



Liberal Democrats
Huntingdonshire

Focus - The Hemingfords, Fenstanton, Hilton, Houghton and Wyton

Spring 2017

A14 - Will be worse before it gets better!

Lib Dem Focus Team leader, David Priestman, says, "While it is good to see that the construction of the new A14 route has started, we know that the next 3½ years will be a long process that will try our collective patience."

In 2010 George Osborne postponed the planned investment in the new A14, which has meant more years of delays and more road traffic incidents.

Having the new 'motorway' will reduce congestion and pollution. But building the new road will cause inconvenience and disruption for local residents.

In the meantime, however, the authorities could do more to keep congestion at tolerable levels. We propose three possible ways to do this:

1. Ban all commercial vehicles above 7 tonnes from the outside lane of the A14 at all times. This is done further west on the A14 beyond Kettering. There is no need for a lorry doing 55mph to be overtaken by another wishing to do 60mph!
2. Ban all lorries from the existing A14 at morning and evening rush hours (7-9 am and 4-6 pm). It is the number and size of the lorries that push the A14 beyond its limits on weekdays. Although lorries need to make their journeys in a timely fashion, many haulage firms do have the scheduling capability to use the route off-peak.
3. Provide lorry parks so that lorry drivers can schedule their stops before rush hour and have somewhere appropriate to rest up. Currently many truckers are using laybys to park and sleep, which causes litter and driving hazards.



Lib Dem County Budget rejected

Because of years of under investment in services for vulnerable adults and children, the Lib Dem group on Cambridgeshire County Council had proposed a 4% increase in Council spending, in line with many other councils across the country.

Unfortunately, this was rejected by the Tory group who, supported by UKIP and Independents, voted through a 2% increase. The proposed Lib Dem increase was to pay for the following:-

Children's services: £1.99 million additional spending. This would have supported young mums, children's centres and struggling schools, among other things.

Roads and transport: £1.15 million additional spending, to improve transport across the County and a free park and ride service for Cambridge.

Services for Vulnerable Adults: £1.39 million additional spending to provide a higher percentage increase for care providers and improve the hourly rate for home care.

These increases would have cost an average household an extra 45p a week. Unfortunately our budget proposal did not get passed and the County Council approved a 2% increase.

Want to get in touch?

If there are any matters you would like to raise with us, phone David Priestman on 01480 530939 or e-mail him at david@logisticsbusiness.com

Wyton Airfield Scheme Postponed

“The recent decision by Huntingdonshire District Council to drop the proposal for redevelopment of the Wyton airfield for housing is great news for the residents of Houghton and Wyton”, says David Priestman.

“A major housing development would have put an enormous strain on the local road network and would have had many adverse effects on Houghton and Wyton, as well as St Ives. Although the scheme has been postponed, it has not been dropped altogether, so we cannot be complacent. At the very least, we will not have to worry about the possibility of a new road crossing over the River Ouse in an environmentally sensitive area for some years to come”.



David Priestman at Houghton Mill

Growth in Liberal Democrat membership continues.

Another 3,000 people have joined the Liberal Democrats since our last Focus newsletter, bringing the total to over 85,000 - more than double what it was at the low point in 2012.

If you would like to join us in our fight to keep Britain open, tolerant and united, visit our website www.huntingdonlibdems.org.uk and click “join”.

Do you know about eCops?

Cambridgeshire Constabulary's e-mail messaging system, eCops, can keep you up-to-date with local crime information and crime prevention advice. The service is completely free.

If you are interested, you can sign up for the service at www.ecops.org.uk

Cambridgeshire: not rejecting Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children

Many people were appalled at Theresa May's recent decision to cut the number of refugee children the UK would accept from 3,000 to 350. She alleged that 'local councils could not afford to look after them'. Lib Dem Councillor Peter Downes enquired if Cambridgeshire had said that and was told NO!. We are currently looking after 61 refugee children and have been planning to accept our full quota of 93. David Priestman says “These youngsters are the innocent victims of dreadful violence beyond our imaginations. If we are a compassionate and civilised nation, we must play our full part in helping them recover.”

Thursday, May 4th is the election date this year

Will you be here to vote? If you may be away on business, or on holiday, or if getting to the polling station is physically difficult, you can register to vote by post. Students away at college or working away can also register to vote by post or proxy. It is very important that young people get involved in the democratic process because decisions made now will have long-term effects.

Forms can be obtained from the Electoral Services Officer at Pathfinder House, St. Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN. You can make contact by phone on 388388 or via the web-site: www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/More/Councils and Democracy/Elections/How to vote/postal vote.



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keeping you informed, all year round**