

ACTION NEEDED ON ROAD CROSSINGS NOW!

"I've never lived anywhere so pedestrian-unfriendly" comments Chris Howes. "The residents of Curf Terrace, Willey Terrace and Doddington Road have to take their lives in their hands daily crossing the A141 bypass to come into the main part of Chatteris. Christine (Colbert) and I were horrified when we saw how youngsters and parents have to struggle just to get to the schools". Christine wrote to the Ward County Councillor Geoffrey Harper (who also is leader of FDC). "But it can't concern him much" said Christine "he didn't even bother to reply to my letter himself. We then found from officers that funding had been available for years, but was now withdrawn". *So for years after the bypass was built, money was available for improvements*



to help people cross in safety, but it seems none of our then councillors ever bothered to ask for it! Many of these ineffectual councillors still have their

Council seats, and are still doing nothing about this problem. Much of the rest of Chatteris is no better. In fact we appear to be festooned with councillors who do little other than *sitting* in their seats! Consider London Road, Wenny Road, Huntingdon Road, and Fenland Way and Isle of Ely

Way where crossing can mean taking your chances against a juggernaut. Cars whiz by as you cross Bridge Street to the supermarket! Hazardous enough for the young and fit, but all over Chatteris the elderly, less able, and people with pushchairs or young children are regularly being forced to dice with death.

Lib Dems plan for energy efficient school buildings

Lib Dems in the County have successfully called for the calculation of the real life-time cost for all new county buildings to reach higher environmental standards. This would allow the Council to work out whether high energy efficiency standards would save or cost money over the lifetime of the building, and so be able to make an informed decision. The Conservatives refused to vote for these proposals, but enough of them abstained to allow the Lib Dems to get their motion agreed. Focus says: "The cost of fuel is rising fast and is a significant running cost for many schools. Building environmentally friendly buildings will cost much less to run and will make an important contribution to

reducing carbon emissions in Cambridgeshire."

Lib Dems demand public scrutiny for highways contract

County Liberal Democrats have demanded scrutiny of a £250 million contract for highways work in Cambridgeshire. The contract will last 10 years but was decided upon by the Conservative Cabinet based on only 2-pages of public information. Focus says: "This is a major contract and the public has a right to see how the decision was made. A contract as large as this one should not be handed out in secret. These are important services that people complain a lot about; they must be good quality."

Chatteris NEEDS more HARDWORKING Lib Dem Councillors

WHY DO THE STUDENTS CROSS THE ROAD? TO GET TO THE OTHER SIDE!

Did you see the recent article in the paper "Students dice with death crossing road"? Christine Colbert, whose son and daughter attend Cromwell College, said, "I am glad the Cambs Times has highlighted this problem, but I was stunned to find that the Chairman of the Town Council seems to think the problem is the youngsters. It doesn't take a genius to work out that if you've got a school on one side of the road, and a sweet shop and cafe on the other side, the kids will cross the road. The question is, why haven't the Ward councillors, at Town and District, made sure that it's safe to cross near the school?"

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT US,
PHONE CHRIS OR CHRISTINE
ON 01354 695770**

Printed, published and promoted by Martin Land for and on behalf of the Liberal Democrats all at 29 Fallow Drive, Eaton Socon, Cambs, PE19 8QL



NEW HOMES WANTED, BUT...

Your Slade Lode Focus Team welcomes the principal of the Smartlife proposals to build low cost and innovative housing in Beaufort Close. But nearby residents are concerned about the density - are they trying to 'squeeze a quart into a pint pot'? The large number of houses on a small site, doesn't leave room for children to play. The nearest play equipment, the meager and inadequate facilities at Larham Way, is 1/2 mile away! To far for little 'uns! Wishing to avoid children playing in the road (as happens in the next street) Chris Howes raised residents concerns at Chatteris Town Council, who passed on the recommendation to FDC that actual play space should be provided. The Planning

Officer at the District Council commented to Cllr Howes, that "she didn't think that the Town Council's opinion was terribly important"! So how do residents concerns get heard at Fenland Planning Committee meetings? Well the Town Council sends a representative to speak. In this instance it was the chairman of the Town Council. Unfortunately she had to attend to family matters and couldn't go. Even more unfortunately she didn't ask Cllr Howes to speak instead. At the meeting Cllr Howes was refused permission to speak (despite the applicant being allowed to speak for a whopping 15 minutes!). It was reported that the chairman of the Town Council had no objections, and the application was passed without a single square inch of play space. Once again the system has failed, and who are the losers - the families that will live there!

SIX LORRIES A DAY!

When the entrance to Dock Road from Bridge Street was remodelled 2 years ago as part of the environmental improvements, Town Cllr Chris Howes lobbied for a pedestrian crossing but was told "we only anticipate 6 heavy goods vehicle movements in and out of Dock road per day, and anyway nobody walks to Co-op!"

How wrong can you be? "Those of us who live here know that we do need more safe places for pedestrians to cross. And I also believe access at the other end of Dock Road should be opened up so heavy vehicles coming to the Dock Road industrial estates can turn off the Isle of Ely Way (A142) instead of having to go down Bridge Street", Chris added "and while they're at it, how about making a safe pedestrian access to Co-op from the South Fens Business Centre?"

A small step towards pedestrian safety at Dock Road/ Bridge Street was made when Christine Colbert arranged for bushes to be cut back to give much better vision across the corner. Well done Christine! And thanks to Greenvale who dealt with the matter immediately she pointed out the problem to them. "You can put a lot right by using a bit of common sense and asking nicely" says Christine.

Christine also suggested to the Town and District Council it was time they dealt with sprucing up the grassed area in Bridge Street, and that neighbouring Forbo might help. We all know it had been an eyesore for years. They paid attention, Forbo kindly made a contribution and now the horrid broken bins have gone and have been replaced by new ones. And now the added efforts of Chatteris in Bloom have made the whole area so much better. The two Chrisses have also been at work getting extra bins installed by FDC. A "doggie bin" is now in Dock Road on the footpath between the Short Night Layers and Isle of Ely Way whilst in the northern part of the High Street Chris and Christine's efforts have resulted in a bin at the mouth of Slade Way and another promised for the mouth of Angoods Lane. "This will help keep our roads tidy and relieve the problem of rubbish being put into the household wheelie bins along the High Street" say the Chrisses.