

Abbots Langley DEMOCRAT

Delivered in Abbots Langley, Bedmond, Hunton Bridge, and parts of Garston, Kings Langley and Leavesden.

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Lib Dems work to protect Green Belt sites in Local Plan

Three Rivers has delayed the first publication of sites for development until next summer.

The Lib Dem team want to review the ways we are using land as a result of COVID, where more people have taken to walking and cycling. There is also a need for a review of sites and methodologies as a result of changes in Government policy announced over the summer.

Three Rivers already prioritises brownfield sites and previously-developed land, but these make up only a fraction of the sites for possible new homes..

Cllr Matthew Bedford said, "The LibDems believe we need to balance preserving green belt with the need to keep our existing towns and villages as pleasant places to live. Events of recent months have shown how important it is to have access to open space".

Cllr Stephen Giles-Medhurst added, "Unfortunately it's not up to Three Rivers to chose the number of homes that need to be built. . The Government instructs councils which figure they are to use".



Government planning power grab

Over the last couple of months, the Government has proposed a number of changes to the planning system, which would take power away from residents and local councils and hand it to Whitehall.

Local input and even the ability for residents to object would be lost on many applications.

Three Rivers have strongly objected to these proposals.

Do you need help or support in lockdown and beyond?

The Three Rivers District Council web site has lots of information and support for local residents and businesses.

At www.threerivers.gov.uk you can find detailed information on many issues, including:

- ▶ getting food and medicines
- ▶ local Covid-19 support groups
- ▶ mental health and loneliness
- ▶ domestic abuse
- ▶ keeping well
- ▶ money problems
- ▶ grants for local businesses
- ▶ volunteering to support others
- ▶ places to walk, cycle and relax..

Phil & Sara press for action on flooding

Lib Dem county councillors Phil Williams and Sara Bedford are once again pressing Conservative-run Hertfordshire County Council to clear out highways drains and prevent roads and some homes being flooded during heavy rain.

A number of local roads are badly affected, including Bedmond Road, Railway Terrace, Chequers Lane and Langleybury Lane.

Are any roads near you badly affected? Please contact us (see over) and let us know.



Leavesden Country Park retains Green Flag status

Award-winning Leavesden Country Park has retained its prestigious Green Flag award after it was re-inspected earlier this year.

The park has proved a valuable resource to local residents during lockdown and over the summer, with large areas for walking, play and informal sport. In addition, Woodlands Cafe has become a much-loved local venue.

Although it has not been possible to use the Hive much this year due to lockdown, Emma the Park Ranger has run a number of outside activities and nature events.



'We will remember them'

Remembrance Sunday services were rather different, with restrictions due to lockdown.

Many residents marked the day at home, but a small number attended while councillors laid wreaths on behalf of the community.

Amongst those laying wreaths were: Cllr Matthew Bedford, Cllr Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Cllr David Major, and Cllr Jon Tankard.



Listening, caring, competent

Cllrs Phil Williams & Matthew Bedford in East Lane.



East Lane action

Local Lib Dem councillors have pressed Highways England and Herts County Council to get on with promised work in East Lane.

Cllr Matthew Bedford (pictured above with Cllr Phil Williams) said, "We have been promised for months that the lights will be fixed and the surface sorted out, but there has been no action.

"This needs sorting before winter".

Bucknalls Lane

Residents will have noticed that some of the footway from Tudor Manor Gardens towards Leomonfield Drive has been marked up for works.

This is part of the resurfacing programme that County Cllr Sara Bedford is funding from her local highways budget, as the county council refused to fund it from their main £70 million budget!.



Cllr Phil Williams wants to see traffic slowed.

Bedmond speeding

County Councillor Phil Williams has again asked HCC to take action to slow traffic through Bedmond and Pimlico before there is a major accident..



Trowley Rise

Cllr Sara Bedford is continuing to chase Herts County Council to repaint the lining on the road lost during the recent resurfacing.



Abbey Drive hedges

After numerous requests from the Lib Dem team, Herts County Council have finally done their job and cut back the hedges in Abbey Drive and surrounding roads.



Cllr Stephen Giles-Medhurst at the new railings.

High Elms Lane fencing

Some of the badly damaged post and rail fencing along High Elms Lane has been repaired, after being reported to Herts County Council by Cllr Stephen Giles-Medhurst.

Stephen has reported other sections of fencing here in need of repair.



Hunton Bridge foot tunnel lighting

County councillors Phil Williams and Sara Bedford are pressing Herts County Council to ensure that the new lights in the foot tunnel are on during the day as well as at night.



Cllrs David Major and Matthew Bedford check out the new fence.

Bedmond sub-station

Cllrs Matthew Bedford and David Major are pleased to see UKPN have tidied and erected a new fence at the High Street sub-station after repeated requests.

The Hunton Bridge sub-station will not be repaired until 2021.

Application submitted for Primrose Hill

The planning application has been submitted for the new play area and bike track for Primrose Hill - a joint project between Abbots Langley Parish Council and Three Rivers.

You can see the details at tinyurl.com/PHplay20.

If the application is passed, the new area will be installed next year.



Parish Cllrs Fran and Ruth at the play area.

Your local Lib Dem team - here to help and advise

- Cllr Matthew Bedford** Tel: 01923 270469 email: matthew.bedford100@gmail.com
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MOTO service station application postponed until Spring 2021



Cllr Phil Williams at the proposed service station site.

Discussions between statutory consultees and Moto are still continuing, more than 18 months after the application was submitted.

The Environment Agency have withdrawn their objection and Affinity Water are expected to follow. New highways layouts have been submitted to Highways England and Herts County Council and their comments are awaited.

The application is not expected to come to planning committee for an issues report until February 2021, with a decision later in the Spring.

East Lane cemetery restored

Works funded by Three Rivers council and supported by volunteers have seen the former Leavesden Hospital cemetery at East Lane restored as a place where the past can be respected.

Over £20,000 of council funding has seen the lych gate restored, tree canopies lifted and a memorial wall erected. Most importantly, hundreds of grave markers have been uncovered and the stones lifted so that they can be seen.

Thanks to the Leaveden Hospital History Association for the work that they have done to identify those buried here.



Cllrs Matthew Bedford & Stephen Giles-Medhurst at the memorial



Working for you - all year, every year!