

New route for by-pass?

Will it pass between the cemetery and the allotments?

According to the report presented at a recent Cabinet meeting of the **Conservative controlled Derbyshire County Council**, it seems that they are having doubts about the previously agreed route that had been subject to public consultation. The report comments, "it will be difficult, if not impossible, to submit a successful planning application adhering to the detailed alignment approved by Cabinet in 2021".

Are we to expect another consultation on possible revised routes? This is not entirely clear in the report although reference to "informal engagement around the two options as assessment of these is progressed, with landowners and occupiers in particular".



These two options are shown on the above map, coloured pink and blue.

An **opportunity to ask questions** about this will be provided at the **Ashbourne and District 50+ Forum to be held at Elim Church on Friday 24th November** starting at 10am where Cllr Simon Spencer will be a guest speaker. **See inside for more details.**

Contact the Ashbourne Focus team

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DO YOU HAVE AN ISSUE? CAN WE HELP?

The local Lib Dem team want to hear from you on any issue, big or small, that you want help with.

My issue

Name..... Email.....

Tel Post code

- I can give an hour or so every few months to deliver leaflets in my area
- I would like a poster at the next election to show my support for the Liberal Democrat team
- I would like to join the Liberal Democrats

Can we keep you updated about our activities including campaigns, events, fundraising and details about how to get involved?

Yes please No thanks

The Liberal Democrats will use your contact details to send you information on the topics you have requested. Any data we gather will be used in accordance with our privacy policy at libdems.org.uk/privacy. To exercise your legal data rights, email data.protection@libdems.org.uk.

Cut out and return to: 2b, Windmill Lane, Ashbourne DE6 1EY or email (see Team details above)

Published & promoted by Peter Dobbs on behalf of Derbyshire Dales Liberal Democrats all at 2b, Windmill Lane, Ashbourne, DE6 1EY
Printed by Election Workshop, 3 Sheffield Street, Manchester, M1 2MD

FOCUS on Ashbourne and District

Liberal Democrats

Nov

2023

No 17

Liberal Democrats - for a Fairer, Greener, more Caring Dales

Plans are on track for Ashbourne Reborn

Although the start was delayed due to the late announcement of the winners of the Levelling Up Fund bid, there has been much activity in the District and County Councils as well as in Ashbourne Methodist Church to get the projects under way. A total of three 'boards' are meeting monthly to oversee the process as plans are finalised and tenders prepared.



One very obvious sign of progress was the demolition of the 'Elderly Persons' Rest Room'. This will make way for new soft landscaping and stepped seating. This part of the public realm project -



which has been in the pipeline since 2019 - is being led by Ashbourne Town Council. They commissioned Guy Taylor Associates to prepare an options appraisal and Members agreed to a landscaping development strategy to remove existing walls and provide a

shared external community space which wraps around the restored Millennium Clock.

Travellers sites - the search goes on

Much has been made in the local press about proposals to try to find better provision for two traveller families currently camped in two car parks - Station Car Park Matlock and Station Car Park Matlock Bath.

This was unfortunate, effectively stranding the two families, for which the District Council has a legal duty under homelessness legislation, on two car parks.

The new Lib Dem led administration is trying to sort out this mess.

A hopeful sign was the Council's unanimous support at their September meeting for a package of measures designed to provide a detailed framework for the future selection of traveller sites, including consultation and a defined set of criteria for suitability. Also appropriate tenancy agreements will be adopted to establish agreed standards of behaviour. Planning permission for a traveller site on the A6 at Homesford near Cromford has also been granted. However it is likely to be a while before the site (currently privately owned) is available.



The problem arises from the decision made by the previous Conservative administration in November 2022 to stop considering a list of 27 locations, mostly car parks located around the Dales, as suitable sites.

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Car Parks

Although we will need to wait until there is a Council vote to approve any proposals, it remains a Liberal Democrat goal to achieve some improvements in car parking charges and permit conditions.

Lib Dem Councillor for Ashbourne South, **Rob Archer**, who is a member of the Car Park Working Group, comments; "I have been pressing for a change in when the resident's permit can be used from after 4pm to after 3pm. This should help parents collecting their children from school, allowing them to park in Shaw Croft car park for free using their DDDC permit." The group has also been discussing the idea of giving under-used car parks a different pricing structure to encourage their use and reduce the number of cars parking on residential roads. These cars can often cause a significant hazard for both pedestrians and other road users.



Road full but car park almost empty!

Any action on Air Quality?

Progress on developing the Air Quality Action Plan so that it can have a significant effect on reducing the levels of air pollutants in the town remains a priority for us.

Ashbourne North Lib Dem Councillor **Peter Dobbs** is a member of the core 'Working Group' tasked with improving the existing draft plan.

Peter comments "A key challenge is trying to make the proposals for improvements to highways and the public realm that form the 'Ashbourne Reborn' project also have a positive impact on levels of pollutants. We have met with members of **Ashbourne Town Team** and with the **Principal Regeneration Officer for the District Council, Laura Simpson**, who is also the Ashbourne Reborn Programme Manager. We are currently exploring ways in which those 'actions' that had the greatest public support in the recent consultation can be implemented."



Particulates remain a concern

Robert Court General Election Candidate



As I talk to voters, I find them more than ever before expressing their disillusionment with politics and politicians. I understand how people feel. And this is why I am standing to be our MP in Derbyshire Dales.

I decided that what I was seeing of parliament and politicians meant that I needed to do something. Shouting at the TV wasn't working. Nor was just sitting there feeling angry. We cannot go on with trust in politicians at such a low ebb. We need leaders we can trust who tell the truth and act with integrity. Politicians should respect each other, and they have to earn the respect of the electorate. Standards have to rise. A huge cultural change is necessary in public life.

I stood here at the 2019 General Election, and I will be your Liberal Democrat candidate at the next election, which is expected sometime in 2024 (or January 2025 at the latest). Vote me in as our Lib Dem MP, and I assure you I will do everything I can to bring about the change that is needed.



To find out more visit our website

ddld.org.uk

By-pass update and a High Sheriff!

Nov 24th 10-12.30am Elim Church

The next **Ashbourne and District 50+ Open Forum** will have as speakers **Theresa Peltier**, the first black High Sheriff of Derbyshire and **Cllr Simon Spencer**, Deputy Leader Derbyshire County Council.

All are welcome and entry is free although there is a small charge for refreshments provided by the church.

Elim Church is on Waterside Park and there is plenty of parking.



Flooding - lessons to be learned



Culvert entrance during storm Babet

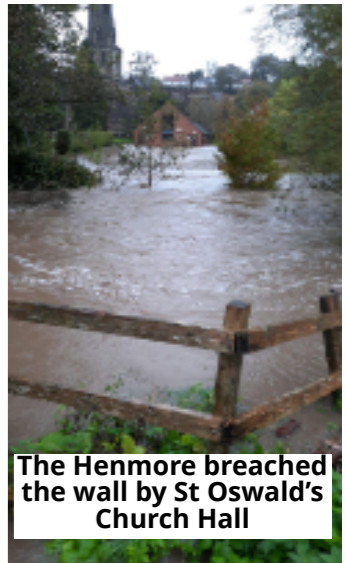
Storm Babet caused significant problems across the region with roads closed and houses flooded. Considering that the Henmore Brook reached a height of 1.93m at the gauge behind the hospital (it is normally about 0.2m) Ashbourne escaped with less flooding than might have been anticipated, thanks to some swift and effective action by volunteers in the town centre.

However that is no consolation for those that were flooded, with properties around the bridge on School Lane affected the most despite being almost at the edge of flood zone 2. Particularly distressing for the residents was the flooding of the Old Trust Spalden's Alms Houses. It will doubtless be a long clean up, after up to half a metre of water entered the homes, despite the efforts of the fire service and local residents.



It's deeper than it looks. Wyaston Road during the storm

With the water coming within a few centimetres of overwhelming the bridge on Dig Street, as well as the entrance to the culvert by the Memorial Park, it would seem that there is more work required by the Environment Agency to slow the flow of the Henmore upstream from Ashbourne. Ashbourne problems were not limited to the Henmore overflowing. **Surface run off** again caused problems in Wyaston Road as these motorists discovered. **Lib Dem Cllr Nick Wilton (Ashbourne South)** comments "This is a known issue that the County Council needs to address. The present drainage system was unable to cope and a review of the system's performance is urgently needed to inform remedial action".



The Henmore breached the wall by St Oswald's Church Hall

Blocked ginnel? Obstructed pavement? Time to call 'Proud of Ashbourne'

With confusion as to who is responsible for what as well as local council budgets stretched to the limit, several pavements and ginnels in Ashbourne have become overgrown, with some almost impassable.

Step up **'Proud of Ashbourne'**. In addition to their work in litter picking, this group of volunteers have taken on the task of clearing some of these pathways and the results have been impressive. Would you like to join them? Email action@proudoofashbourne.org if you are able to help, or would like to suggest their next project.



Between Green Road and Boothby Avenue



Between Margery Close & Highfield Road



Derby Road - again!

Liberal Democrats - keeping you in touch all year round