

Parkinsons awareness week April 14th - 20th

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
JOIN US.

This year during Parkinson's Awareness Week the Ashbourne Branch of Parkinson's UK is hosting a **Drop In Event**

at St. Oswald's Church Hall* on Thursday 18th April from 11.00am till 4pm

This is to raise awareness of both the difficulties and triumphs of living with Parkinson's. They are a small but thriving local group providing mutual support and friendship for those whose lives are affected by Parkinson's. There will be various stands showcasing the practical help which is available locally from a variety of multi-disciplinary groups.

Light refreshments will be available and there is no charge for this event. Why not come along and see how you might benefit from what's on offer, or how you might be able to offer support for those living with this debilitating disease?

*Or alternative venue if hall not back in use by then.

Contact the Ashbourne Focus team

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Carers needed



Orphan bench needs some love!

Can you help?

This bench at the top of Auction Close (Old Cattle Market) Car Park is showing its age. Erected to commemorate the late Queen's Silver Jubilee it is showing its 4 decades of use and needs attention.

Unfortunately neither Ashbourne Town Council nor Derbyshire Dales District Council find it listed in their records so they cannot undertake repairs.

Please get in touch if you can help rescue the bench.

FOCUS

Liberal Democrats

Feb

2024

No 18

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

Flooding special

How is it that **ONE** stream system with **TWO** branches and **THREE** culverts manages to cause **FOUR** (or more) flooding related events?

One stream (with no official name) flows through three culverts that take the stream underneath roads. Its flow under normal conditions appears to be little more than a trickle. Yet recent weather events that have coincided with blocked 'trash screens' on the entry to two of the culverts appear to have caused flooding that has caused damage and loss of trade with cars written off and shops closed. **What went wrong?**



The collapsed bank and exposed gas and possibly sewer pipes behind Highfield Road



Culvert almost blocked with sediment

The stream predates all the housing and follows the bottom of the valley from south of Old Derby Road. It marks the Ashbourne Parish boundary on the south western side. It flows under Wyaston Road via a culvert (near the flyover) then to the south of the A52 bypass, crossing back under the A52 to emerge behind Highfield Road. A final culvert takes it under Clifton



Gravel trap and trash screen by Clifton Road culvert

Road before it discharges into the Henmore at a bend in the river, behind Homebase. There is evidence that the stream is carrying a



The stream joins the Henmore

significant volume of water with recent undermining of its banks near the culvert on Clifton Road. This has left pipes hanging in mid air. Whether this extra volume can be attributed to recent housing developments in the catchment area of the stream or due to the increased frequency of more extreme climate events due to global warming is hard to say.

The collapsed bank was reported in December to the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA -part of Derbyshire County Council) by **Lib Dem Cllr Peter Dobbs**.

Peter comments;

"I reported the collapsed bank in December to various agencies including Cadent (gas) and the LLFA. I asked more questions in early January but no answer has been received about when it will be repaired or whose responsibility it is to keep the culvert screens clear. This is surely a case where regular maintenance is essential to avoid damage"

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

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The traffic lights are changing

Will it help?



A notorious bottleneck - 5-ways junction

New lights - just for the 441?

Derbyshire County Council was awarded £47 million by the Dept for Transport 'Bus Service Improvement Plan' (BSIP) to be spent over 3 years with the goal of improving bus services in the county.

Some of this has been spent on making ticket prices more attractive to encourage more people to use the buses but quite a bit has also been earmarked to 'improve traffic signalling' with the idea that traffic flows can be optimised and late running buses prioritised at congested junctions.

Ashbourne has, it appears, been chosen to have an **extra set of traffic lights at the Station Road - Church Street junction**



New traffic lights coming here

(by the Methodist Church) and this will be funded by the BSIP.

There is **one bus** (on the High Peak 441 / 442 route to Buxton) that uses this junction - 7 times a day on its northbound journey.

This does suggest that there is another motive for these extra lights!

The desire to have traffic signals at this particular junction may have its origins in the idea that traffic travelling northbound through Ashbourne might need to be regulated to give priority to traffic travelling southbound.

There are of course at present no suitable traffic lights to keep southbound traffic away from the congested town centre.

Lib Dem Cllr Nick Wilton comments;

"One of the key problems with the way that central government funds local authorities is that much of the funding comes earmarked for particular purposes. These are not always aligned with local priorities".

There are currently no service enhancements (extra buses) planned for Ashbourne.

Funded by a grant from central government designed to improve bus services, two sets of traffic lights in Ashbourne are due to be upgraded and a new set introduced.

As well as having the ability to allow the lights to change in favour of late running buses, the 'computer brains' that will control the system can also apparently prioritise the flow of, for example, heavy traffic that is beginning to build up on Park Road.

In this way County Council Highways engineers hope that the **more freely flowing traffic** will produce less pollution - **less NOx and particulates**.

These changes to the traffic lights are essentially what was **Action 1 in the draft 'Air Quality Action Plan'** that we were consulted on in May last year. It was the most highly rated of all the actions in the consultation.

Cllr Peter Dobbs comments; **"Much as I would like this scheme to herald an era of cleaner air, I cannot see how it is going to bring about significant improvements on Buxton Road which currently has the highest levels of pollutants in the town"**.



Work at the Park Road junction

To find out more visit our website

ddld.org.uk

Flooding - How's your SuDS?

One of the problems that we face as climate change shifts our winters towards 'warm, wet and windy' is how to cope with heavier rainfall, especially in urban areas. With more hard surfaces, as fields become built upon, there is a greater volume of rain water that needs to be safely dealt with. One of the strategies introduced in recent times is the requirement for a developer to have a suitable

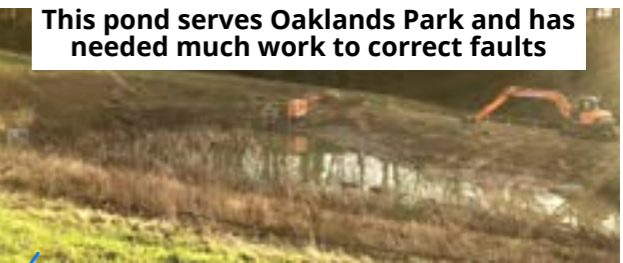


This pond serves the Shires estate. It is however full of trees!

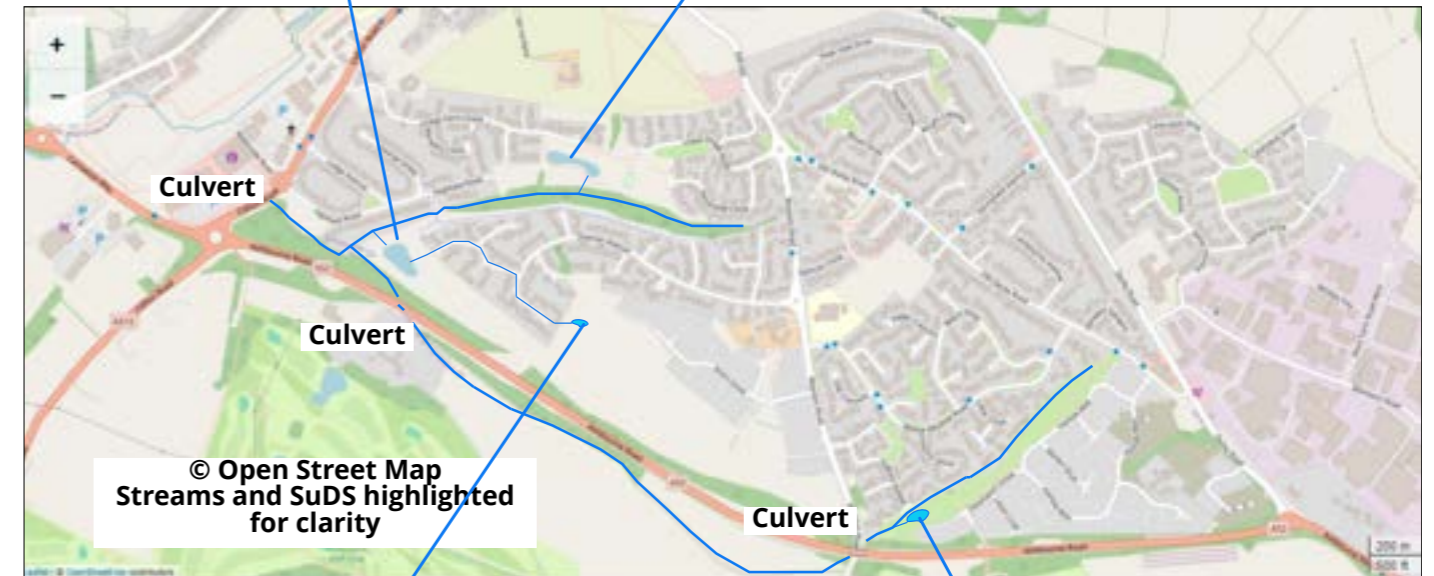
Sustainable Drainage System - SuDS. This, at its simplest, is a way of collecting the rainwater falling on the roads and paved areas of an estate

and only allowing it to flow into the nearest watercourse (or, if absolutely necessary, a sewer) **at a controlled rate**. In this way the stream or sewer is not going to be overwhelmed and potentially lead to flooding or contamination.

Frequently the most obvious feature of a SuDS is a **'balancing pond'**. This is where the developer has created a depression in the land where 'run off' can collect. They should be capable of holding



This pond serves Oaklands Park and has needed much work to correct faults



the water from extreme downpours, with the pond filling up and then slowly draining away safely.



This pond serves Henmore Gardens but outfalls into the Premier Av storm water sewer

However some SuDS don't seem to be behaving correctly, appearing to have the same level of water all the time. Others seem to collect no water at all. These observations of the SuDS have occurred alongside examples of flooding events and this suggests that all may



This serves Ramblers Gate and outfalls into the stream before the culvert

not be not quite as it should be.

Derbyshire Dales Liberal Democrat Councillors have suggested that there needs to be much more critical assessment of the drainage schemes proposed by developers at the initial planning stage.

Cllr Rob Archer comments; **"Trying to sort out the shortcomings after the SuDS have been constructed is much more difficult and may have already given rise to adverse effects. This is where we hope that the Lead Local Flood Authority (run by Derbyshire County Council) will take a more effective stance in making sure that SuDS will perform correctly"**.

Liberal Democrats - keeping you in touch all year round