



STAY VIGILANT! Elsenham & Henham still not safe from “Hellsenham”

With Uttlesford’s Local Plan grinding to a near halt, Henham and Elsenham residents have been urged by the Lib Dems to stay vigilant.

Although the campaign against developer Fairfield’s last appeal for 800 homes was successful last August, the Lib Dems now fear the developers of “Hellsenham” have not gone

away. They were spotted taking notes at a special council meeting on the Local Plan in November, “Uttlesford’s search for new settlements to take future housing is in trouble”, said Cllr Alan Dean, leader of the Uttlesford Liberal Democrats. “Until it is sorted out, Elsenham and Henham must not sit back and be complacent”.

Two years on from the failure of Uttlesford Conservatives’ last Local Plan, the latest rerun is in serious trouble. “It’s beginning to look like the council has taken on more than it can handle”, added Alan Dean.

The public consultation planned for November was scrapped at the last minute. A plan is now unlikely to emerge until mid 2017.

The Liberal Democrats are unhappy that the Great Chesterford option seems not to have been



Melvin Caton views the site of proposed Hellsenham development with former councillors David Morson and Catherine Dean

“Thank You” says Rory

I am very grateful to the people of Elsenham and Henham for electing me as one of their district councillors alongside Lizzy Parr in May 2015. It was an honour. However since then I have changed my career. I am now doing an accelerated training course to become a nurse which doesn’t allow me enough time to be your district councillor as well. So there will be a by-election for a new councillor shortly.

I was very pleased that the campaigning by both villages against the Tory supported 800 house mini “Hellsenham” proposal was successful in the summer when the Planning Inspector turned down Fairfield’s development appeal.

Now the Local Plan process has been paused our two communities must remain vigilant to stop the Conservative led council re-introducing the Hellsenham proposal especially when opposition to their alternative proposals elsewhere hots up.

Rory Gleeson

investigated as well as other possible locations. They are pressing the council to do better at working with Cambridgeshire to sort out the right solution and to avoid overloading the A120.

“The Conservatives running Uttlesford are in danger of messing up the Local Plan for a second time”, said Cllr Lizzy Parr. “The Liberal Democrats will do all they can to avoid another plan disaster.”

Liberal Democrats Surge to By-election Victory

Another amazing by-election result for the Liberal Democrats has seen Sarah Olney



Local Lib Dems Alan Dean, Melvin Caton and Geoffrey Sell helped the party win in Richmond

elects to Parliament, sending a thumping message to the Conservative Government.

Sarah will be the new MP for the former Conservative strong hold

of Richmond Park after she overturned a huge 23,000 vote majority to win.

Liberal Democrat support is now growing across the country as they show they are now the only party standing up against hard Brexit and for a properly funded NHS.

Many traditional Conservative and Labour voters are now switching to back the Liberal Democrats because of their clear, positive message on Brexit and the NHS.

Three reasons to get involved NOW!

🦋 Only the Liberal Democrats are sending a clear message to the Government on Brexit.

🦋 We’re also fighting to make sure the NHS has the cash it needs!

🦋 If you don’t fight for what you believe in who else will?

School Transport Chaos

Buses were late and overcrowded at the start of the secondary school year in September. Some children were even left stranded at the start and end of the day – and all because Conservative controlled Essex CC made major changes to the school bus service which were badly planned and poorly communicated in order to cut the public transport budget by £500k..

Other impacts were

- Children were told to use services that couldn't get them to school on time.

- The bus to the faith school in Bishop's Stortford was withdrawn overnight.

At the same time the annual cost of the school bus for local parents rocketed from £350 to £648 per

child. Essex plan a further 50% increase in the annual fare to £975 per child next September.

After a flood of complaints from parents, Lib Dem councillors and lobbying by the Uttlesford CAB, Essex made some minor alterations.



Melvin Caton talks to a Henham mother about problems caused by school bus changes.

Melvin Caton, Liberal Democrat campaigner for Stansted, Newport, Elsenham, Henham and the villages, said "One of the results of the County Council's poorly thought through decision has been to increase traffic around

our schools at peak times. Parents now drive their children to school to avoid paying the increased fares. I think the changes penalise parents with children in the middle of their secondary school careers, who are understandably reluctant to move schools."

Tory Police Sell-Offs and Cuts

Stansted's Police Station, closed in 2011, was up for sale last month for £450,000.

Now the Police Station at Saffron Walden, is on the market for £1million.

Police numbers in Uttlesford including Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) have been slashed. There are now only 2 PCSOs in Uttlesford.

Melvin Caton, Elsenham and Henham's Liberal Democrat candidate for Essex county council elections next May, said "The recently elected Tory Police and Crime Commissioner says in his new Crime Plan that his first priority is "local, visible and accessible policing".

He won't achieve that by flogging off our Police Stations and cutting officer numbers."

Councillor Lizzy Parr added "Without more visible policing in Uttlesford, our tradition of policing by consent will be undermined. We don't want our police to only turn up after crime has happened. Preventing crime and anti social behaviour matters as well".

Councillor in the dock over £2.5k tax arrears

Herts & Essex Observer
– 24th November

Serious questions are being asked in Uttlesford after it was revealed that a

local Councillor was barred from voting on the council's budget – but the ban was covered up.

Local Liberal Democrats have asked why the Council and the public were not told about this at the time – Councillors were left to find out about it in *Private Eye* magazine in November.

Melvin Caton said: "The rule is that if an individual councillor is unable to

represent their electorate, like voting on level of council tax, then it is reasonable that this fact is open to public scrutiny. In this case it was not."

The Conservative councillor for Stansted South and Birchanger, Thom Goddard, was barred from voting on Uttlesford's budget last February because he had failed to make two consecutive payments of council tax amounting to nearly £2,500.

Let us know your views or any problems in your area

Name.....

Email.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

We need your help to campaign for our area

- I can deliver leaflets in my street/area
- I can put up a poster at election time
- I'd like to join the local Liberal Democrats
- I'd like to donate £ towards the cost of Focus

If you return the form the Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you've given to contact you. By providing your data to us, you are consenting to us making contact with you in the future by mail, email, telephone, text, website and apps, even though you may be registered with the Telephone Preference Service. You can always opt out of communications at any time by contacting us or visiting www.libdems.org.uk/optout. For more information go to www.libdems.org.uk/privacy. 01279 813914

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