

FOCUS

www.shepwaylibdems.org.uk

**Cheriton
Edition
Winter 08**

Shepway's £50,000 Parking Fine?

Shepway's Conservative Council have spent £50,000 on consultants to put together proposals for a parking permit scheme that may now NEVER be implemented.

Kent County Council may have dealt the plans a fatal knock-out as they made a last minute claim for the majority of cash raised from the scheme.

Under the new scheme, local residents would be forced to buy £25 permits for every car to park in currently free roads.

The scheme would initially operate in central Folkestone and then across Cheriton, East Folkestone, Hythe and the rest of Shepway.

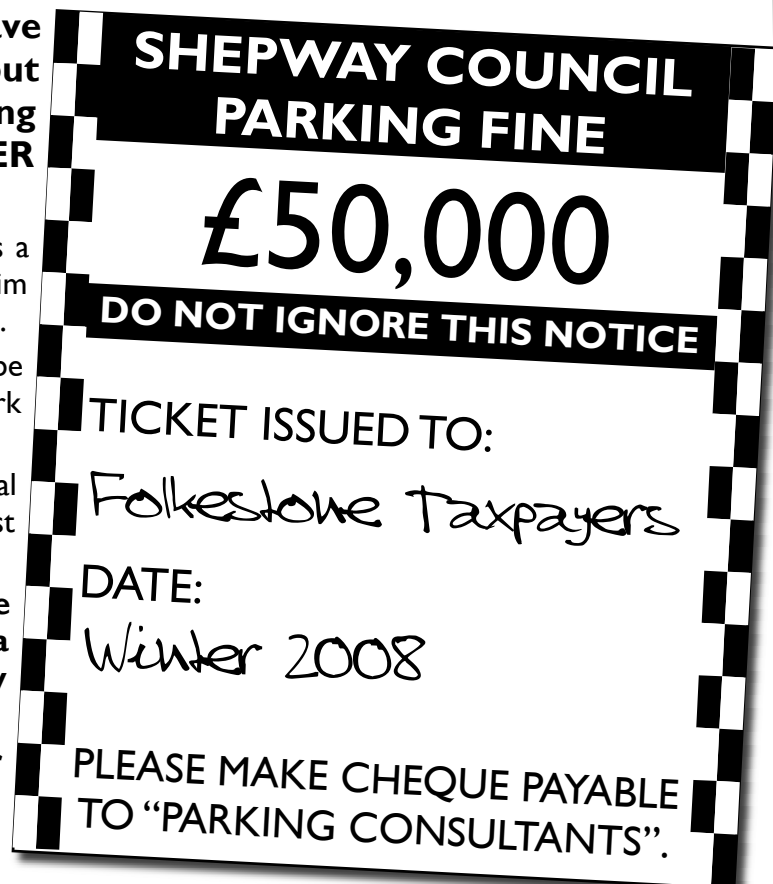
The Lib Dems proposed giving a free permit to every household, but the idea was rejected by Conservative Shepway Council.

Folkestone Lib Dem Councillor **Tim Prater** has learned that Kent want to "claw back" almost all the income from the scheme.

Kent have written to Shepway proposing that they take on-street parking income above £15,000.

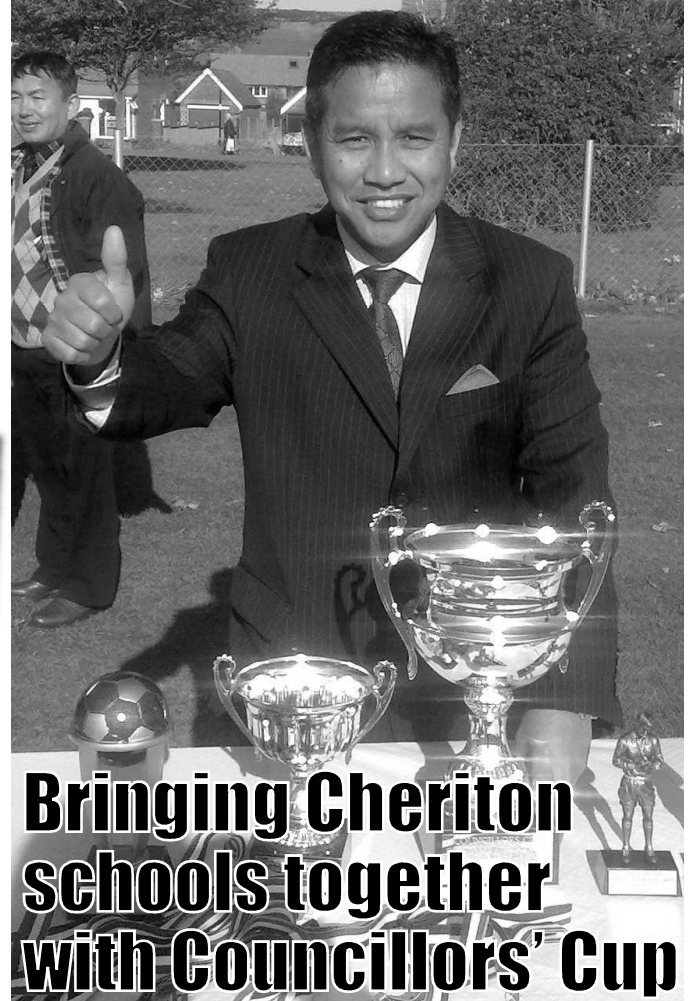
Tim Prater said: "Shepway should never have spent a penny on this scheme before having a specific, cast iron agreement with Kent County Council.

"Charging local residents to park outside their own homes where they do not already do so is an unnecessary and unfair tax. Plenty



of other local councils run parking permit schemes with FREE permits to local residents.

"If Kent's intervention blocks the scheme it will be a bitter-sweet moment. Shepway NEEDS a parking plan, but DON'T need to make residents pay for permits and should NEVER have risked money on plans that may never get implemented."



Congratulations to **Cheriton Primary School** who won the first ever Cheriton "Councillors Cup" at the Church Road stadium in October.

St Martins Primary School were runners-up, with teams playing from all Cheriton & Morehall primary schools.

The Councillors Cup was organised by Cheriton Councillor **Dhan Gurung** and supported by grants from Folkestone Town Councillors, Charlton FC football project and the local community. Dhan said:

"It was a fantastic event and we had great weather. "The children and spectators all had a good day. We are working to make this an annual event, bringing together schools from across the area."

Run-away Tory Councillor costs Thousands: Official

The Conservative Councillor that refuses to resign despite moving to Bath last year has been paid THOUSANDS by Shepway since moving away.

Shepway Councillor Oliver was paid £3,659 in allowances and expenses to 31st March 2008 says the Shepway Council web site.

Council figures have also confirmed allowances are still being paid - a YEAR after she left the area.

Shepway campaigner **Neil Matthews** has slammed the news. Neil said:



"It's a disgrace this Councillor has refused to resign. She can't represent Shepway from so far away.

"Local residents have been calling for her resignation, and quite right too.

"To have it confirmed that thousands in allowances have been paid to this Councillor adds further injury. It's a disgrace to the local Conservatives. Do they have no shame?"

ENBROOK MAIL Open for business!

Local campaigners and residents are delighted with the opening of Enbrook Mail.

The new service is in AB's Minimarket in Sandgate Valley and replaces the Post Office closed earlier this year.

Postal services have now restarted, with opening hours initially from 10am to 2pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. It is hoped that these hours will be extended in the near future.

Sandgate Councillor **Season Prater** was a part of the team that got Enbrook Mail opened for business, with support and donations from the whole area.

Season said: "I am delighted to see these services back in the Enbrook Valley.

"So many post offices are being closed across the Country, but here we have proved the local community can get together and ensure these vital services are saved."

Cheriton Councillor **Tim Prater**:

"Local residents and businesses will really welcome Enbrook Mail. I hope even more services can be offered from there soon. With Christmas coming, sending those all important parcels will be much easier!"



Got a Problem locally? Tell us!

Can you help us?

My View:

I can help deliver Focus in my area
Focus is delivered by volunteers. We aim to produce one every 6 weeks and it should take no more than an hour.

I would like to join the Lib Dems
Being a member doesn't mean you have to be active. We are not funded by big businesses or trade unions, just our members and supporters. Membership costs from just £10 a year.

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone:

Mobile:

Email:

I would like to receive regular email news from the Lib Dems (please add email address below)

The Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you have provided to contact you from time to time about issues we think you may find of interest. Some of the contacts may be automated. You can opt out of some or all contacts at any time by contacting us.

**Please return to: Cheriton Lib Dems
FREEPOST CU592 Folkestone CT20 3BR**

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NEWS UPDATE Royal Military Avenue Parking Scheme "Not Good Enough"

Initial County Council plans for **Royal Military Avenue** are "not good enough" according to Cheriton Councillors **Peter Carroll** and **Tim Prater**.

Despite pledges by Kent Highways at a public meeting for more parking in the road and crossing places, plans show only "kerb aligned" parking and no new crossing points. Tim Prater said:

"While the plans would reduce the road width and reduce speeding, it will do nothing to help the parking problems on that road, which 'echelon' parking would really help. We were promised a scheme to increase parking places in the road, and safe crossing points."

Dhan Helps in Dover Dock Dispute

Cheriton Councillor **Dhan Gurung** has intervened to solve a dispute in Dover.

Six former Gurkha soldiers were drafted in by Dover Harbour Board to moor ships in the event of industrial action. After meeting with Dhan, they left the port and have agreed not return to cover strike action.

Dhan said: "The workers don't want to do anything that harms the British people who have supported Gurkha rights so strongly."



Cheriton roads agony may finally be ending

Long suffering Cheriton residents should soon see **Cheriton High Street** fully reopened after months of traffic lights and delay.

The pipe laying works are to stop when works get to the junction with **Hawkins Road**.

Horn Street has also reopened recently following almost 10 months of closures.

However, there are still works ongoing in **Ashley Avenue** on new pavements, which Kent Highways say will take another few months.

Cheriton Councillor **Peter Carroll** said:

"The road works have made it a miserable time to get around Cheriton - lets hope at least Cheriton High Street is fully reopened by Christmas.

"I simply don't understand why some of these works have taken so long to be completed. It's caused months of disruption and I look forward to seeing it ended."



The Cheriton Liberal Democrat team is here for you.

If you have a problem, please get in touch or use the form above and send to our FREEPOST address:

Cheriton Lib Dems, FREEPOST CU592, Folkestone CT20 3BR.

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TV Star **Joanna Lumley** has joined with campaigners from Shepway and across the country to fight for Gurkha Justice.

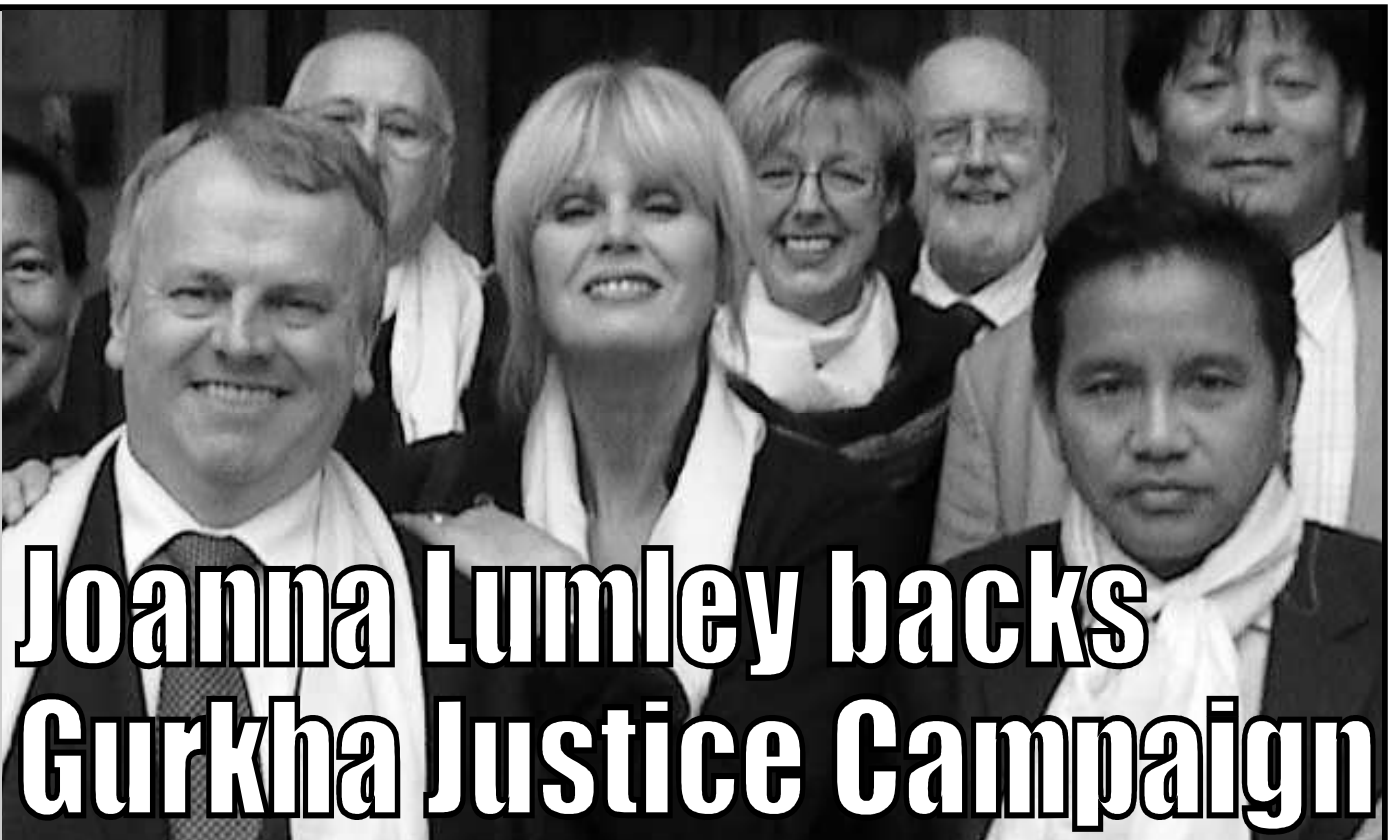
The campaign had a massive boost in September when the High Court described current rules as "unlawful and unfair".

Joanna is calling for settlement rights for all ex-Gurkhas who served in the British Army - no matter when they retired.

A House of Commons Committee has also called on the Government to take "urgent action by extending settlement rights in the UK to all former Gurkhas."

Despite the views of the court and the the committee, the Government have still not changed the law.

You can join Joanna Lumley and get involved in the campaign and learn more at www.gurkhajustice.org.uk.



Joanna Lumley backs Gurkha Justice Campaign

Joanna Lumley celebrated the High Court ruling that treatment of Gurkhas had been "unfair and unlawful" with Folkestone Councillors Peter Carroll, Dhan Gurung, Lynne Beaumont and Tom McNeice [Photo: Tim Prater]. Joanna is asking for your support by signing the petition at www.gurkhajustice.org.uk