS: We want to thank all those residents who turned up to the Mile End and Braiswick ward surgery. The church hall was packed and we have taken away lots of fresh casework. Please contact Anne or Martin at anytime for help.

Your Lib Dem team working for you ALL YEAR ROUND



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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