

Valley Ward **FOCUS**



Serving the community - Keeping you informed

Edited by
**Cllr. Paul Hughes
and Andrew Dunkin**

Join the 10:10 Campaign!

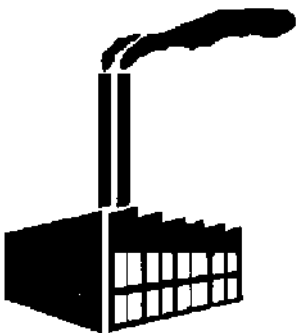
We've all heard about the threat that climate change could bring and the need to reduce carbon emissions to prevent the worst effects of global warming.

The 10:10 campaign is a national drive to reduce the UK's carbon emissions by 10% in 2010. It seeks to persuade individuals, businesses and other organisations to sign up to the campaign and pledge to reduce their CO2 emissions by 10% next year.

To sign up yourself or find further information visit the 10:10 website at www.1010uk.org.



Tories betray the environment



At a Council meeting on Wednesday 4th November, we put forward a proposal for Gedling Borough Council to sign up to the 10:10 campaign and agree to reduce their carbon emissions in 2010. The Conservative controlled council refused to sign up for the campaign. Despite David Cameron's fancy words, this shows that the Tories don't care for the environment at all. Signing up would have both benefited the environment and by reducing its energy use, the Council would also have saved money in the longer term.

The Liberal Democrats are leading the way on saving the environment and tackling climate change both locally and nationally. Liberal Democrat controlled councils across the country have signed up to 10:10 and many are at the forefront of the campaign to protect the environment.

Liberal Democrats: Working Hard All Year Round

Graffiti Scourge on the Increase?

There are several areas of Valley Ward which are plagued by graffiti, such as the footpath linking Park Avenue and Francis road (pictured). If graffiti is racist or offensive the Council will usually clear it on the day it is reported. But the normal, mindless graffiti takes much longer to be cleaned up, especially if it's on private property.

Local residents tell us that graffiti makes an area look and feel run down and it is often their number one priority for tackling anti social behaviour. We think it is unacceptable that the Council takes so long to clear up graffiti once it has been reported. So we are launching a campaign to organise a blitz to clean up graffiti in the area.



If there's a problem with graffiti where you live, tell us by completing the response slip or by contacting Paul or Andrew.

President Blair?

There are two main things wrong having Tony Blair as President. Firstly, no-one at Brussels thinks that that Blair would get the job, no matter what our Government says. Secondly, whoever is appointed will NOT be President of Europe (as the UK press also loves to say). He or she will simply be the president of one chamber. There is already a President of Europe and a President of the Commission.



Local MEP Bill Newton-Dunn with Lib Dem leader Nick Clegg

The EU and the Recession

The European Union is moving fast to provide tighter regulation of the financial supervisors who failed us so badly in recent years. They did nothing to stop the greed of western banks and off-shore tax havens. Fast decisions on enforcing Fair Competition laws across the EU Single Market are being made to stop individual governments from unfairly subsidising some of their industries.

The EU is working hard to avoid protectionism, which closes markets and reduces trade still further.

Less trade = fewer jobs.

Welcome back!

Paul is very happy to welcome Andrew Dunkin back to the Valley Focus Team. You may remember that Andrew represented Valley Ward as a LibDem Councillor in the past but had to stand down at the last election due to work commitments. Things have changed and Andrew now has enough time to resume his work for the local community.

Paul said "Andrew was a superb local councillor and has been missed by many residents. It will be a big boost to the Valley Focus Team to have him back on board."

Paul and Andrew have always worked well together and represented Conway Ward for 12 years before Valley was created from it.



Paul Hughes welcomes Andrew Dunkin back to the Focus Team outside Carlton Forum.

Killisick Court To Go?

Not long ago, Killisick Court was valued at £1m but now it is worth just a quarter of that figure. You and I have been losing £9,000 every month for the two and a half years it has been standing empty.

Gedling's Tories have finally decided to cut their losses and sell the building to a Housing association. It will be demolished and rented housing built on the site.
Tory waste in action!

County Tories make their mark

Since taking over control last June the Conservatives have:

Removed four stained glass windows depicting our mining heritage and replaced them with clear glass. This is a direct snub to the mining community!

Carried out an £11,000 refurbishment of offices occupied by Tory councillors.

Footpath Success!

Readers may recall that we have been campaigning for the footpath serving **8-44 Cavendish Road** to be repaired. This is the area with the semi-circular garden near Carlton cemetery. The footpath here is uneven and crumbling and desperately needs attention.

Gedling Council couldn't afford to do the work but now that council houses have been transferred to Gedling Homes there is money available for what are called Public Realm works. We are delighted to be able to inform you that this footpath will now be repaired before the end of March next year.

When we have a firm idea of the date the work will be carried out we will let you know.



Tesco Plans

Tesco have now received planning permission for a new, enlarged store. The site will be their existing Carlton Hill and include the demolition of the Windsor Castle next door. They have asked for 5 years to complete the work. There should be some money available to improve the local environment.

Tesco will provide some sort of shopping on the site during rebuilding. We'll keep you posted! Detailed information is available on the Council's planning website.

Meet your LibDem Focus Team



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Car Parking Charges

Gedling Borough has just released figures for its financial performance from July-September this year. These figures show that income from car parking charges is a lot down from the forecast.

The estimated income for the 8 months August 2009 to March 2010 has been reduced from £650,000 to £290,000. This is partly because Blue Badge holders can now park free and because there is free parking for half an hour from October to December but mainly it is because the public are refusing to pay and not using the car parks.

As a result, at a time when trade is bad anyway, shopkeepers are suffering. If shops close down, we will all suffer as the shopping centres decline and the variety of things we can buy locally also goes down.

Council Budget

In addition to the prediction of lower income from car parking charges (£360,000 lower!), the income from the Borough's leisure centres is still declining. By the end of March, the leisure centres are likely to have taken £45,000 less than expected. The overall position is that the Conservative run Borough Council is heading for a budget overspend of £56,000!

Your Views Matter...

Please use the space below to let us know about any local issues that we may be able to help with

- I will be voting LibDem at the next election
- I will display a poster at election time
- I can help deliver FOCUS
- I enclose a donation
 - £30
 - £15
 - £10
 - Other _____

Please make cheques payable to the Liberal Democrats

A donation of £10 or more entitles you to become a member of the Lib Dems. Please tick here if you do not wish to be enrolled

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
Email _____



Please return to: Valley Focus Team, 10, Park Avenue, Carlton NG4 3DP