

Bus Changes Split Village

Since June, people living in East End, Corfe Mullen and north of the Blandford Road have been completely isolated from the rest of the village.

There is just a haphazard bus service in the direction of Wimborne - the Shaftesbury to Bournemouth route which gives 7 buses a day at irregular intervals. It is now a long walk to the bus stop at Lockyers School, and the rest of Corfe Mullen, the shops, Doctor's surgery, chemist, etc. and any direct service to Broadstone and Poole.

There are no direct buses from the rest of Corfe Mullen to Wimborne.

The 'Wimborne Flyer' is a 15 minute service between Poole and Wimborne via Broadstone. We have proposed that every other bus travels to Broadstone via Corfe Mullen providing a service to both Poole and Wimborne every half hour at minimal expense to the bus company.

600 residents signed a petition which has been handed to Dorset County Council and also to Wilts and Dorset Bus Company requesting support for an improved



Seven buses each day travel to Wimborne service. At the time of going to press there does not seem to be a quick solution as neither the council nor the bus company is prepared to put up the money needed to reinstate the withdrawn services.

PLEASE NOTE: The introduction of the free bus passes has no bearing on the loss of our services. The bus companies are refunded by the District Council which has received ample money from the government to cover these passes.

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Councillors' Surgery held every Second Saturday in the month at Corfe Mullen Library 10 to 12 Noon.

Corfe Mullen - Autumn 2006

FOCUS



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Council U-Turn EDDC Supports Green Belt

In a surprise about-turn during the run up to next May's local elections, East Dorset District Council has decided to oppose the proposals for building in the Green Belt at Corfe Mullen.

This is likely to make little difference since the main players, including Dorset County Council support the proposal for another 700 houses to be built.



Anne Holland, Stewart Hearn, Susan Jefferies and Val Kitson admire some of the countryside at risk

See inside for further details

New Zebra Crossing

As part of the 'Safer Routes to School' scheme, the County Council is putting in a new zebra crossing along Lockyers Road near Windgreen roundabout. This is for the benefit of young people walking to and from Lockyers and Corfe Hills schools.

Nuffield Tip

At the beginning of the year we successfully negotiated entry to the Nuffield Tip for a trial period. The trial has been successful and Poole are happy to let us continue. New permits have been issued.

If you have not yet been sent a new permit, or if you would like to apply for one, please ring 225002 for an application form.

We want to know what YOU think

Tell the Focus team about local issues that need attention or let us know your views.



Join the winning team

I can help the local Liberal Democrats in our area by:

- Delivering Focus.
- Displaying an election poster
- Becoming a party member
- The enclosed donation
- Going to social events

Name: Address

Tel. Email

Please return to Corfe Mullen Liberal Democrats, 36 Erica Drive, Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 3TQ

The Liberal Democrats would like to use the information that you have provided to keep you informed about important issues and our other activities. Please tick the box if you would rather not be contacted in this way .
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Liberal Democrats working hard for Corfe Mullen

Councillors surgeries - second Saturday of the month at Corfe Mullen Library 10.00 to 12.00 Noon.

Liberal Democrats - Keeping you informed



The footpath to nowhere

One day a Parishioner came to the Parish Council and asked if they could lay a flagstone at her bus stop. When she stood waiting for her bus on a cold wet morning she stood in damp mud and her feet became wet and cold. If she could have a flagstone to stand on then she could keep her shoes dry before going shopping in Poole.

What a good and simple idea, agreed the Parish Council, but we can't do that without asking the County Council because they own the grass verge.

The Parish Council asked the County Council and the County Council agreed that they would deal with the problem.

Several months later a lorry came from Dorset Works, the County Council's maintenance arm, with 3 workmen in it and lots of equipment and road works signs. The men worked hard for a whole week, digging and levelling and laying things.

When the men had gone, and all their paraphernalia removed what

did we find? Not a mere flagstone but a whole 50 metres of beautiful new pavement from Cogdean Roundabout to the bus stop. So our Parishioner stood happily by her bus stop and went into Poole shopping with nice dry shoes.

The story does not have a happy ending. A few months after that the bus company stopped the bus going down Lockyers Road and took away the sign. Now we have a path that leads nowhere, to a dead bus stop and our Parishioner cannot go shopping in Poole from there, not even with dry shoes.

Meanwhile the footpath that really needs levelling and widening on the western side of Wimborne Road from Cogdean to Stour View Gardens remains on the waiting list as it has done for many years.

The County Council also renewed the footpath on the lower part of Wimborne Road last year. Surely the £25,000+ for this and the path to nowhere could have been saved or used for what is really needed.

RSS Proposals Latest

At a Special Council meeting on 14th August, EDDC voted to object to the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) proposal for an urban extension in the NW of Corfe Mullen. This ratified the earlier decision taken by the Council's Policy and Resources Committee meeting in public at QE School on 9th August. Conservative members had been persuaded to change their minds from an earlier vote made in October 2005 which supported the RSS proposals in principle. A combination of very persuasive arguments put forward by a coalition of groups and residents and the prospect of being severely criticised

across the District in the run-up to next May's local elections, forced the Tories on EDDC to make a complete U-turn and object to all building on green belt apart from a small area at Cuthbury in Wimborne.



However, this is a minor victory in the context of greater battles to come and is overshadowed by the prior decision of Dorset County Council to rubber-stamp the resolution of the six-member Conservative Cabinet which supported the RSS proposals for urban extensions in East Dorset's green belt.

DCC has a much louder voice on this issue and will be allowed to present a case at the public examination in Exeter next year. EDDC will not be allowed to present a case and this means there is still a great deal of work to be done and much pressure to be applied to change the County's mind before April.

Be assured that your County and District Councillors will continue to work flat out with others to obtain a positive outcome for Corfe Mullen.

Tories in County Cash Crisis

- The Conservatives took over Dorset County Council just five years ago when the Council Band D Tax set by the Lib Dems was under £700. Now it's £1,000.
- Back in 2000 the Council had no debt. Since then it's borrowed almost £133 million!
- Government Grant each year has increased from £195 million to £290 million.
- The income of the County Council has soared. Expenditure has got out of control and the Conservative Cabinet is now in a complete panic trying to save money.
- Cuts are hitting the blind, the deaf, the elderly infirm and those using day centres for the aged. Libraries have also been threatened with the closure of more than one-in-three being proposed.

Library Future Uncertain



Corfe Mullen Library was threatened with closure earlier this year. Following a tremendous public outcry, the County Council gave the library a temporary reprieve but took money from the book fund to do this.

A Friends of Corfe Mullen Library group has been formed. Its main aim is to help save the library.

Time is not on our side because next year's council budget will be decided early in 2007.

The County Council want monetary support to keep the thirteen libraries open, with this likely to come via your Parish Council. Is this fair? Corfe Mullen contributes more than £4 million per year to the County Council through Council Tax. If we pay extra through our Parish part of the Council Tax then we are paying twice and subsidising the areas with libraries not under threat. We should all be treated equally so that every community that currently has a library finds ways to improve their library service and not necessarily through paying extra tax.

Local Schools Debate

What is the immediate future for the schools in Corfe Mullen?

One of the great advantages of living in Corfe Mullen is that we have an excellent selection of schools. Many people move here for exactly that reason.

Tory controlled Poole is planning to make huge changes in their school structure. They are changing from a three tier system, which includes Middle Schools to a two tier system. This is going to have a big effect on our Secondary School, Corfe Hills, especially if Poole delay the changes in Broadstone for 12 years as they are threatening. Corfe Hills is just over the boundary so it is run by Poole which gives us in Corfe Mullen little voice.

Tory controlled Dorset County Council run our two First Schools, Henbury View and Rushcombe and also Lockyers Middle School. This



summer extensive roof repairs have been carried out at Lockyers Middle School. This will help it to continue without replacement until the school structure changes in Broadstone planned for 12 years from now.

"I as your County Councillor will be lobbying for the two authorities to make a proper plan and include all the schools concerned in their discussions", reported Councillor Susan Jefferies.

Liberal Democrats - working hard for Corfe Mullen - all year, every year