

# FOCUS

*on Great Dunmow*



**March  
2008**

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[www.saffronwaldenlibdems.org.uk](http://www.saffronwaldenlibdems.org.uk)

## Uttlesford Must Not Abandon Dunmow Say Lib Dems

**Tory-led Uttlesford Council plans to sell off the Uttlesford District Council Offices in Dunmow, and move the Community Information Centre from the Council Offices to the new library when it opens during this Autumn.**

Cllr Mark Gayler, Liberal Democrat member for Dunmow North, said, "It will be a sad day when Uttlesford District Council no longer has its own premises in Dunmow. The Tory Council must make sure that the service provided in the new

library is even better than that provided in the current Community Information Centre, and that the Council does not abandon Dunmow."

Cllr Ron Clover added: "If the offices are to be sold it is vital that the Council makes adequate provision for the voluntary sector. Under the Lib Dems the Council entered into a partnership with the voluntary organisations to let them use the building. They provide a vital service to the Dunmow area, and the Council must make sure that continues."



• Mark Gayler and Ron Clover want to ensure that the voluntary sector still has a home in Dunmow.

### DOOMED TO FAILURE

The front page story of the Dunmow & Stansted Observer on 21st. February revealed that Uttlesford Conservatives' plans for new housing in this area are likely to be delayed by at least six months.

The Conservatives' plans have been condemned as poorly thought out by Dunmow Town Council, many local residents, a local newspaper, Essex County Council and the Government Office for the East of England.

If the Council doesn't now do more work to get it right, there is a very real danger that the plan will be subject to legal challenge and open the way for developers to railroad through plans that will concrete over large parts of the district.

Cllr Mark Gayler commented "Along with others, I fought off the proposals for Easton Park in the early 1990s. Now the plans have resurfaced along with other proposals for new towns close to Dunmow. Local Liberal Democrats will fight against plans that could destroy the character of our beautiful area."

Councillor Ron Clover commented "The Liberal Democrats have long called for the housing consultation to be re-run with a properly thought-out set of proposals. The Conservatives' current proposals are unlikely to stand up in court. The cost of trying to defend them would be a significant burden that a cash-strapped council would inevitably have to pass on to Council Taxpayers across the entire District."

## Continental Market Returns To Town

Dunmow's Market Place will once again be the scene of a bustling and colourful market, when the Continental Market returns on the 29th March.

Cllr Mark Gayler, who is Chair of the Dunmow Town Strategy Group, said: "The market held in 2007 was so successful that we decided to invite the traders back again. Liberal Democrats will continue to support events like this that will help to provide the support our local shops need by bringing more people into the town. It would be good to see the regular use of Market Place for a market."

### Market Towns Officer Axed

Events like the continental market may prove more difficult to organise in the future as Conservative-run Uttlesford Council has decided to axe its Market Towns Officer as part of recent budget cuts.

As well as doing much of the organisation for the continental market, the market towns officer has also led



initiatives such as the campaign to banish plastic carrier bags from Dunmow's shops and provided support to the group drawing up a new planning design policy for the town.

Councillor Mark Gayler commented "This is one post that Uttlesford should have found a way to continue with. Given that some alternative funding had been found, it's a great shame that our local councils weren't able to find a way to work in partnership to find a solution to allow the post to continue."

**Overleaf: More Potholes With The Tories**

## Here to Help You



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# £10 Million Highways Overspend: Bigger Potholes With The Tories

Get used to seeing bigger potholes for longer - that is the message from Conservatives at County Hall in Chelmsford, as the party's failure to finance highways properly continues. Just a few weeks ago, the Conservatives announced a £10 million overspend on the highways budget.

Councillor Ron Clover commented "The latest proposals seem to be to wait until damage to road surfaces is really bad before the Council will even consider making repairs. In some cases, for example where there is a kerb that doesn't align with the road, the Tories have dropped any commitment to carry out repairs."

For residents in Dunmow, it will be inconvenient, hazardous and frustrating, with no relief in sight.



Sign our on-line petition against cuts in road repairs at: [ourcampaign.org.uk/potholes](http://ourcampaign.org.uk/potholes)

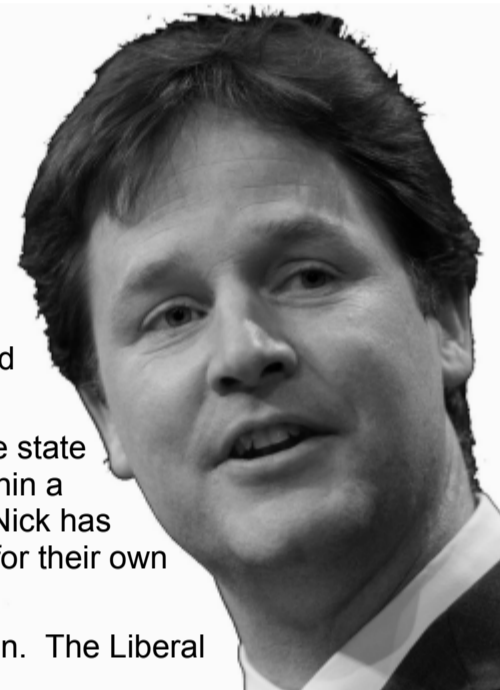
## Clegg Is New Leader

Nick Clegg MP has been elected as the new Leader of the Liberal Democrats.

Nick said: "This is an exciting time to be Leader of the Lib Dems. The Labour Government is no longer trusted to protect vital services like our NHS, or to take the real action needed to cut crime - and the Tories don't stand for anything anymore. The Liberal Democrats will stand up for people and offer real change."

Nick has put forward plans to liberate schools from excessive state interference and guarantee hospital treatment to patients within a set time. With sleaze returning to haunt the Conservatives, Nick has called for an end to the "unseemly spectacle" of MPs voting for their own pay rises.

Mark Gayler commented: "Nick is in touch with modern Britain. The Liberal Democrats will be fighting to protect vital local services."



## Planning A New Town Square

With work well under way on the Dunmow Eastern Sector development, Liberal Democrats want to ensure that the opportunity is not lost to provide a new town square that would truly enhance the town centre.

Liberal Democrats first promoted plans to transform the area between the Co-Op and the new library into a town square when they were running Uttlesford Council. The square would be a paved area, with benches and trees, that would be an attractive place for people to relax in.

Cllr Ron Clover says "We were concerned that plans to cut costs and do the scheme on the cheap would have left us with a result that would not have done justice to the town. But, thanks to local pressure, more funding has been identified. We hope that the new square will enhance the town and help to keep it the vibrant centre of our community."



The Liberal Democrat Focus team are asking residents to list the worst three eyesores in our town that they would like to get rid of.

We can't promise to sort out everything, but knowing what they are is the first step to tidying up our area. Please use the form below or contact us using the details above.



## Can We Help You?

My comment/issue/problem is:

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

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

The Liberal Democrats may contact you from time to time to keep you informed on issues we think you may find of interest. Please let us know if you do not wish the information below to be used for this purpose. Printed by HLPs, 26 Riverside Court, Harlow. Published and promoted by Paul Westlake, 32 Lambert Cross, Saffron Walden.

## Can You Help Us?

- I will be voting Lib Dem next time.
- I'd like to join the Lib Dems to help with their campaigns. Please contact me.
- I'd like a postal vote. Please contact me.
- I will display a garden/window poster at election time.
- I can deliver 50 or so leaflets. Please contact me.

Join on-line at [www.libdems.org.uk/join](http://www.libdems.org.uk/join)