



Tory Council says No to Liberal Democrat Tax Cut Plan

Rushcliffe Lib Dems put forward a plan to keep this year's Council Tax rise down to 2.2%, in line with the CPI inflation index – but the Tories, supported by Labour, insisted on a higher increase of 3.9%.

Lib Dem leader **Chris Evans** said "Residents are under pressure from increasing fuel and energy bills and the credit squeeze on mortgage rates. In these circumstances, we think the Borough Council should do all it can to pass on any savings." But Labour leader Alistair MacInnes said "Rushcliffe is a relatively well-off place to live and the majority can afford a 3.9% increase."

Tory leader Neil Clarke described his plans to spend extra money on a range of new services. But, in these difficult economic times, isn't it better for you to keep more of your own money?

New gym opens at Keyworth Leisure Centre

Following pressure by Liberal Democrat councillors and the Friends of KLC to improve facilities at Keyworth Leisure Centre, a new Fitness Suite with the latest state-of-the-art equipment has opened. This is a welcome assurance of the commitment of the Borough Council and Parkwood Leisure to our local pool and leisure centre. Gym sessions cost £5.20 (any length of time) with lower rates for regular attendance. Phone 937 5582 for more details.

Picture shows **Debbie Boote** with the Council's Leisure Services Manager and Ian Machan (Friends of KLC) with **Chris Evans**.



Community Support Scheme helps local causes

The Borough Council allows each councillor to allocate £500 a year to local projects. This is a small amount, but the scheme will soon be reviewed after its first year of operation, and we hope the amounts will be increased. So far, the **Focus Team** have approved grants to: a composting toilet at the allotments in Willowbrook; the discovery trail at Crossdale Drive School; the Friends of Keyworth Leisure Centre; Village in Bloom; the hanging baskets scheme; the Village Plan; and Keyworth Young People's Centre.

The **Focus Team** welcome the opening of the youth club on Monday to Thursday evenings. The club is a great asset to Keyworth, and it is vital that it now enjoys some continuity after its recent closure.

Sam and Debbie Boote handing over cheques to staff and children at Crossdale Drive School



Chris Evans handing over a £400 cheque as a contribution to sports and arts packs at the youth club



Your Keyworth Liberal Democrat Focus Team

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**To contact the Focus Team, e-mail s.boote@bcs.org
or visit the website www.samboote.org.uk**

An Eco-Town near you?

Rushcliffe has been selected by the Government as a potential site for an Eco-Town. We are on the national shortlist of 15 sites, and in October the 10 sites for development will be selected.

Kingston-on-Soar was originally named but then rejected, and now RAF Newton has been named as the only suitable place in Rushcliffe.

Picture shows the site near Kingston-on-Soar, in Rushcliffe



So what is an Eco-Town? It's meant to be a self-contained sustainable community. Everyone should be able to live, shop, work and study within the Eco-Town. The need to travel into and out of the Eco-Town should be minimal. Pie in the sky? Something has to be done to provide affordable housing, but we doubt whether people will be willing to live in isolated enclaves.

Liberal Democrat councillors recently requested an emergency meeting of the Borough Council to discuss the RAF Newton proposal. As a result, more consultation about such a development will now be done. Meanwhile, what were the Council's Tory leadership doing? They were caught sleeping on the job, while the Government moved quickly with their plans.

What does it mean for Keyworth? It would mean a lot if an Eco-Town (at least twice the size of Keyworth) were put anywhere in Rushcliffe. Such a decision could mean an extra 6000 houses, in addition to those already proposed. Transport and other infrastructure would burst under the strain. Even 10 miles away at RAF Newton, we would be bound to feel the strain on this side of Rushcliffe. Surely the best form of development is steady organic development of existing communities, using brownfield sites and other suitable areas. But will the Government listen?

Recycling latest

Battery recycling - many residents have asked about this, and West Bridgford Lib Dem councillor **Rod Jones** asked Council officers to look into it, quoting other councils that have succeeded. The service will be started later this year, and all residents will be provided with a small bag that can be left out for collection. Nationally, 22,000 tons of batteries are now sent to landfill each year - surely we can treat the environment better than this.

Blue bins - statistics show that Keyworth is one of the best villages in Rushcliffe for recycling paper and plastic. The Nicker Hill and Mount Pleasant area came third out of 45 rounds in the borough - **well done!**

Council's Cabinet rejects parking review

After months of work by Borough Council officers, councillors and a sub-committee, followed by the endorsement of a scrutiny group, the Council's Tory Cabinet took just 4 minutes to throw out this review (wasting thousands of pounds of your money). The scrutiny showed there was no evidence for introducing pay-and-display in Keyworth - a view that we agree with. But now the review has been referred back for further consideration, which could take at least a year. So nothing will be done soon about the difficult parking situation around Budgens and Church Drive.

Picture shows the full car park behind Budgens



Village in Bloom competition

Debbie Boote writes: Keyworth has been entered into the Village in Bloom competition for the first time this year. Judging will be on Saturday 12 July (Keyworth Show day). The Village in Bloom Group have been very busy planting at the village entrances, outside Budgens and other places in order to improve the appearance of the village. The *Focus Team* would like to wish the Village in Bloom Group the best of luck on 12 July. Meanwhile, the Parish Council's Hanging Baskets project is also helping to improve the appearance of our village.



Travel Plan making progress at Keyworth Primary and Nursery School

Many parents and residents will have seen **Chris Evans and Sam Boote** in day-glo vests surveying travel patterns at the school. This was part of a plan to encourage walking and cycling to school and to reduce the congestion of the school run. Chris suggested that the back gate should be opened to allow more parents to walk their parents to school. Nearly half of the children now come to school through this gate. The **Focus Team** would like to express their appreciation of the school's Steering Group with whom they have worked to produce this Travel Plan.

Council to sort out open amenity areas on Brookview estate

Following complaints from residents, **Sam Boote** held an on-site meeting with the head of the Borough Council's Streetwise department. Grass had not been cut well enough; grass cuttings had left a mess on the ground; trees had died and not been replanted; paths were in a poor state and were getting overgrown.....and so on. A programme of remedial measures will be carried out over the summer. Some clearance will also be done at the edges of the Debdale Lane industrial estate.

Kinoulton "Post Office" reopens

Thanks to the Post Office closure programme and despite a petition and campaign by the **Focus Team**, Kinoulton has sadly lost its village shop. But we do now have a new "Outreach" Post Office - at St. Luke's Church on Main Street - and it will still provide the full range of postal services. So please - **Use it or lose it!**

The opening hours are: Tuesday and Thursday 2 to 5.30pm, and Wednesday 9am to 1pm.



New speed limits on the A606

A 40 mph speed limit and centre hatchings have been introduced on a one-mile stretch of the A606 through Stanton-on-the-Wolds, while there is now a 30 mph limit on part of Browns Lane. There is also a 40 mph limit through Hickling Pastures. The A606 has been especially prone to accidents caused by speed and bad overtaking, particularly at the junction with Browns Lane. We hope drivers will accept the extra half-minute on their journeys in return for better safety.

Debdale Lane woods to be preserved

Following a spate of vandalism (chopping down trees and digging large holes) by people armed with saws and other tools, **Sam Boote** worked with the local police and the Borough Council on how to look after this well-loved local amenity (also known as Cotton's Plantation). The Council's Streetwise department have taken responsibility for this and will carry out maintenance when needed. If you see any further damage, please contact the **Focus Team**.

Picture shows the damage in the wood early this year.



Come and see us at the Keyworth Show!

The Liberal Democrats will be holding their usual book stall at the Show on 12 July. If you would like to give away some used (good quality) paperbacks, CDs, DVDs, videos or CD-ROMs, please phone 937 4644 to arrange collection. Picture shows **Sam and Debbie Boote** with Bill Newton Dunn MEP at last year's Show.



Shorties

Sure Start children's centre - this is set to open at Keyworth Primary and Nursery School in September. This is a coordinated scheme aimed at bringing all under-5s within reach of some form of education or childcare or social provision. **Debbie and Sam Boote** have been supporting the project on its steering group.

Footpath between Villa Road and Rose Grove - this will soon be designated a public right of way. Thanks go especially to the residents of Villa Road for coping with the bureaucracy and providing the evidence to get the path saved for posterity.

Highway drainage problems - these are still in evidence after last year's deluges. **Sam Boote** has held a meeting with residents and the Highways department to deal with water coming down Manor Road and into residents' gardens. Sam has also drafted a letter for a Normanton Lane resident to ask the Highways department to stop water coming off the road and down his drive.

Weeds on the street - **Debbie Boote** has successfully pressed the Highways department to deal with the build-up of weeds in the Square. Our village centre deserves to look neat and tidy.

Village Plan first results - there has been a **huge** 55% return to the survey forms (well done, Keyworth! - you're always keen to take part in these community-minded things). People really like living in Keyworth and value the services they receive. They do not want Keyworth to develop upwards, they would like to see car parking sorted out, and they would like outdoor facilities for all ages - such as a play area for young people, or a football field. For more information, come to the Keyworth Show.



Peter McGowan is Deputy Mayor

After serving as a Ruddington councillor for 25 years, Peter McGowan has been elected by the Council as the first Liberal Democrat Deputy Mayor of Rushcliffe. The **Focus Team** congratulate Peter on this recognition of his selfless service to the community.

Picture shows Peter starting the Principia race in Rushcliffe Country Park.

Focus Feedback

Please let us know if you have a local problem which you would like the **Focus Team** to tackle:

Name.....Address.....
Phone.....e-mail.....

Please return to **Sam Boote, 17 Rannock Gardens, Keyworth NG12 5FQ**
Or you can e-mail us at **s.boote@bcs.org**

I would like to enquire about joining the Lib Dems about helping to deliver "Focus"