

WHITFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE: Correction. After the last focus went to print we discovered that the sale of land next to the community centre has been put on hold due to a review of land sales.

## LAND SALES

We campaigned for a review of land sales, which has now taken place; Marion was on the working party. At a council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January, a majority vote decided for a new plan. This does not include the land by the Whitfield community centre in the first groups of sales. This decision might be overturned by cabinet.

MEET YOUR LIB-DEM COUNCILLORS

**Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> March**  
10am Paris Ave shops  
1020am Whitfield community centre  
1040am Roundabout at entrance to Persimmons Estate

## CLLR MARION REDDISH

### QUESTIONS LEADERS OF THE COUNCIL



Marion raised concern at November Council that important decision-making committees were being cancelled, including Cabinet, through no business! It is hard to believe that Cabinet, the major decision-making group do not have sufficient business when there are important matters needing progress. She also raised concern that a promised meeting with petition presenters had not happened. We are still waiting.

**Marion** is one of your Liberal Democrat ward councillors, so if you have any ward or council concerns, please contact:  
6 Renfrew close, ST5 2JZ  
Tel: 01782 613265  
marionreddish@btinternet.com

Your other Lib-Dem ward councillor is **June Walklate**,  
15 Barracks Road,  
ST5 1LF  
Tel: 07749 530202



# THISTLEBERRY FOCUS January '16

FROM YOUR  
LIB-DEM BORO'  
COUNCILLORS



## NUMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCILLORS TO BE REDUCED AND FEWER OPPORTUNITIES TO VOTE.

At the council meeting in November it was decided to reduce the number of councillors from 60 to about 42 to 48. *We Liberal Democrats agree with that.* It was also decided by Labour and Conservatives to replace the present system of voting for some councillors 3 years out of 4; from 2018 you will be voting every 4 years. *We disagree with that*, since it reduces too much the opportunity for the public to show views about the group running the council. Under current law, put in place under the previous Labour government, it is not possible to change to having elections every 2 years.

### PERSIMMONS ESTATE

Residents on this estate off Keele Rd are still waiting for the developers to complete their obligations. We are still battling for a proper bridge over the stream, to provide a footpath and cycleway to local facilities.

### WHY NO BRIDGE ?



We are continuing to press for a proper sustainable drainage scheme and roads and lighting to be brought up to standard so they can be handed over to the councils for maintenance.

## HIGHWAYS

Most of the issues about highways, pavements, trees, and flooding are the responsibility of the Staffordshire County Council.

**It is always helpful if residents report to County Highways directly, the more reports the better.**

**RING 0300 111 8000**

**highways@staffordshire.gov.uk**

The Focus Team (including your borough councillors) will continue to report issues on your behalf and press for action.

## ST ANDREW'S DRIVE

We are concerned that the large hole in St Andrew's Drive, surrounded by barriers, has still not received attention. We are reminding the County Council that it is not acceptable that such a dangerous hazard has not received priority for repair.

## COOMER COURT and GREENOCK CLOSE

After much pressure by residents and your Liberal Democrat councillors, the roads and pavements by these new houses have been properly surfaced by the developer; it was long overdue.



## WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE BOROUGH AND THE COUNCIL ? ?

Here are some of the Liberal Democrats proposals for regeneration of the Town, the Borough and the Council

## FLOODS



Marion has again urged the County Council to resolve the frequent flooding on the A525 beside Marson's Garage. This is dangerous when the road is busy.

**BUS 33**  
**D&G have said this bus will stop running after 25<sup>th</sup> March, due to making a loss. So Marion is trying to persuade the County Council to subsidise this service, like they do for others.**

## VERGES of MUD



Residents have contacted us about the muddy verges across the ward. Marion has asked the County to find solutions, such as more plastic bollards. *Please do not allow contractors or others to park on grass verges.*

- Preserve green spaces in the urban area which have community value and place strict criteria for developments on green belt
- Housing concentrated on places with easy access to transport, as part of a plan that does not destroy the area's character.
- Return the council to good governance and planning, working with our neighbours on the important Northern Gateway proposal.
- Support in principle the Ryecroft development
- Fight for improved transport, such as promotion of Kidsgrove Station, electrification and dual track on the Crewe to Derby line.

## LATEST ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS NEAR NEW ESTATE:

The application to build on the field including the scrapyards was refused, but Hamptons have appealed. Marion has made representation to the inspectorate on your behalf, expressing particular concern about the odour from the landfill site. Hamptons have also now put in another similar application.