

FOCUS



LIBERAL
DEMOCRATS

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The All Year Round Newsletter



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Wheeled bins will boost recycling



- Wheelie bins mean less mess and more recycling.

Liberal Democrat-led Uttlesford District Council is bringing in a new system of refuse collection to boost recycling rates, protect the environment, and save you money.

Cllr Martin Savage said "Burying waste in the ground produces methane which in turn contributes to global warming. We need to recycle more, and the new system of wheeled bins will help us to do so."

"We know that some places in our villages are unsuitable for wheeled bins," said Cllr Savage, "We will be talking to local residents and providing alternatives where appropriate. Frail or disabled people that have difficulty with them will receive extra assistance."

**Liberal Democrats care
for the Environment and
your pocket**

Meals on Wheels - Shock Conservative Plans

The Conservatives, who run Essex County Council, have announced plans for a shocking 52% increase in charges for meals on wheels. The charge for the meals is set to rise from £2.30 to £3.50, the third price increase in a year. Since the County Council elections there have been two big increases.

- continued overleaf

Waste Plan - The Facts

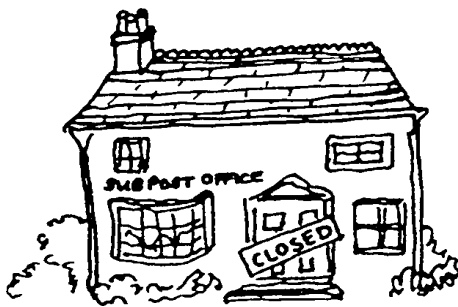
- Smelly kitchen waste will be collected weekly, as now. Dry recyclable material and any remaining waste will be collected separately in alternate weeks.
- Uttlesford Council recognises that not every property is suitable for a wheeled bin. Alternatives will be available where that is the case.
- Frail and disabled people who cannot cope with moving the wheeled bins will be given extra assistance by the refuse collectors.
- The cost of burying waste in the ground is huge, both financially and environmentally.
- The council aims to increase recycling rates from 23% to 50% over the next three years.
- The current system will not achieve the 50% target. It has been shown that the use of wheeled bins makes it easier for people to recycle.
- The cost of fines imposed on Councils not achieving the targets will be much higher than the cost of the new system.

www.saffronwaldenlibdems.org.uk

Save Our Post Offices

Local Liberal Democrats have launched a campaign calling for the Government to safeguard the rural post office network. "Local post offices, such as the one in Ashdon, face a triple whammy.

First, the current Government protection against avoidable closures of rural post offices ends this month. Second, the Government is still failing to give any guarantees on financial support after March 2008. Third, the Government has



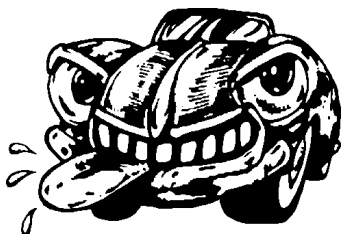
announced that it will not extend its contract for pension and benefit payments using the post office card account. There is a serious risk that the floodgates of mass rural post office closures will soon be opened," says Martin Savage.

decision to discontinue the use of the Post Office card account for pensions and benefits. "We have few rural posts offices remaining in Uttlesford and I fear that ending this contract will close the remaining ones. Throughout the UK millions of people will be denied the choice of using the Post Office card account at local branches.

"The closure of rural post offices can have a profound effect on communities, particularly hitting the more vulnerable members of society such as the elderly, disabled and those without transport of their own. I urge everyone to sign the copy of the petition in Ashdon post office or the one below."

The Lib Dems have launched a petition calling on the Government to reverse its

Better traffic management



Martin Savage writes, "In the last edition of FOCUS, I spoke of the traffic issues within this ward and throughout Uttlesford. Since then, I have received a lot of feedback about the individual concerns that you have with speeding traffic and heavy lorries. In some places you want to see more footpaths but this may not prove possible. Traffic calming measures may assist and I am pleased to report that there will be new schemes in both Ashdon and Hadstock."

Essex County Council has announced that parish councils will be able to purchase 'flashing traffic speed signs' but the cost may have to be met by the parish councils. The other good news is that the County Council has finally announced that the locally determined highways budget decisions will be passed to Uttlesford District Council. Although Uttlesford has more roads per head of population than other parts of Essex, the total budget for the whole of Uttlesford will probably be only £200,000. This may seem a lot but spread over 54 parishes and two towns it won't go very far. I will continue to work to ensure that our villages get our fair share.

Meals on Wheels - continued from page 1

The consultation period for the Conservatives' proposals was just a week long, leading to accusations that it was a sham. Liberal Democrat County Councillors put forward budget proposals for a much smaller increase. Sadly the Conservatives voted the proposals down.

Stop The PO Closures!

I / We, the undersigned, call on the Government to keep the Post Office card account to allow people to continue to collect their pensions and benefits at Post Offices and safeguard our post offices.

Name	Address	E-mail

Return to: Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST
CL2702, Stansted CM24 8BR.

The Liberal Democrats may contact you about our campaigns. Let us know if you do not wish your information to be used in this way.

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