

FOCUS

On Furzton Ward



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Happy New Year to all in Shenley Lodge, North & South Furzton

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Budget: Charges Up - Services Down!

MK's Conservatives published their draft budget for 2011-12 recently. Many of the controversial items were well hidden, but they include:

Rubbish

- Charges for collections of bulky waste items this April
- New strategy to charge for other services later - black sack collection next perhaps?

Buses

- Reductions in evening and weekend bus services - the No 29, recently restored by local pressure, is under threat again
- Childrens fares increase

Voluntary Organisations Slashed

- Grants to many voluntary organisations such as Homestart, Mind, Community Mobilisers and Relate stopped as the Council commissions large general services instead
- Cuts to arts and sports organisations such as MK Athletics (who hope to send several athletes to the Olympics next year), Interaction, and the Arts Workshops around the city

Community Alarms

- Cuts to the planned "smart alarms" to protect the elderly and disabled from accidents

Birth, Marriage and Death

- Increased charges to be born, married or die - crematorium and registry fees up

But Bureaucracy Continues!

- No money for front-line staff but directors' pay unchanged and no senior staff cuts
- Another year of money wasted on the notorious Council environment helpline

Cllr Jenni Ferrans said "The Conservatives have got it the wrong way round. The Council should be seeking efficiencies in back office services first before they cut front-line services that really affect people."

Cllr Chris Williams exclaimed "How can it possibly save money to pay a commercial company to provide a "one size fits all" service, rather than funding our respected, specialist voluntary organisations who have done such a fantastic job for us over the years putting in countless free hours? I thought localism was supposed to safeguard our voluntary organisations!"



Cllr Jenni Ferrans views rubbish dumped in Shenley Lodge. Will we see more of this under new proposals for waste charges?

Surviving Winter

AGE UK MK are offering practical advice for how to survive the winter, small grants for energy saving items such as duvets, pipe lagging or draught proofing and help with applications for larger measures such as cavity wall insulation.

Cllr Jenni Ferrans says "if you know of a vulnerable older person who needs help, please encourage them to book an appointment on **MK 557885** now!"

Courtenays Lodge Dances thanks to Parish Council!

The Parish Council recently presented a large, flat-screen television to **Courtenays Lodge, South Furzton**, after Cllr Chris Williams helped residents to apply for it, for use for DVDs that encourage exercise and dance. David Livingstone, Parish Chair, commented "We are glad to help".



Admiring the new television are David Livingstone, Chair of the Parish Council, Debbie Nolan, Manager of Courtenays Lodge & Cllr Chris Williams.

Safe Speeds on ALL our Roads!



20mph on Estate Roads

The overwhelming majority of residents are right behind the campaign for a speed limit of 20 mph on all estate roads on Furzton and Shenley Lodge.

"Responses to the Lib Dem survey came in by the dozen, with less than 10 against!" exclaimed Cllr Chris Williams.

Cllrs Chris Williams and Jenni Ferrans will now make a formal request to MK Council and Thames Valley Police to introduce the speed limit as quickly as they can in 2012. "There is no doubt that a 20 mph speed limit will reduce accidents, particularly around our schools, and bring safety and peace of mind to residents – now is the time to make it happen."



Reducing Accidents on Grid Roads

The notorious Trafalgar Avenue turning opposite South Furzton on the **A421 / H8**, is finally to be made into a left-in and left-out only junction. But many local people believe that this is not enough, and that the speed limit should be reduced to 60 mph.

"There have been numerous accidents over the years on the H8 due to excessive speeds" stated **Cllr Jenni Ferrans**, "and residents along that stretch asked for a reduction from 70mph to 60mph, to reduce the number of bumps, shunts and near-misses. We want this taken seriously, with speed limits and enforcement."

Cllr Chris Williams commented "There has been yet another accident on the Furzton stretch of the **V3** – luckily, minor this time. I want to add my voice to the many who asked for a speed limit of 50mph instead of 60mph on this stretch of road. I firmly believe that this is necessary, if accidents are to end."

Success you can see, service you can measure!