

# Winter 2008 East Grinstead Ashplats Ward

# FOCUS

**Greener - Smarter - Fairer**



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# TORY HOUSES BETRAYAL

Despite claiming during the election that they would fight against excessive housing the local Tory Councillors failed to vote against the District Council's flawed Core Strategy. This Strategy exposes the Town to mass housing and inadequate traffic relief and betrays the vital 'no road no houses' safeguard. So much for pre-election promises!

The Core Strategy contains a 'contingency' for the failure of the Area Action Plan's 2500 new houses and relief road as 1500 new houses and a 'partial' relief road. This contingency was pushed through despite heavy opposition including a motion to remove it from the strategy by Lib Dems Andrew Brock and Edward Matthews.

The contingency had been described as 'the worst of all worlds' by the Leader of the District Council but he clearly now thinks it's good enough for East Grinstead. In the words of his Tory Planning cabinet member 'Why should East Grinstead be exempt from the pain of the District?'

Unfortunately the Ashplats Tory District Councillors didn't support the town's Lib Dem Councillors in opposing the draft as a whole, so it will go to public consultation from January 24. Ashplats Lib Dem Town Councillor and Chair of Town Council Planning Paul Johnson said 'The Lib Dems will continue to lead local opposition to MSDC's plans. The town is now truly at risk and we must all rally to its defence: everyone must respond with strong opposition.'



**Serena Tierney and Lib Dem Councillors  
meet the business community  
(Story over the page)**

## BUDGET BLUES

All our local councils will be setting their budgets over the next couple of few months. Tory-controlled Mid Sussex will be coping with the devastating £200,000 loss from their 'Big Culture Show' flop in Haywards Heath. Their squandering of our money on this can mean only less services, asset sales or more taxes.

## More News and Action from your Focus Team

### FIGHTING FOR THE TOWN'S HEALTH

Local Lib Dems have spearheaded a campaign to ensure the Town is not forgotten in the current consultation on the future shape of the local NHS. Deputy Town Council Leader Lee Marmara says 'Of course we support the campaign to save Hayward Heath's PRH but the Town needs much more than a narrow emphasis on this alone.'

The Town Council is working with Health Authorities to ensure the Town's interests are protected in ALL hospitals used by local people.'

### DOWN TO BUSINESS

Lib Dem Town Councillor Bob Mainstone leads a new Business Group formed to spearhead the Council's action to help local businesses. Already it has issued a newsletter to over 800 businesses, is researching the 'empty shops' problem, is engaged closely with the District Council on parking issues and the Business Link organisation to promote training initiatives.

Bob says 'We've no magic bullets but are working hard to promote the Town's interests. We're delighted that major stores like Marks and Spencer and Laura Ashley are committing to the Town but we also want to see the prosperity of our many independent stores.'

### SHOW YOU THE MONEY

The Town Council wants to put your ideas into action to improve Ashplats ward. Each Councillor will have a budget of £750 a year to spend.

Lib Dem Councillors Alan Lord and Paul Johnson are asking for your ideas for what might be done - use the feedback form below with YOUR ideas!

### Your Ashplats Ward Lib Dem Councillors



Margaret Collins - 324296 - County  
margaretcollins@eglibdems.org.uk



Paul Johnson - 312585 - Town  
pauljohnson@eglibdems.org.uk



Alan Lord - 325149 - Town  
alanlord@eglibdems.org.uk

**Got a Grumble or an Idea... Tell us here...**

Your Address:

Phone no.:  
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I want to help or  
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Y N

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