

FOCUS

On Chickerell

Jan/Feb 2024

Liberal
Democrats

CUTS TO LOCAL BUS SERVICES

When we did our survey last year, a number of residents, particularly from the Littlesea / Lanehouse area spoke about the lack of buses since the suspension of the No 6 in June 2023. Gill sent out a letter to around 800 houses asking for some indication of the usage of the service. Many of you responded. She has since written a paper on this which has been submitted to Dorset Council with a request that it should be reinstated and subsequently had meetings on the issue. Gill said 'Funding is always an issue but demonstrating need is vital. What I don't want is to get a bus back for a trial period. I want a long term solution and if it is not a bus, I want to look creatively at some form of community transport for our residents.'



Note: Gill has requested that the bus shelter that was at the corner of Freemantle is replaced. She has been assured that it is on order. She is also asking where the litter bin has gone and that it is returned!

Your Local Lib Dem team

GILL TAYLOR

I wanted to introduce myself. I'm **Gill Taylor** and I will be your local contact for the Lib Dems. Some of you will already know me as the Chickerell Ward overlaps with my Weymouth Town Council Ward.



Bit of my background for those who don't know me. I've been a councillor for a long time, initially on W&PBC and for the last four years as a DC councillor for Westham. Over the years the council boundaries have moved and I now live in Chickerell Ward rather than Westham Ward. If you have any queries or think of anything I may be able to help with please get in touch with me. My contact details are overleaf.

MATT BELL



Also introducing **Matt Bell**. He is the Parliamentary Candidate for South Dorset for the next general election. Matt moved to Weymouth as a child. He was elected

to Weymouth Town Council in 2022. He is married with a young family and works as a secondary school teacher.

Matt said 'I have loved my work on Weymouth Town Council and have taken on a number of roles, particularly in sport and the environment. My frustration with the Conservative Government has inspired me to do something about it'.

As the Lib Dem parliamentary candidate for the next General Election you will hear a lot more from him in the future.

PROTECTING OPEN SPACES

We all know how important open spaces are to our well being. It is also the case that we are very short of houses for local people. The important issue here is that there has to be a balance and space for both. Gill commented 'when I'm out and about I see pockets of green open space that are well used by the community and should be retained. Weymouth is currently formulating a local neighbourhood plan, Chickerell has already done theirs which will be up for review in the next couple of years. I've made sure that the green spaces, particularly in the Lanehouse Estate, are listed as such in the Weymouth Plan giving them some protection from development.'



Open space on Lanehouse Est. Wessex Water are using part of this for a compound at the moment. Gill is trying to get it vacated by summer. Also thanks to Aster for the footpath.

Liberal Democrats working for you

CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOODING



Matt at Radipole Lake earlier this year showing the obvious effect of flooding on local businesses and the need for action.

There has been significant flooding in the area recently. The climate is changing and we are likely to get more extreme weather which will mean that this will get worse. Matt has been concerned about Radipole Lake and flooding in that area. The reserve is owned by Dorset Council and is a SSSI so a very important environmental site. He has spoken to the RSPB who are the leaseholders who are also concerned about silting. Matt started a petition calling on experts to make urgent progress on silt removal. However, both Cllr Matt Bell and the RSPB, are now dependent on Dorset Council being willing to carry out these actions as they are the landowners and Local Lead Flood Authority. The petition has



Flooding at Radipole Lake

prompted Dorset Council to promise a review of the current situation at the lake and an investigation into what actions have, or should have, taken place over the last decade. We'll update you on progress as we have it.

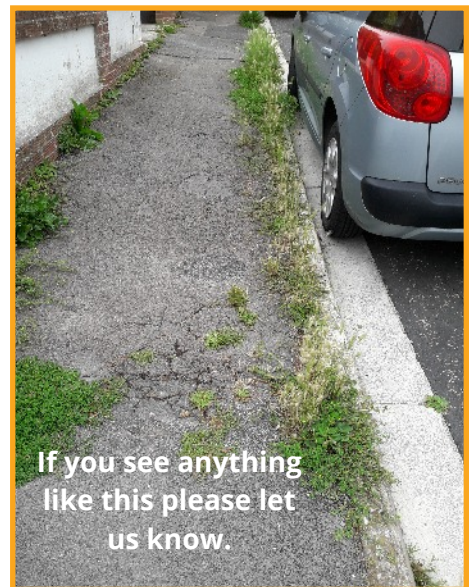
STATE OF FOOTPATHS AND GULLIES IN CHICKERELL

In our survey, residents said they were not happy with many of the footpaths in the area. Gill has reported many defects, some of which have been repaired; including this one pictured on the right.

The gullies in the area are another problem. The picture on the left with the 'lovely' cotoneaster growing was taken late last year.



Gill said 'There is currently no long term plan for resurfacing pavements or for gully cleaning in minor roads. The best course of action is to report defects, which is a pain, but is the only way we will get improvements. Either let me know where the issue is or report it in on line at <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement>



If you see anything like this please let us know.

Contact your local Chickerell Lib Dem Team:



Gill Taylor

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Please get in touch if you have a point or issue you would like to discuss.

For general Lib Dem queries please email us at info@sdlibdems.org.uk

Also if you would like to deliver a few leaflets for us please get in touch.

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