



FOCUS

SURVEY RESULTS...SURVEY RESULTS...

In summer 2006 we undertook a Focus survey of one half Chatteris, and during autumn we completed the survey of the other half. The strength of feeling displayed was overwhelming and the numbers of responses greater than even we had expected! Your small but hardworking Focus Team finished collating them over Christmas. The results, below and overleaf, are:

86% of respondents considered it unfair that Chatteris residents pay as much towards leisure provision as the other Fenland towns, when we have no leisure centre.

BAD NEWS UPDATE - The District Council have said 'hard cheese, Chatteris, be grateful for what you've got'. As one resident angrily said "I think we should all withhold that part of our council tax which goes towards the other town's leisure centres".

90% of residents thought that local councillors should have taken action years ago to improve the state of our roads and paths.

GOOD NEWS UPDATES - many minor improvements have been made following efforts by your Focus Team, including more litter bins, better signing, action on street lighting and environmental improvements outside Forbuoys in Bridge street. Average speed cameras are afloat to be installed along the 40 ft.

BAD NEWS - Tory run Cambridgeshire County Council have blanked many necessary road safety requirements. We are still lobbying for more appropriate speed restrictions on Doddington Road and London Road.

91% believed that Chatteris needs more open space.

BAD NEWS UPDATE

- its official, even FDC admit that Chatteris open space provision falls below recommended national guidelines. Amazingly FDC now recognise we deserve a Country Park! Are they doing about it? No - of course not, they have decided to concentrate on a Country Park for March instead!



IMPORTANT CHATTERIS STORIES INCLUDED IN OUR NEXT FOCUS

"Sorry Chatteris- the cupboard is bare" FDC.

New FDC proposals further downgrade Chatteris!

Who do you think you're kidding madam chairman? Focus reply to Town Council's December press conference (which your Lib Dem Town Councillors weren't even told about!)

Selling off the family silver? Vigilance required to prevent open spaces being sold off for building!

King Edward Centre bid flounders because of FDC greed.

FDC - all spin and no substance?

To guarantee prompt delivery of your next Focus newsletter email us at FenlandDeservesChange@googlemail.com or for a sneak preview, visit our web site: www.fenlandlibdems.org.uk

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP MAKE CHATTERIS BETTER?

In May you will have your once in four year chance to elect a new Town and District Council. We need your support. If you can help by delivering a few focus newsletters, do a bit of clerical work, or are interested in joining our winning team, we would love to hear from you!

Cllr Diane Baldry 692467

Cllr Christine Colbert 695770

Cllr Chris Howes 695770

email us on:

FenlandDeservesChange@googlemail.com or come to our regular meeting at the Honest John, every 3rd Tuesday of the Month, 7.00 p.m.

Yes, 100%, shared **100%** your Focus team's disappointment

that Chatteris Town Council have just sat on £1million of our money for over 10 years.

GOOD NEWS UPDATE:

- As we now approach 15 years of masterly inactivity, and after 3 1/2 years of relentless pressure from Lib Dem Cllrs Chris Howes and Diane Baldry, the Town Council has finally started to consider spending some of this money where it belongs - in the community!

91% objected to FDC's proposal to close public toilets.

GOOD NEWS UPDATE

- in the face of overwhelming public opposition FDC have backed down on this. Your Focus team asks "why did they upset so many people needlessly with this and ill conceived penny pinching idea? Perhaps they could have asked first?"

86% supported Focus in our belief that Chatteris Town Council should at last act decisively to save the King Edward Centre for the community.

NO PROGRESS UPDATE - Following a front page article in the community magazine by Cllr Chris Howes demanding support for the K.E.C, a 'secret' meeting was held in November 2005 with the District Council. FDC were failing to address the 'best value' arguments with Cambs County Council, but were putting in a grant bid which would have committed Chatteris Town Council to reaching deep into reserves to contribute to the 'full market value' purchase price. FDC weren't prepared to stump any money up themselves (apparently because Town Council never asked them!). The grant bid failed, probably because of FDC's outrageous plan to charge Town Council thousands of pounds just for making the bid! Now we're told no other approaches can be tried 'in case they change their minds about refusing the bid' at some remote and hypothetical time in the future. Your Focus team pledge to continue the fight to secure the future of our Community Centre for the people of Chatteris, despite continuing Town and District Council apathy.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY?

During the life of the current Fenland District Council, Councillors voted to stop the long established democratic right of members of the Public to ask questions at Council. At January's Parishes Liaison meeting similar censorship was applied. Parish Clerks were told that they were now no longer welcome. Parishes were each limited to sending only two members, and to top that - questions were restricted to a very narrow range of subjects.

Focus believe that the current Councillors have made themselves 'unanswerable' to the Public. Our chance to be heard is now limited to once every four years when there are elections.

Well that one chance in 4 years happens on 3rd May!

100% Absolutely everybody, agreed that Chatteris deserves a better deal

BAD NEWS UPDATE - "Nothing for Chatteris" says the Leader of the District Council. "Be thankful for the South Fens Business Centre" rebukes the Chairman of Planning.

GOOD NEWS UPDATE - Lib Dems have a team of Chatteris candidates for May local elections ready to working on all these issues, with a proven record of actual achievement.

100% had been angry to read in the local papers that FDC had forgotten to collect £1million owed to the Community by commercial property developers!

GOOD NEWS UPDATE - Despite initial concerted determination to stop Cllr Howes raising the issue, and following over a year of lobbying by your Focus Team, thousands of pounds have now been collected from developers. Thanks to further lobbying by newly elected Lib Dem Cllr Christine Colbert, interest is now also being demanded.

And following even more lobbying, plans are actually being finalised to spend the money in the community, rather than leaving it to continue to earn interest for FDC.

83% thought that there should be action to try to improve the local bus service (many said that this should have happened years ago)

BAD NEWS UPDATE - Cuts are proposed to our already inadequate local Sunday services. And what are FDC doing about it - nothing at all!



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Please return this form to :

Menzies Campbell MP, FREEPOST, 4 Cowley Street, London, SW1P 3BR.

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Published & promoted by Martin Land for the Liberal Democrats all at 29 Fallow Drive, Eaton Socon, PE19 8QL. Printed by HFP, 28 Huntingdon Road, Huntingdon, Hunts.