

# FOCUS

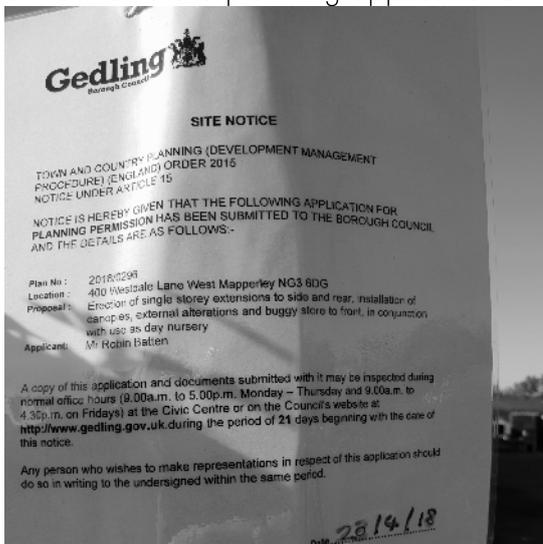
Porchester Ward September 2018 Liberal Democrats



**Local Team- Alan Dawson and Seb Soar - Delivering for Porchester Ward.**

## Hazel Hurst School - Unanswered Questions

"This controversial planning matter needed the planning committee to consider the bigger picture." We are not against Nursery places, we are against poor and inconsiderate planning applications.



**This is all the notice local residents got. So much for wanting local people involved.**

Despite the matter going before the Planning Committee most of the concerns were not fully dealt with.

Alan Dawson said afterwards, "This controversial planning matter needed the planning committee to consider the 'bigger picture' and not rely on the fact it has been a school in the past. This proposal should have been treated as a material change of use and to require planning permission. The councillors should have looked at the gaps in the process and lack of relevant information.

Gedling Planning Department claim 'to encourage more members of the public to get involved when deciding planning applications.' If this is the case, why when we visited local residents around the areas of this application did we find that the council had not informed them, a lot said if it wasn't for us telling them they would not have known. Continued overleaf.

### Hazel Hurst School - Questions Remain Unanswered

On 11th July a controversial plan to extend the building of the former Hazel Hurst School was passed by Gedling Borough Council.

Your Liberal Democrat team have supported local residents who have objected to the proposal to create a much larger Day Nursery.

The development will potentially double the number of children on site and at the same time fails to provide parking or even a drop off area.

Overleaf are quick updates regarding resurfacing work and proposed new cycle route.

There are also a few updates on issues we've touched upon on previous editions of this newsletter.

## Summer 2018

**Well, we hope you are having/ have had a fantastic summer. It has been wonderful going to every corner of this ward delivering our leaflets during the sunny spell we had.**

**Once again we can only thank all the residents that have stopped and chatted to us, raised issues, and just thanked us for what we are trying to do locally.**

**We are really proud of the area we live, work, and send our children to school and it is really humbling to meet so many positive like minded people who take so much pride in their community.**

**We hope you are finding our newsletters useful. They by no means represent the entirety of our activities, but we hope to keep you up to date with some other the bigger things happening in the ward over the last few weeks.**

**Regards**

**Seb and Alan.**

### Lib Dem Fact Box. 5p Plastic Bag. Lib Dem Policy, Lib Dem Success.

At Lib Dem party conference in 2013 our members passed a motion introducing the 5p plastic bag tax. While in government we successfully enacted that policy. Since then we have seen a 85% reduction in the use of plastic bags. Each 5p goes to charity. We have spoken to many people who have said that that policy was the beginning over their own personal plastic revolution.

# Working hard all year round

Hazel Hurst continued. . . . Lazy planning?

We are supporting residents who are against this application. We are not against creating more Day Nursery places in the ward, but against the haphazard nature of this application.

We are shocked at how little investigation has been done into this application, under current planning policy it is unlikely these plans would be approved, it is clearly wrong that developers can rely on permission granted in 1934 to develop the site. A lot has changed since 1934, more cars, traffic, pollution etc.

The report stated 'There is no evidence available to demonstrate whether there is a deficit or surplus of day nursery places available in this area.' Did anyone seek evidence? No, so we went and found out. If they had they would have found there are 3 relatively new day nursery facilities in the immediate area. All currently have vacancies. We have also identified that there are 12 nurseries within 2 miles of Westdale Lane.

The report stated that Nottinghamshire County Council (Highways) did not wish to make any observations, which was taken that they had no objections to it. Why not? If Highway Safety and Traffic are the concern for most objectors, how can they not be required to make observations and to explain them? Off-street parking is not being provided at the proposed nursery. Had it been treated as a change of use, parking would have been required. The other question that has angered local residents. Why were two trees felled despite there being a Protection Order? Two sycamore trees were felled prior to the sale of the property. Two separate documents give conflicting reasons for them being felled. The report to councillors stated this was not relevant to the merits of the proposed plan. If they are not relevant then why were they felled? A separate complaint regarding this has been registered.

These kind of decisions have long term implications for the residents of Porchester and your Liberal Democrat team believe that more enquires should have been made.

The Government has decided to delay its Green Paper on adult social care. Why? Is anything getting done at Whitehall? We find this decision disappointing and frustrating. If Whitehall is failing us, the onus is on us to elect hard working and passionate councillors that will work effortlessly to pursue these issues. Councillors who will pressure government locally and nationally into action. We can not continue to kick the can down the road with adult social care for another generation.

For our policy visit <https://www.libdems.org.uk/health>

## ONLY LIB DEMS STANDING UP FOR GEDLING!

Most of you will have seen the publicity after Nottinghamshire County Council voted through a proposal to form a unitary authority. The District Councils, including Gedling Borough Council soon voted to oppose the idea.

Whilst nothing has been agreed, let's be clear that all these changes are designed by the main two parties to galvanise their power and control, not to better democratically serve the communities.

Liberal Democrat Councillors voted against the idea at both authorities.

In January we featured an article - **The Future for Gedling Parliamentary Constituency.**

The proposed changes will mean that Gedling constituency would be removed and our area absorbed into Nottingham East and Carlton, with Arnold being absorbed into Sherwood Constituency. This will be presented to government in September.

Again the Liberal Democrats were the only major party to oppose this. We proposed five adjustments, but not accepting the Nottinghamshire proposal.

Tories want Gedling to go, and Labour said nothing when Gedling constituency was being wiped off the map! **Only the Lib Dems fighting for you locally!**



## UPDATES!

Quick Updates, since June Edition of Focus. We responded to the County Council proposal for Kenrick Road to be included in the new Cycle Network. We have suggested that Kenrick Road is probably the busiest and steepest of the roads between Westdale Lane and Porchester Road. For this reason it is probably the most dangerous for cyclists. A road with more gentle gradients and less traffic would be more attractive to those cyclists who are expected to take up cycling and to use these routes.

Planning Matters - We are now monitoring all planning applications in Porchester Ward. We have

commented on a new development proposed on Kenrick Road, suggesting that the parking spaces should be side-by-side so as to ensure their use. We also asked that consideration be given to Parking Restrictions at the junction with Westdale Lane.

Pedestrian Safety - Following our own survey at the Breck Hill Road junction, we have been told by the County Council that a preliminary appraisal of the feasibility and impacts of installing traffic signals can now be undertaken.

Pavement Obstruction - We have improved pedestrian use of some pavements by making contact with the management of a number of properties and negotiated that overgrown hedges are cut back.

## ROAD SURFACING UPDATE!

Despite the Conservatives claims that the state of our roads are being sorted, it seems progress is slow. Unfortunately the repairs in Porchester are not going to happen overnight. **Haywood Road** and **Sandford Road** will be resurfaced in early 2019 then a gap until **Kent Road** and **Moore Road** possibly as late as 2020.



As always, please feel free to contact us regarding any issue you may have!

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