

Welcome to the June edition of my e-Focus in which I update local residents on news items, council meetings and planning applications in the Alamein ward.

As before if you no longer wish to receive these e-Focus newsletters please contact me on len.gates@andover.co.uk and I will remove your email address from the circulation list.

This month has been dominated by elections first the general election and its aftermath and now the build up to Thursday's Andover parish council elections. More on both of these later. First to other matters.

The top news story is, of course, the decision by the Co-op to sell the lease of their King Arthur's Way shop to McColls. Last year, at short notice, they announced they wanted to close the shop. This prompted widespread protests and a local petition for which I was pleased to collect signatures. I also spoke to senior Co-op officials asking them to reconsider their decision. As a result the Co-op agreed to keep the shop open until an alternative operator could be found.

The Co-op kept to this promise and after detailed negotiations between them, McColls and Test Valley the new lease has been signed. The shop has been kept open, the post office will remain and all the jobs have been saved. My congratulations to all who fought to save the shop and to the Co-op for their willingness to work with the community to retain this important local resource.

The council's bus scrutiny panel is continuing its work delayed because of the general election. Members of the panel will be travelling on buses and talking to passengers about the quality of services. If you have any comments or suggestions please let me know.

I am still following up on matters raised by the recent Roman Way residents' meeting in the church centre. A further meeting is planned for 12th June. I and local residents will be leafleting the area early next month with more details.

As everyone knows there are still problems on Icknield Way with increased traffic from new residents at East Anton and, despite signage, contractors traffic. I am currently talking to Highways officers about a permanent solution to this and would welcome any comments on or evidence of problems in the area.

Residents have been asking about improved recycling facilities in Alamein ward, in particular more glass and other recycling centres. I am currently working with officers to identify suitable sites and get landowners' approval for their use. If you know of a suitable site please let me know.

For all the latest news visit

<http://lengates.mycouncillor.org.uk/>

<http://www.nwhampshire.libdems.org.uk/>



THE GENERAL ELECTION:

Now after all the debates and the leaflets and door knocking its all over. The result and the new coalition government is not one many people would have predicted beforehand but this is the result the electorate has chosen. No party won the right to govern alone and the days of the largest minority imposing their views on everyone else are hopefully gone forever.

Some residents have queried whether the Lib Dems should have gone into coalition with the Tories our only real rivals in this area. It is a coalition to govern for a fixed period, we remain separate parties with differing views and priorities and will continue to fight elections as separate parties. Lib Dems have always argued that parties should work together for the common good. It would be wrong to reject the opportunity to do so when offered it.

The deal with the Conservatives was the only serious offer on the table, the Labour party could not deliver a stable coalition and were only looking for someone to prop up their tired, discredited and rejected government. They would not concede on a single policy whereas the Conservatives were prepared to negotiate and implement Lib Dem proposals.

Throughout the election campaign Lib Dems argued for fairer taxes based on ability to pay, a new economy with controls on banks, a fair start for children with increased funding for schools, and a new politics which represents the people not party interests. The new government is pledged to implement every one of these Lib Dem policies. I am proud to have fought for these policies and welcome the new politics which will change Britain for the better.

AND THE TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION:

Just when you thought it was all over Andover faces another election for its first town (parish) council. Alamein ward has three seats on the new council and there are three Lib Dem candidates all who live in the area - unlike their opponents.

Liberal Democrats have always supported a town council to improve representation and services for local people. If elected they aim to do this by

- Preserving Andover's heritage - replacing the bandstand and ensuring the upper Guildhall always remains available for community use
- Speaking up for Andover - on planning matters when borough councillors can't do so.
- Building for the future - working to bring investment into the town, and to improve bus services, street cleaning and residential parking.
- Providing cost effective services - working with the borough to reduce the Andover levy and improve services.
- Combating antisocial behaviour - working to improve policing and warden patrols across the town.
- Improving leisure facilities - allotments, play areas, halls and open spaces.

Andover is growing and changing The Liberal Democrats will put Andover first, ensuring that change works for you, and for the future of Andover. Your polling stations are the same as usual, King Arthur's Hall and Smannell Road Church centre. You do not need a polling card just turn up and give your name and address to vote. You have three votes, your three local candidates are

Barbara Carpenter, Kevin Hughes and Andrew Whiteley

Cllr Len Gates, Alamein ward, Test Valley Borough Council

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning application has been submitted in the past month. If you wish to see more details or comment on them go to

<http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=5600>

10/01019/FULLN 05/05/2010 96 Vespasian Road Andover Erection of conservatory at rear
SP10 5JP

THIS MONTHS BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Test Valley council meetings this month are as follows. Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings of the council. To view the agenda of the meeting, go to

<http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=201>

02.06.10	Licensing Committee	Conference Room 1, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road Andover.	17:30
09.06.10	Northern Area Planning Committee	Conference Room 1, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road Andover.	17:30
09.06.10	General Purposes Committee	Conference Room 1, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road Andover.	16:00
09.06.10	Cabinet	Conference Room 1, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover	17:30
16.06.10	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Conference Room 1, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover	17:30
24.06..10	Northern Area Planning Committee	Conference Room 1, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover	17:30
28.06.10	Planning Control Committee	Conference Room 1, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover	17:30
29.06.10	Council	Upper Guildhall, High Street, Andover	16:00
30.06.10	Audit Committee	Council Chamber, Duttons Road, Romsey	16:00
30.06.10	Cabinet	Council Chamber, Duttons Road, Romsey	17:00

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL, OTHER MEETINGS and EVENTS:

Enham Alamein Parish Council	Wed 09 June 19:15	Enham Tea Rooms, Enham Alamein
Smannell Parish Council	Wed 09 June 19:15	Smannell & Enham School, Smannell
Roman Way residents meeting	Sat 12 June 17:00	Church centre, Smannell Road, Andover
Alamein Community Association	Tue 22 June 18:15	King Arthur's Hall, King Arthur's Way, Andover