

Delivered free to homes across the Shepway area



Conservative WASTE

SEE PAGE 3

'Absolutely Fabulous' Support for Gurkhas

SEE PAGE 4

£50,000 PARKING STRATEGY SHELVED?

Shepway parking scheme **torpedoed** by County Council

A scheme to charge local residents for street parking permits could be scrapped in an incredible feud between two Conservative-run Councils.

Shepway's Conservative Council has spent thousands of pounds putting together proposals for parking permits, initially in central Folkestone and then across the rest of Shepway. Now Conservative Kent County Council wants almost ALL the cash that would be raised from the scheme to be taken from Shepway.

Disgusted

Folkestone Councillor **Tom McNeice** is disgusted at the potential waste of money spent on the scheme. He said:

"Shepway's Conservatives have spent £50,000 of taxpayers' money on consultants for this scheme. They have spent hundreds of hours of officer time and pushed through an unpopular scheme to charge residents £25 per car to park where it is currently free.

"To now find that the entire scheme, and all money spent on it, is in jeopardy because Kent County Council wants the income, is incredible.



● **DISGUSTED:** Neil Matthews with Cllrs Gary Fuller, Tim Prater and Tom McNeice are shocked by the potential waste of money

Lib Dems oppose scheme

Tom says: "The Liberal Democrats on Shepway Council oppose the charging of local residents for parking permits for at least the first car. There are plenty of

schemes run by other councils that don't charge local residents for permits.

"The Conservatives kept telling local people this scheme was not about the money – but it seems that just wasn't true."

News COMMENT

By Folkestone and Hythe parliamentary campaigner, Neil Matthews



Help in hard times

AFTER the turmoil in the financial markets only the Lib Dems have a plan for the rest of the country. Ordinary people need practical help to get through the next few months. Our plan would put money in people's pockets with tax cuts for people on low and middle incomes.

Vince Cable MP, the Lib Dem Treasury Spokesman, was the first to warn that the banks were lending irresponsibly. The first to call for Northern Rock to be nationalised. The first to call for an end to the free-wheeling, 'anything goes' short-termism of the City.

The Lib Dem Plan

- 1. Tax cuts to give more money in your pocket.** The Liberal Democrats will cut taxes for people on low and middle incomes, raising them for the richest so the tax cuts are affordable.
 - 2. Lower energy bills so you can afford to keep warm this winter.** As wholesale fuel prices fall – they have dropped 28% since August – utility companies must lower people's bills too.
 - 3. Keep people in their homes, so you don't need to fear unfair repossessions.** Banks must only ever repossess people's homes as a last resort.
 - 4. Cut interest rates, to reduce mortgage payments and business loans.** People and businesses need help paying off their mortgages and loans, so we need substantially lower interest rates.
- The Lib Dem action plan will really make a difference here in Shepway.** It will put money in your pocket, cut unfair bills, and keep people safe in their homes.

You can read more details of the Lib Dem proposals at www.libdems.org.uk/recoveryplan

Folkestone's Action Man!



GETTING ACTION: Main picture, Folkestone Town Councillor Gary Fuller with repaired road, below, showing the state of the road previously, above left showing a bin he has been working to get painted and above right with a dangerous street light.

HARD-WORKING Lib Dem Campaigner **Gary Fuller** has seen his efforts paying off across Folkestone during the autumn. Gary has reported street and pavement potholes across the centre of the town, exposed street light electrics, dumping in Guildhall Street, fly tipping and more.

Kent Highways and Shepway District Council have now taken action on a number of the problems

reported by Gary, but he just keeps working. Gary said:

"I want to see local streets and pavements kept in good repair, well cleaned and well lit.

"Whether I need to push Kent Highways, Kent County

Council, Shepway District Council or anyone else, I'll keep trying!"



Credit Crisis: The Role of Europe



RECENTLY, as the markets plunged, the cries went out for coordinated action over the EU. So what is the role of the EU in this?

Sharon Bowles MEP is a member of the Economic Committee in the European Parliament and has been warning of the dangers of 'financial pollution' for some time.

"Just as with the environment, financial pollution does not stop at borders" says Sharon. "The credit crunch started in the US and spread worldwide. Additionally in the UK it caused our own credit and housing bubble to burst. There has been a glaring need to have more cross border cooperation in supervision for some time, and I have been working

on this."

"In the present crisis it is up to Governments to structure rescue packages because they have the purse strings" explains Sharon. "It is also up to Governments to structure the national supervisory authorities, such as the UK's arrangement that involves the Financial Services Authority, the Bank of England and the Treasury.

"However the basic legislation governing financial institutions and which the FSA enforces through its rules, originates in the EU. This is essentially an on-going international

process, in which the EU plays a leading role. When the current crisis is over, the directives we have been working on will be the paving stones for the new generation of cross-border supervision, the need for which is even more obvious right now."

At the heart of much of Sharon's work is ensuring consumer protection. With many banks now being subsidiaries of companies with parent headquarters elsewhere, the issue of what happens in the event of a cross border winding-up can not be avoided. "I have already tackled this in the context of insurance, learning lessons from Equitable Life" says Sharon "and we took votes on that in committee while the markets were tumbling."



Has Kent's Money Gone in ICELAND?

£50 million FROZEN – but Kent's advisers warned other Councils against "too good to be true" investments almost a year earlier



BIG QUESTIONS: Campaigner **Tim Prater** wants to know who will pick up the tab for the whopping £50 million at threat in Icelandic banks.

KENT County Council's financial advisers, Butlers, told Shepway District Council to avoid investments that offered rates that "looked too good to be true" in 2007. This advice was nearly a YEAR before Icelandic banks collapsed - threatening Kent Councils huge investments in those banks.

Conservative Kent County Council, with over £50 million at jeopardy, faces the largest loss of any Council in the country.

Many people are asking how Kent had so much money invested in Iceland's banks when many

financial experts were warning of the risks months ago.

In July, Lib Dem Peer Lord Oakeshott asked questions in Parliament about Iceland's banks.

Folkestone Lib Dem Campaigner **Tim Prater** said:

"If Kent County Council had been told that its money was at risk, to leave it there was simply negligent.

"Kent pays a fortune for advice on investing its reserves. The least Kent deserves is that the advice given by financial advisers is consistent across all Councils. If Butlers had warned there may be

problems with banks that offered rates much better than usual then it should have acted. If Butlers didn't warn Kent – but had warned other Councils – we really need to know why.

"We also need to know how this loss is to be covered. It's simply not practical to suggest no one will lose out.

"Will Councils like Shepway and Folkestone Town Council – who both use Kent's pension fund – be asked to make up the loss? Will Kent County Council be making up the loss, and if so, where from?"



SHEPWAY NEWS

Enbrook Mail Opens

In a trail-blazing move, post services have been restarted in Sandgate after being closed by the Post Office last year.

After months of planning and fund-raising by the local community, Enbrook Mail has been launched at A.B's Minimarket in Enbrook Valley, Sandgate. Postal services re-started on 27th October, with opening hours initially 10am-2pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Lib Dem Councillor for Sandgate Valley, and a member of the steering group which set up Enbrook Mail, **Season Prater** said:

"I am delighted to see these services back. Not only are they essential for the elderly population in this area, but also businesses in Sandgate."

Cheriton Councillor Tim Prater said:

"Local residents and businesses will really welcome Enbrook Mail. I hope even more services can be offered there soon."

5 STEPS TO A SAFER BRITAIN **We can cut crime!**

- 1 More police on patrol - don't waste billions on ID cards
- 2 Take back our town centres - let communities close pubs and clubs that cause trouble
- 3 Make sentences mean what they say - life should mean life
- 4 Compulsory work and training in prison - to cut reoffending
- 5 Better compensation for victims - paid for by prison work

WWW.WECANCRIME.COM

Airport Plan "for the Birds"

NEIL Matthews, Lib Dem Campaigner for Folkestone & Hythe, has welcomed news that the RSPB have come out against Lydd Airport expansion plans. The RSPB said "Lydd remains one of the most inappropriate and dangerous locations to run a large airport".

The RSPB believes there will be a significant threat to wildlife. As well as the increase in flights, the wildlife charity believes that the

airport's bird hazard management plans pose a significant risk of disturbance.

The RSPB's spokesman said: "It is ludicrous to think that an airport calling itself London Ashford Airport will actually halt operations if a flock of birds threatens to fly across the runway."

Neil Matthews is opposed to the plans for the expansion of Lydd Airport. He said:

"I agree with the RSPB and

the majority of local residents: Lydd Airport should not be expanded.

"Local polls have repeatedly shown that residents are against these proposals, and the RSPB who have an important reserve in Dungeness are also against these proposals.

"Lydd Airport should withdraw the planning proposals and reassure us they have given up on this expansion once and for all."



• Neil Matthews is briefed by New Romney Coast Cllr Val Loseby on recent airport developments.

Joanna Lumley's 'Absolutely Fabulous' Support for Gurkhas

TV STAR Joanna Lumley has taken the lead in fighting for a fair deal for ex-Gurkha soldiers in the UK.

Joanna, whose father served with the Gurkhas, is leading the campaign with long-time Gurkha Justice campaigner and Folkestone Councillor Peter Carroll.

Unlawful and unfair

The campaign got a huge boost at the end of September when the High Court ruled that the Government's treatment of Gurkhas was "unlawful and unfair". Since then the campaign has been pressing the Government to do the honourable thing and change the law – something they have so far refused to do.

Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg is also strongly backing the campaign. He said:

"The Government must allow all Gurkhas who risked their lives serving in our armed forces to become British citizens.

"If someone is prepared to die for our country they should have the right to live in our country."



● Joanna Lumley with Gurkha Rights campaigners including Nick Clegg MP, Ming Campbell MP and Peter Carroll outside the High Court in London

Nickolls Quarry **DISGRACE**



● Hythe campaigners Neil Matthews and Darren Briddock at the Nickolls Quarry site in West Hythe

Neil Matthews, Parliamentary Spokesman for Folkestone and Hythe, has slammed Shepway's Development Control Committee for granting permission for 1050 homes at Nickolls Quarry.

The key meeting saw Shepway Council pass the plans despite fierce opposition from the Liberal Democrats and local residents. Neil said:

"This was the wrong decision for Hythe. The development is massively too big.

"Local roads will struggle to cope. There are huge questions that still have not

been answered on the flooding risk and the nearby firing range.

The meeting was packed with local residents who looked on in disbelief as Conservative Councillors raised their hands in favour of the planning application.

Hythe campaigner Darren Briddock said:

"The Conservatives seemed to disregard the views of the hundreds of people that live nearby, who are against this development.

"It was even more incredible that no Conservative Hythe District councillors were present."

Published and promoted by Tim Prater on behalf of Shepway Lib Dems, 82a Sandgate High St, Folkestone CT20 3BX. Printed by Sharmans, Newark Road, Peterborough PE1 5TD

Help the Lib Dems win here

Neil Matthews and the Lib Dems work hard all year round for our area. If you would like to help our campaign, please complete and return this form.

Your name-

Your address-

Postcode-

Email-

I will vote Lib Dem at the next election

I would like to receive email updates from Shepway Lib Dems

I can display a poster at election time

I can deliver leaflets in my area

I would like to vote by post in future

I would like to come to social events

I can make a donation to the Lib Dems

£50 £20 £10 Other £

Please make cheques payable to the Liberal Democrats. A donation of £10 or more entitles you to become a member of the Lib Dems. Please tick here if you do not wish to be enrolled



Local campaigner, Neil Matthews

REAL ACTION FOR YOU

Shepway Shame Spot

Conservative Councillor Linda Oliver has been paid over £3,000 in allowances by Shepway Council since moving to Bath around a year ago.

Despite calls to quit she refuses to resign her seat.

The Liberal Democrats would like to use the information above to contact you from time to time to keep you informed of campaigns we may think of interest to you. Please write to us if you do not wish to be contacted in this way.

Return to: Shepway Lib Dems, FREEPOST CU592, Folkestone, CT20 3BR