

Hunsbury FOCUS

Covering West Hunsbury, Camp Hill, East Hunsbury (part) & Upton Parish
No. 49 - Edited by Richard Matthews



www.northampton.libdems.org



Cllr. Richard Matthews viewing the nearly completed community centre in Dayrell Road. The centre is due for completion by the end of November.

Thank You

A big thank you to everybody who supported John Rawlings and Kevin Barron in the elections on May 5th. John came a close 2nd to the Tory Candidate, while Kevin Barron increased the Lib Dem vote in Northampton South.

Major Gains for the Liberal Democrats

The Lib Dems gained 6 County Council seats from Labour all in Northampton, the Tories gained control of the County Council from Labour by winning elsewhere.

The Result in West Hunsbury

Conservative	1618 (43.2%)
John Rawlings (Lib Dem)	1342 (35.6%)
Labour	796 (21.2%)
Conservative Hold	

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR



Friends Meeting House, Saturday 26th November 05
 Wellington Street 10am to 5pm
 (by Marks & Spencer) Opened by The Worshipful the Mayor

Planning Application

Flooding Threat to West Hunsbury Goes to Appeal

A recent planning application for permission to raise land level on land next to the Wootton Brook, downstream of Teal Close was refused by the Borough Planning Committee due to its likely impact on future flooding.

Cllr. Richard Matthews stated: "I have been trying to change the allocation of the land to Green Space for sometime, due to its position in the Flood Plain, this Application has brought things to a head."

Now the developers, part of the group including Norwich Union, are appealing against the refusal. Local residents and councillors have reformed an action committee to fight the appeal, and hope to have a similar success to that against the warehouse at Milton Ham.

Planning Success Story

Residents in Camalot Way successfully organised themselves to oppose a planning application for houses that would have had an adverse effect on the care home, blocking the view from children's bedrooms. The Close already had a parking problem, the additional houses would have made matters worst.

They contacted Cllr. Richard Matthews for help. He attended the Planning Committee and spoke against the application along with other residents.

The developers have now appealed, against the decision, to the Secretary of State.



Chronicle & Echo Monday 19th Sept 05

Liberal Democrats- still working for you after the election

How can we improve the Buses?

A reliable bus service is badly needed. Neither the Borough Council nor County Council monitor the quality of the current service, unlike the previous borough run Northampton Transport, who employed inspectors to check that buses ran to time.

The County Council has £82m available to invest, to improve the public transport system and need feedback from users of public transport services. Have your say and contact: NCC Transport Planning Manager, Chris Wragg.

Let them know your views on the County Council's website at: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/transport/tp/ltp



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Hunsbury Country Park - Progress?

It is disappointing to report that no progress has been made regarding improving the country park. An order was placed to improve one small section of path 12 months ago and still the work has not been carried out. "This is not acceptable", says Cllr Richard Matthews, "I have requested that the outstanding work should be completed before the onset of winter, though I am not hopeful the work will be done".

The problem is that the borough council has identified an £8m backlog of maintenance work which they are now trying to clear. It is important that a proper maintenance programme is put in place for the park and that funds are made available

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Council 'Poorest of the Poor'

In May 2003 the Tories took control of Northampton Borough Council, despite the fact they had only 19 of the 47 councillors. Liberal Democrats had offered to work with the other parties, but this was turned down. The minority Tory Council failed to make changes it should have done and put off decisions on others. Government Inspectors have now forced the parties to work together and an all party Improvement Board will oversee the Conservative Cabinet.

Richard Matthews says "at last we are all working together but why has it taken so long"?

Tory Leaders office scandal

A committee room refurbished, earlier this year, at a cost of £80,000 to improve disabled access and provide facilities for people with hearing difficulties, has been taken by the Tory Leader of Northamptonshire County Council for use as his own office.

'What a poor way for the Tory administration to start' said Richard Church, Leader of Lib Dems. Now other rooms are having to be hired.

Grumble Sheet

This space is for you to tell us what you want and about any local problems. Continue on a separate sheet if you need.



Can You help us help You ?

- I can help deliver a few leaflets in my street.
- I enclose a donation to help of £.....
(cheques payable to "Liberal Democrats" please)

A donation of £5 or more entitles you to membership of the Liberal Democrats. Please tick here if you are already a member or do not wish to be enrolled.

Name.....

Address.....

post code..... Tel:.....

E-mail.....

Please return this slip to:

Hunsbury Lib Dem Focus Team, 17 Tansy Close, Northampton NN4 9XW