

# FOCUS

**THISTLEBERRY  
ELECTION  
SPECIAL**

**MARION REDDISH AND JUNE WALKLATE WORKING HARD FOR THISTLEBERRY**

## **A record of action and a promise of more!**

Marion Reddish and June Walklate are your local Lib Dem candidates in May's Borough Council election

Marion Reddish and June Walklate are your Lib Dem candidates in the Borough Council elections on Thursday 3 May.

This time, following boundary changes, Thistleberry will elect two councillors to serve for the next four years. There will be all out elections across the Borough.



**Marion Reddish**



**June Walklate**

One resident on hearing the news that they will now be in a different council ward said, "I was devastated when I heard you will no longer be our councillors. No one will represent us so well!"

Marion and June are pleased that the Borough Council Tax rise is kept at 2.7 %. However, that is at a cost to vital services. Along with colleague Ian Wilkes from Audley they are very concerned about the reduction in the street scene services due to budget cuts.

They do not believe that streets should be cleaned less often and that litter/dog bins should be removed because of savings. These are services which residents need and should not be reduced by the Conservative administration. Another issue for Marion and June is housing.

After 8 years of the Council trying to come up with a local housing plan, they have now come up with their preferred options for sites to build on.

However, the Liberal Democrats believe they have got it wrong! The plan say Marion and June overestimates the number of houses required, overestimates the population growth and overestimates the number of jobs to be created. Worse still, it leaves sites unidentified, leaving it wide open to developers to come in and build all over green fields.

Marion and June are disappointed that Castle House, the new civic offices, are proving to continue to be a disaster. Only the Lib Dems opposed it.

### What Thistleberry is saying ...

Just some of the recent comments from local residents

**You are so easy to talk to, very sympathetic and professional over difficult problems.**

**Poolfields resident**

**We do appreciate what you do for us, you always keep us well informed and you work hard.**

**Thistleberry Avenue area resident**

**Difficult to imagine Thistleberry without you ... You really do make a difference.**

**Paris Avenue estate resident**

**We only ever see or hear from the Liberal Democrats, what do the others do? You really do work hard.**

**Resident now in the Westlands ward following the change in boundaries**

### **Recycling: Why is it failing?**

**Our Borough service needs to change again soon ... it is chaotic.**



We know Tory government cuts and Chinese restrictions are causing problems

nationally, but the Recycling scheme worked under the Liberal Democrats. We won national awards.

#### **So, why is it failing now?**

Liberal Democrats are wanting to do all we can to save the environment, getting our local recycling back to a service which works, meets

national targets, and is user-friendly.

Lib Dems will be asking why Labour changed a system which worked and why the Tories are taking retrograde steps to solve the problem of an inefficient service.

Marion is on the working group looking into the way forward.

The next Borough Council elections take place on **Thursday 3 May**. This time you will have two votes to elect two councillors to serve you for the next 4 years.



If you are not already registered to vote you can do so by 17 April. If you do not already have a postal vote you can apply by 18 April. Contact the **Electoral Services team** on **717717**.

# Vote for Marion and June on 3 May

I am **Marion Reddish** and I have been chosen to stand for re-election as your Lib Dem candidate. I have been a councillor for 16 years. I live in Thistleberry and always respond quickly to the concerns of residents. I have been



**Marion (left) and June (right) out and about**

Mayor of Newcastle, a cabinet member for the Environment and Recycling as well as a member of the Aspire Board.

I have also been vice-chair of Planning twice and remain a member of that committee. I also serve on the Licensing committee and the Cleaner Greener scrutiny committee.

I have served for many years on the Harriet Higgins committee as secretary. I am booking secretary and oversee the management of the Whitfield Avenue Community Centre.

I am a member of the Local Action Partnership for Thistleberry, Clayton, Westlands and town centre having been chair in the past. My other interests and activities include church, Rotary and Foodbank.

I hope you will support June and me on 3 May.

*Marion Reddish*  
**Marion Reddish**

I am **June Walklate** and I have been chosen to stand for re-election as your Lib Dem candidate. I have been a councillor for 30 years. I am a life-long resident of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme, but within easy reach of

Thistleberry and local residents.

I am a member of the Public Protection committee having been vice-chair of this committee.

I have also served on the Health Scrutiny committee and serve as a school governor as well as being an active PTA supporter. Until recently I was a school crossing warden.

I act as a marshal in the town centre on carnival, fun days and food festival. As a devoted animal lover I am an active fund raiser for animal charities.

I hope you will support Marion and me on 3 May.

*June Walklate*  
**June Walklate**

**Liberal Democrats**

# 3 reasons to vote for June and Marion



**EXPERIENCE** - With over 40 years experience between them, Marion and June know how to get things done.



**LOCAL** - Living where they do, Marion and June know what the priorities are for Thistleberry residents.



**REPUTATION** - Residents know Marion and June are hard working. The quotes on the front of this Focus say it all!

## Working for Thistleberry

**Litter, refuse collection, noise issues, storage of rubbish in flats, dog fouling, trees overhanging gardens ... these are just some of the issues dealt with day-to-day by Marion and June.**

**Recent casework has included:**

- Asking the County Highways team to redo deep holes in Paris Avenue
- Investigating grass verges being churned up
- Working to resolve highways issues so that the Council adopts roads on the Persimmons estate
- Pressuring Persimmons to get them to clean up the area and take responsibility for ensuring the handover to the county and borough councils happen soon.

- Responding to Falkirk residents over concerns about signage and rails.
- Expressing concern about the removal of resident only parking signs in Falkirk Grange which could deny vulnerable residents easy parking.



**Experienced, local and hard-working ... Marion and June**

- Continuing to liaise with Aspire on all matters concerning residents.
- Asking the Highways department to look again at the enforcement of weight restrictions on Gallowstree Lane.

- Getting drains to be cleaned on Wedgwood Avenue. We are glad to report that the issue of using two of the tennis courts for dog walkers has been resolved. The signs have been removed.
- Contacting Aspire Housing about the state of grass by the school in Ostend Place.
- Noting that, at last, the broken public telephone has been removed from Orme Road after sustained pressure.
- Taking up residents' concerns about 3 significant planning applications affecting Thistleberry.
- Monitoring that conditions are adhered to with all planning matters, which have concerned residents.

**Did you know there are plans by the County to hand over management of Clayton Library to volunteers? Have your say at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/connectedlibraries](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/connectedlibraries)**

## Planning to wreck the Borough?

In 2012 Labour scrapped the work done by the Liberal Democrats on a future structure of the local plan. Consultation stopped.



Then in 2014 work started on a Joint Plan with Stoke. It was to be implemented in 2017, but it didn't happen.

In 2018 the preferred options were published for consultation.

There are several proposals in that plan which are controversial, the worst one being 2,500 jobs in the Keele area and 1800 houses on the golf course. And no infrastructure to meet demand. We have built 270 houses/year for the last 4 years. They propose 639 houses/year.

**So, what would the Lib Dems do?**

- Cut the number of houses built to 400/ year.
- Only build 800 on the Keele golf course and use this council owned land to develop facilities for the neighbouring community.
- Look for an acceptable transport structure to support housing developments. We do not want any additional journeys down the A525. "This road is already very busy to the point of being dangerous" says Marion.
- Look at sites near the A34/A500 junction at Talke to serve Chatterley Whitfield Valley and Crewe.
- Stop building on community and sports areas.
- No more student accommodation needed in town. No more shops of low quality; only shops which attract the discerning buyer. However, residents living in town would revitalise the area. We would want to rezone areas like the bus depot for housing.