

## All Change in North Somerset But Good News on Green Waste

The May elections resulted in a large Conservative majority on North Somerset Council. Wrington ward went against the trend by re-electing Liberal Democrat Deborah Yamanaka.

“I would like to thank everyone who supported me, and I will do my best to represent all the residents.” said Deborah. “I am obviously disappointed with the overall result on North Somerset. But at least the Conservatives have changed their minds over garden waste collections. 18 months ago they voted against starting the collection and delayed it for several months. Now I am relieved that they are extending the collection to all those areas without it, which include Butcombe and parts of Redhill.”

From October everyone can benefit from these collections and keep garden waste out of landfill. Remember though that home composting is still the best way of dealing with most garden waste – ring 01934 888 802 to buy a North Somerset compost bin for £10.

## Parish Lighting

Wrington Parish Council has raised the issue of “double taxation” with North Somerset over street lighting. Street lights in Wrington and Redhill villages are owned by the Parish Council and paid for by parishioners through the parish precept. But residents also pay towards street lights elsewhere in North Somerset through the council tax.

Street lighting could be taken out of council tax by being made a “special expense”. Residents would then pay only for North Somerset street lights in their own parish. Residents in parishes like Butcombe with no street lighting at all would also pay less.

Highway lighting on roads like the A38 would still be paid for by everyone through council tax.

## Tories cut Affordable Housing

The Conservatives started their new term on North Somerset by reducing the spending on affordable housing for local people from £12.5 Million to £8 Million. This means at least 250 fewer new affordable homes will be funded by the council under Tory rule.

Liberal Democrats had planned to increase new homes from about 55 per year to around 120 per year up to 2012. This would have drawn in private and government funding up to £30 Million to maximise the number of new affordable homes for rent and shared ownership for local people on low incomes.

House price inflation in the South West is second only to London and the South East. Right to Buy sales reduce the existing social rented housing every year so that there is a desperate shortage of homes to rent. Where will our children find a home they can afford?

Liberal Democrats

## JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov  
2 pm

Wrington Memorial Hall

Clothes Books Bric-a-Brac  
Many Bargains All Welcome

Admission 20p

Ring 01934 862065 or 862109 for collection

## Cuts to Road Repairs in Wrington



Earlier this year Station Road was on a list to be repaired this summer. But since the May elections the new Conservative Council has taken it off the list, along with South Meadows, which was also due for repair.

There is some good news – Coombe Dale off Downside Rd should be resurfaced this year as will the pavement on Broad St Wrington, both badly needed. But there are no plans for Downside Rd itself, parts of which are in dire need of repair from the increasing traffic.

The Conservatives are spending £500,000 more on all North Somerset highway repairs, out of the £4.5Mill cut from affordable housing. But Wrington ward will see nothing of the extra money, since less is being spent here than agreed previously.

## Flooding

Several houses were flooded in Wrington in July, thankfully only for 2 hours or so. Other gardens and garages were flooded, and this has happened twice before in the last 8 years.

The reality of climate change means that weather is more changeable, with heavy rainstorms happening more often. Instead of buying desert plants for our gardens as we were advised last year, we have to be prepared for anything.



Deborah Yamanaka spoke at North Somerset Council's July Executive meeting to ask for a thorough investigation of the brook and culvert system through Rickyard Rd, Silver St and Garstons Close. However we do not know when or even if this will take place.

Actual photos are on the Wrington website <http://www.wringtonsomerset.org.uk/webarchive/2007/floods.html>

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## Delay for Airport Plans

Planning applications from the airport for more car parks, a new terminal and a hotel have been expected since the New Year. We are still waiting – firstly the airport waited for the May elections to be over, and then the new managing director Paul Kehoe needed time to settle in. The applications may not now be made before Christmas.

When the previous North Somerset Councillors looked at the Master Plan they called for no growth without proper investigation of the benefits and damage. They were concerned about increased traffic to the airport, growth in car parks outside the airport boundary, lack of public transport, the environmental effects of air and road traffic locally and globally and the need for a cost/benefit analysis of the economic effects of expansion.

## New Planning Framework

The Government has brought in a new system to take the place of Local Plans, which set policies for planning applications. North Somerset has only just adopted its most recent Replacement Local Plan which will last until 2011. The 2004 Planning Act requires Councils instead to produce a Core Strategy setting out areas for future development across the whole district. Area Action Plans will be added to this with more detail for each area.

Residents will be consulted on the Issues and Options for NSC's Core Strategy during October this year, through exhibitions, a leaflet in North Somerset Life and the NSC website [www.n-somerset.gov.uk](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk).

There are important questions to be answered:

- should housing growth up to 2026 concentrate on Weston-super-Mare and the area south of Bristol, or include the smaller towns Clevedon, Nailsea & Portishead and/or the larger villages like Wrington?
- should village fences be removed?
- should the Green Belt be extended south of Wrington?

There will be more consultation next summer before the Core Strategy goes to the Secretary of State in 2009.