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Youth Clubs Cuts ahead

There is real concern over North Somerset's funding for youth services. The Mercury on June 21st reported that Youth Services face 40% cut.

"I think this is a real worry," says Wendy Griggs, "Our youth are our future and we must invest in them. I believe still believe that buying Castlewood with an immense loan and the huge amount of money being spent on refurbishing the Town Hall is a wrong priority." Part of Wendy's voluntary work over the past 4 years has been on the management committee of the youth Club.

A mere £1 million is being spent on Youth Services this year - a minuscule fraction of the money being wasted on offices. Castlewood is still not fully occupied and vacated buildings are still just that - vacated and sitting empty. It is a scandal!

Pylon Progress?

Liberal Democrat MP for Wells, Tessa Munt has taken the fight against pylons to Parliament and has introduced a Bill opposing the route. This will need Government support if it is to progress but she is continuing the battle for us.



Editor Wendy Griggs in conversation with Tessa Munt MP, about the route for the pylons through Somerset and North Somerset.

Editors:

Wendy Griggs, 12 Henley Lodge, Yatton
 Phone: 01934 834143 Email: whg.sag@virgin.net
 Isabel Cummings, Little Orchard, 18 Rock Road, Yatton
 Phone: 01934 833928 Email: cummingsim@aol.com
 Deborah Yamanaka, Wrington Farmhouse, School Rd., Wrington
 Phone: 01934 862109
 Email: d.yamanaka@btinternet.com

Thanks From Wendy

I would like to thank the huge number of people who voted for me. Despite not being elected I will continue with all my voluntary work in the community.

This was a decision I made when I stopped work. Having spent 30 years living in Yatton and benefiting from all that was on offer for my family, I decided that I would give back to the community. This is what I have been doing and will continue to do.

Amazingly since the election I am still being approached to "do" things. The word appears to be out that I am a doer and fixer and of course I am happy to be of use and help people. Unfortunately not being elected as a district councillor does limit some of the influence I can bring to bear for Yatton.

We have to hope those that have been elected will be out and about in the community, accessible to the residents and willing to take an interest in peoples' concerns however small or large, however easy or difficult.

I would like also to thank you for all the kind words I have received since May 5th, it feels as if I have over 1000 friends I feel very privileged to have spoken to so many of you and enjoyed many a cup tea.

The results are below:

Tony Moulin *	(Ind)	1824
Annabel Tall *	(Con)	1465
Jill Iles *	(Con)	1464
Wendy Griggs	(LD)	1328
Headley Woods	(Lab)	415
Juley Howard	(Ind)	985
Alan Bagg	(Lab)	383
Carol Walker	(Lab)	355

The turnout in Yatton was high – 50.76% - higher than many other places.

Airport Issues

A year ago North Somerset Council approved Bristol airport's application to expand. This application was only in outline for some developments and now the airport is applying for the detail of items including more aircraft stands, an acoustic fence and landscaping.

The airport's original application stated their intention of phasing the stands, putting in 3 to start with followed by another 3 when passenger numbers rose. However this phasing was not included in the conditions when the application was approved and all the new stands are being applied for now.

These stands are close to houses in Cooks Bridle Path but the acoustic fence and time restrictions on running aircraft engines are intended to protect the residents from excessive noise.

Another issue is the recent changes in drop-off car parks. The old drop-off area near the terminal now has no free period, charging £1 for the first 20 minutes. The new area near the freight entrance has 10 minutes free but this is too short to be much use. Taxis and cars park in nearby laybys in order to avoid the car park charges & cause problems for school buses which need to use the layby for children's safety, and residents have difficulty getting to the post box and Wrington Parish Council noticeboard.

Lib Dems Oppose Councillor Pensions

At the first Council meeting after the elections, North Somerset Lib Dems called for the councillor pension scheme to be scrapped.

The pension scheme, introduced by the Tories 4 years ago, costs the council £33,000 a year – money that goes straight into the pension pots of the 15 councillors who signed up and is paid for by council taxpayers.

Lib Dem Group Leader Cllr Mike Bell said: "While the rest of North Somerset faces cuts on a daily basis, I don't know how any councillor can sleep at night while they're claiming even more money through a shameful pension scheme.

"We haven't forgotten how Tory councillors put their own pay up massively and launched a pension scheme for councillors – it was greedy at the time but is even worse now. We're facing massive cuts across all departments, yet they're still pocketing the extra money. Those that signed up to the scheme should do the honourable thing and back out."

The Tories voted to keep the scheme as it is.

Health Service - Keep it safe

Liberal Democrats in Government are delivering for you.

Liberal Democrats have ensured Tory Health Minister Andrew Lansley has had to rethink his Health and Social Care Bill. Led by strong voices including Baroness Shirley Williams, Lib Dem MP's have pressed for changes to ensure the NHS remains a comprehensive service, treating all equally and free when we need it. Liberal Democrats want GP's to be involved in health commissioning, together with doctors responsible for hospital care and other specialist services. Private providers must not be allowed to cherry pick "easy" and profitable services, leaving others such as mental health as poor relations.

It matters what you think....

Have your say - comments, issues you would like help with.

I want to help the Lib Dems

I want to join the Lib Dems

I will deliver Yeo Views

Name:

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Email:

Return to the Editors at any of the addresses overleaf

We will retain your contact details and may contact you in future unless you say you do not wish to be contacted.