

FOCUS

on Great Dunmow



**Winter
2007/2008**

Edited by Cllr Emily Gower (Tel. 859834) & Cllr Clive Smith (Tel. 873171)

www.saffronwaldenlibdems.org.uk

Say No to Tory Housing Plans

Don't Open The Flood Gates To Thousands More Houses

Conservative-controlled Uttlesford District Council has launched a public consultation on where to put the 4,200 new houses that the Labour government is forcing on our District.

There are four options - options 1-3 all put over 1000 additional houses in Dunmow, option 1 over 2000, and this is in addition to the completion of Woodlands Park, where there are over 600 houses still to be built. Such a large development would become a commuter dormitory. In the absence of a rail line to Dunmow this would just force total dependence on the car for transport, with the unacceptable impact that would have on our carbon footprint and global warming. In addition there would be huge pressure on local services.

Option 4

Option 4, the "preferred" option, also allocates some housing to Dunmow, along with 3000 houses to Eisenham. The existing road system would be unable to cope with the extra traffic, without the new roads provided by a second runway at Stansted. Liberal Democrats have long campaigned against a second runway, which will be disastrous for Dunmow and the whole district.

Consensus Wrecked

The plans were railroaded through the council by the Conservatives without any discussion with Lib Dem and Independent councillors; wrecking years of consensus amongst all parties on dealing with housing and airport threats. Three months after the plans first emerged, the Tories have failed to provide any evidence to justify the proposals.



● Emily Gower and Clive Smith and local Lib Dems will fight options that dump over 1000 of Uttlesford's new houses in Dunmow, and want decisions made on the basis of proper evidence.

No Proper Investigation

The Conservatives voted down a proposal from Liberal Democrat councillors to have a proper, detailed investigation by the council's officers into where to put the 4,200 additional new homes.

For many months, both Dunmow Town Council and Dunmow Town Strategy Group have been calling for a proper capacity study before decisions on housing are made. The lack of a proper investigation opens the process up to legal challenge, which means whatever the Council decide could be overturned, and a different solution imposed.

"Conservative Councillor Sue Barker has been cast as Scrooge this week after pressing ahead with consultation over Christmas on a controversial plan for 3,000 new homes."

"She told outraged residents: 'Oh well, you'll have a week off to think about it'."

- Herts & Essex Observer, 8th. November

Make Your Voice Heard!

Only about 200 people responded to Uttlesford's last consultation on where to locate future housing.

The next stage in the consultation will be a leaflet delivered in November. The consultation ends on January 11th.

The document looks pretty, with lots of chocolate box photos, but there is not a single map and nothing about the need for, or the scale of, affordable houses.

Cllr Clive Smith says "It is vital that people from Dunmow respond to the consultation and voice their concerns about the potential allocation of more large-scale development to the town."

Overleaf: How The Lib Dems Would Do It Better

Here to Help You



Cllr Emily Gower
☎ 859834
cllrgower@uttlesford.gov.uk

Cllr Clive Smith
☎ 873171
cllrsmith@uttlesford.gov.uk



Andrew Duff
MEP
☎ 01223 566700
mep@andruffmep.org



Putting The Housing In The Right Places

Liberal Democrats want the allocation of new housing in Uttlesford to be based on evidence and a proper consultation of local residents, parish councils and other interested organisations.

The Lib Dems want Uttlesford District Council to do a full appraisal of the ability of our communities to cope with more housing, and to establish what additional infrastructure would be required to support the additional housing. Only then should the Council be looking at detailed options allocating specific numbers of houses to different parts of the district. When planning any new houses, we need to ensure that as many houses as possible are affordable to satisfy local need, which is high because of house price inflation.

The Lib Dem Plan

Preferred option: distribute the new houses across a list of larger settlements and smaller villages. Do not allocate numbers of houses against places until Council officers have produced evidence to show how many houses each place can take with existing roads, schools, doctors etc.

Proper consultation: consult local residents, parish councils and other organisations on the preferred option, and a range of other options, all supported by factual evidence.

Make evidence-based decisions.

Exhibition Called For

Liberal Democrat councillors are insisting that Uttlesford District Council puts on an exhibition before Christmas to show local residents the impact of the proposed options for housing development.

The Lib Dems want local residents to be told about the likely effects of the different options on local road traffic, schools, shops, medical facilities and other public amenities.

Meaningful Responses

This information must be disclosed upfront if residents are to make meaningful responses in the consultation which ends at the beginning of January. There is no point asking people to make choices if they aren't told the likely implications of all housing growth being in one place or being carefully distributed in several locations.



● To make your voice heard, write to Uttlesford District Council, London Road, Saffron Walden, Essex. CB11 4ER. Alternatively, you can respond to your Lib Dem Team using the space below, and we will pass your views on to the council.

Other News In Brief

New Library on the way

After many years of campaigning it looks like Dunmow should get its new library in 2008.

The library will be opposite the Co-Op behind the Boars Head, and the new building is due to be handed over to Essex County Council in May next year. After further work to fit out the library it is due to open by the end of September 2008.

"This is excellent news for Dunmow," said Cllr Emily Gower. "The new library will be twice the size of the current facility, with a wider range of books, more computers for public use, and the opportunity for events, activities and displays. The town centre location will also make it more accessible to people than the current building in North Street."

Hoblongs Junction

The County Council are still dragging their feet over improvements to the junction between Chelmsford Road and the Bypass at Hoblongs.

Local Liberal Democrats will continue to keep up the pressure for a roundabout and other improvements to ease the flow of traffic and increase safety. The decision on planning permission for the new Waste Resource Management Centre has still to be made. Lib Dems have demanded planning permission is conditional upon improvements to the junction.

✂ - - - - - Make Your Voice Heard - - - - -

Use this space to let us know of your views and concerns about Uttlesford's housing plans:

- Name(s):
- Address:
- Tel.:
- E-mail:

■ Please return to: Liberal Democrats, Freepost CL2702, Stansted CM24 8BR.

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.