

PEOPLE POWER SUCCESS



● **Cllr. Alan Weeks attending one of the demonstrations against the development proposals.**

New Forest District Council's Planning Committee have unanimously voted to throw out the plans of developer, Linden Homes, for three major developments in the town which would have meant the loss of two sports fields. This is due in no small part to the vigorous campaign undertaken by many local residents.

The controversial applications would have led to a massive loss of open space in and around Totton. The plans included developing half of the former BAT sports ground, in Southern Gardens, for housing as well as covering the entire AFC Totton football ground with further housing. The third application dealt with new structures, including a stadium and floodlighting, built on open fields near Calmore.

Speaking at the planning meeting, County Councillor Alan Weeks, said "The loss of such important remaining green space in Totton is clearly quite unacceptable".

Liberal Democrats in Totton were first to oppose the plans, distributing a petition that attracted thousands of signatures urging BAT not to build on the sports ground.

A leading member of the campaign, Focus Team member, Frances Orchard says "We need to support the football and cricket clubs. However, these proposals run directly against the agreed local plan which is designed to protect the remaining green areas we have left in Totton. I'm pleased that the Councillors on the planning committee have rejected the applications".

It is now hoped that BAT will do the right thing and consider actions that will secure the continued use of their site as a sports ground.

● Cllrs. David Harrison & Alan Weeks at the now demolished Testwood Rec toilets.



Loos Plea Heard

Cllr. Alan Weeks has succeeded in making the District Council reconsider demolishing more Public Conveniences in Totton.

A recent meeting of the Environment Review Panel at NFDC had recommendations to demolish two further public toilets in Totton. Cllr. Weeks spoke robustly against removing these necessary public facilities located at Eling Recreation Ground and Winsor Road.

Speaking after the meeting, Cllr. Weeks noted "Elsewhere in the district new toilets are being

built and old ones refurbished. I was pleased to receive cross party support for deferring the decisions and I hope that measures will be taken to ensure their long term future."

Library Improvements Needed

County Councillor, Alan Weeks, wants to see big improvements to Totton Library.

Alan recently visited the library with Liberal Democrat Parliamentary candidate, Terry Scriven (pictured). It is a well used and popular facility but the fabric of the building has barely changed since it was first constructed over 50 years ago.

Alan says "I have a vision for a new Totton Library, probably on the same site but with much better facilities. Perhaps a new building could incorporate a computer room and coffee shop or something similar".

Terry Scriven says "Hampshire County Council has invested huge sums of money in improving libraries in other towns. It would seem that Totton, where residents contribute a very large sum in council tax, is long overdue an improved library".



Your Lib Dem Focus Team

Revd. Lesley Edwards
 Len Harris
 Frances Orchard
 Jon Sawyer
 Neal Scott
 Jacquie Shaw
 Carol & Paul Sullivan
 Lorella Weeks
 Alan Weeks

Town Councillor, Central Ward
 Town Councillor, West Ward
 Central Ward
 Town Councillor, North Ward
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Please contact any of us if there are issues you wish to raise.



Visit our home on the Internet:- <http://www.newforestlibdems.org.uk>



Grants Scheme Update

As mentioned in a previous Focus, Councillor Alan Weeks has received a budget of £10,000 from the County Council, to be spent on local projects or initiatives in the area.

The latest organisation to benefit from the scheme is Caterpillars Pre-School based at Calmore infant School. The money will help the group in setting up a new toddler group.

There is still more than £9,000 available for grants in your area.

If you are involved in an organisation that may be able to benefit from a grant, then contact Cllr. Alan Weeks either via the Freepost address overleaf, or by phone on 80870908 and he will be able to provide more details.



Calmore Improvements Planned

At a recent Town Council Amenities Committee meeting, it was agreed by Councillors to move forward with proposals to spend up to £85,000 of Developer's Contributions on a new landscaping project at New Forest Park, Calmore. The proposals include clearing the undergrowth of rubbish and putting in place measures to make future littering less likely. The proposed scheme would also formalise existing paths by surfacing them.

After the meeting, local Town Cllr. Jon Sawyer said, "I'm very excited about the prospect of this environmental improvement programme. It will make New Forest Park a much safer place and improve the quality of life of local residents."



Supporting Local Produce

On a recent visit to Eling Tide Mill, local Lib Dem PPC, Terry Scriven was delighted to find that the mill are now selling flour bearing the 'The New Forest Marque'.

This is flour made from wheat grown in the New Forest and milled at the tide mill.

Terry said "Not only is the product local but also very green having been milled by tidal power in the town. I would urge those residents who bake their own bread to visit the mill and buy truly local and environmentally friendly flour".

Well Done Dog Owners!

At a recent Town Council meeting, officers reported that dog bins across Totton were being well used. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all dog owners for their responsible use of the bins.

The Council's findings have helped reinforce the policy of providing more bins where the need is identified.

Your Focus team are keen to hear of any areas where you would like to see a bin.. Let us know by filling out the Freepost form on the back page.





Community Litter Pick

A volunteer litter pick organised by the Lib Dem Focus Team recently took place in Calmore.

The event was a resounding success, with over a dozen full bags of litter being collected. The discarded items had been making an unsightly mess in the area for all to see.

The event was led by local Lib Dem Councillor, Jacquie Shaw. She said "Actually, it was quite a bit of fun. I'm delighted that a number of local people decided to join us at the event".

More community litter picks will be arranged and details given in future Focus editions.

A number of responses were received after the last Focus including:

- An anti-social behaviour issue in Calmore
- Differing standards of grass cutting
- Parking difficulties on Calmore Drive
- Traffic calming measures in Calmore Drive and Calmore Road
- Concerns over the future of the Stocklands site
- The maintenance of pathways around the Wetherby Gardens area
- The standard of Street lighting in Cooks Lane
- Concerns over a housing development in Westfield Road
- Pedestrian crossing problems in Michigan Way

All responses have been answered and where possible actions are being taken.



Please use the form below to raise any issues that YOU may have.

What can we do for YOU?

If there are issues you want us to take up, or if you have a problem or an idea for the area, get in touch with Alan Weeks and the rest of our team.



**Return to:
Alan Weeks
Totton Lib Dems
FREEPOST SO3096
Hythe SO45 5AJ**

Name/s _____
 Address _____
 Postcode _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

The Lib Dems and their elected representatives may use the information you provide to contact you about issues you may find of interest. Some of these contacts may be automated. You can opt out of some or all contacts at any time by contacting us.

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- Labour
- Labour or Lib Dem
- None / Other _____

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