

## TRIGON PIT EXTENSION Winners and Losers

**Planning permission has been given to Imreys for the northwards extension of their existing Trigon Ball Clay Pit.** This followed a site visit by members of the County Council's Planning Committee to view the existing access via Carey Road and two alternative access routes. A new ruling by the Committee meant that Local County Councillor David Budd was not allowed to attend the site visit!

The Parish Council, local residents and David Budd all opposed the continued use of the narrow Carey Road access route and the planning officer's recommendation for the clay traffic to share the proposed Landfill Site access road at Cold Harbour to be constructed by Viridor.

**Objectors supported a new 400 metre long haul road from Trigon Pit to the former BP oil exploration well site access on to Bere Road.** David Budd told the Planning Committee "from a residents point of view the old BP access road would be the best option as the least number of properties would be affected".



David Budd at the former BP access on to Bere Road favoured by David, the Parish Council and local residents

However, the Planning Committee supported the 'Viridor access' which will significantly increase the number of lorries passing through Cold Harbour. **On hearing the news, Local Lib Dem District Councillor Keith Green remarked "the County's decision has moved Carey's problems to Cold Harbour".**

### DECISIONS MADE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Liberal Democrats on Purbeck District Council have demanded a debate on why the influential Tory dominated Policy Group excluded all non-members from attending the Groups deliberations on a decision to recommend the level of Council Tax to the full Council.

Purbeck's Lib Dem Group Leader David Budd told the February Council meeting "to go behind closed doors for two and a half hours, excluding all other Councillors, Conservatives as well as Liberal Democrats is totally unacceptable in these days of freedom of information".

Local Lib Dem Councillor Beryl Ezzard who attended the open session of the Policy Group meeting told FOCUS "I was amazed that the Conservative Leader of the Council was not aware that he was acting against the Council's own rules by excluding Councillors from attending the debate on the budget".

**Liberal Democrats have long campaigned for openness at all levels of government.**

# TRIPLE WHAMMY?

Parish, District and County Council's all provide services to local residents. Whilst the Parish and District Council's are to maintain their levels of service, the County Council has unleash a 'triple whammy' of a 4.94% increase, costing the average Council Taxpayer £47.07 per year, coupled with increased charges and cuts in services.



**With the County's portion of the Council Tax one penny short of a £1,000 the Conservatives, who run the County Council, are blaming the Government for a £5 million shortfall in funding; despite the fact that the Government Grant has increased from £204 to £290 million (42%) since they won control of the Council in May 2001.**

Only the Liberal Democrats are committed to abolishing the unfair Council Tax and replacing it with a fair tax which takes account of your ability to pay.

# RECYCLING ON TARGET

**The Recycle for Purbeck Scheme has been far more successful than expected, doubling the amount the district recycles according to official figures.**

In the first month of the scheme's operation, 32%, that's around 300 tonnes of all household waste in Purbeck was recycled, compared to just 16% prior to the new scheme being introduced. The Government has set Purbeck a target of 30%.

**"The scheme's success so far means less waste going to landfill, this will save the council tax payers money and protect the environment for the future"** reports Local Councillor Beryl Ezzard. "Congratulations to everyone who has taken part and keep recycling" says Beryl's Lib Dem colleague Cllr Keith Green.

# SHORTAGE OF PUPILS

**Nearly a quarter (22%) of all places in Purbeck's First and Primary schools are currently surplus to the needs of the schools. In Middle and Secondary schools the figure is 8%.**

Following last years Great Education Debate in Dorset, all schools in the Purbeck area will be the County Council's second highest priority for review this year, reports Local County Councillor David Budd. What will this mean for our local schools?



# Can you Help?

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Annette Brooke with David Budd (left), Beryl Ezzard (centre right) and Keith Green (right)

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