

Thank You for Your Support

Liberal Democrats **Isabel Cummings**, **Peter Kehoe** and **Wendy Griggs** who stood in the May North Somerset Council elections want to thank everyone who supported them. It has been a privilege to serve you as councillors.

Across North Somerset there appears to have been a swing against the Labour Government straight to the Conservatives, with relatively little regard for local issues. North Somerset is now controlled by 46 Conservative councillors who will be able to ignore the 15 Opposition councillors.

Conservatives have taken all but two committee chairmanships which will limit any scrutiny of their policies. They have already begun the cuts they plan to make and are looking to make cuts in other services.

Here to Help

Isabel, Peter and Wendy wish the residents and parish councils of Yatton (including Claverham!), Cleeve, Kenn and Kingston well. You may not be aware who the new North Somerset councillors are: Tony Moulin from Yatton, Jill Iles who lives at Kingston Bridge and Ericka Blades from Clevedon.

Each of us has said that the aspect of being a councillor we have enjoyed most is being able to help people and we will continue to do that where we can.

Isabel was a district councillor for 16 years (and on Yatton Parish councillor for longer until she stood down four years ago). Isabel is still keen to use her long experience to advise people about any problems. Peter served for over 5 years and as Executive member for children and young people is much respected by the schools community. Wendy was very diligent dealing with planning applications and is continuing to support residents where planning applications are causing concern, such as the Bridge Works, Southview Terrace, Yatton.

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Tories cut Affordable Housing

The new Tory Council has voted to reduce the spending on affordable housing for local people from £12.5 M to £8M. This means at least 250 fewer new affordable homes will be funded by the council under Tory rule.

Liberal Democrats planned to increase from 55 new homes per year to around 120 per year up to 2012. This would have drawn in private and government funding up to £30million 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 and with right to buy sale reducing the social rented housing there is a desperate shortage of homes to rent. Where will our children find a home they can afford?

MORE OF THE SAME AT BIA – No listening!!!

Well, Paul Kehoe, the new Managing Director of Bristol International Airport didn't take long to dash the hopes of residents. His first two press briefings stressed that his top priority was "to drive ahead with the expansion plans".

The concerns of Cleeve and Yatton residents got not a mention, nor did appear aware of the mile-long list of concerns recorded during North Somerset Council's public consultation. Paul Kehoe appears equally unaware of the resolution of NS Council which raised major concerns about the airport's ill-conceived expansion plans.

We suggest that BIA re-read the White Paper "The Future of Air Transport" – for even this airport friendly document argued that airports and their growth must ...

- a) *limit noise impact and where possible reduce this over time* – BIA expansion has no such noise reduction plans.
- b) *keep air quality – re all relevant pollutants- within the legal limits.* Residents with films of oil on their windows and ponds will ask how more planes will assist air quality
- c) *minimise the loss of landscape and mitigate impact*
– sorry but even more tarmac car parks do not meet this requirement.
- d) *provide adequate surface access (road, rail etc) –*
an extra bus to and from Bristol is futile.

As for the alleged economic benefits of expansion. It is unfortunate that BIA seems bent on establishing monopoly car parking, monopoly taxis and monopoly hotel and catering. The local communities will see little or no benefit from these. Please let Mr Paul Kehoe know your views.

HGV Survey

The results of the HGV survey carried out earlier this year by Wendy Griggs aided by a local resident, are not encouraging. With particular concern about traffic around the start and end of the school day in Yatton High Street, they concentrated on those times. Results showed that a small percentage are using it as a "rat run" but a majority of HGV's are associated with Stowells and use the road legitimately. Wendy has visited Stowells and the Operations Manager has agreed to encourage the drivers to avoid school times, when pavements are at their busiest with parents and children.

Putting Facts Straight

Critical comments were made in election leaflets about the council housing transfer. What they failed to point out was that with it, the council would have been in debt by 2020 and instead of *getting* £21.5M for the homes, they would have had to *spend* £50M! The new housing association, called North Somerset Housing, is spending £48.5M on improvements in the next five years as part of their promises to tenants and £159M over 30 years.

"This is a serious investment in our community, improving it and creating jobs instead of being a drain on council finances. That is why I am proud of the housing transfer," said Isabel Cummings.

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:

Address:

Phone:

Email: