

Leigh Park and West Leigh Focus



February 2008

News, views and action from Leigh Park's Lib Dem Team



Make it great in 2008

2007 was a very busy year for the Leigh Park Lib Dem team. They've managed to attend several events and play an active part in various community projects. The Lib Dems had a stand at the Leigh Park Carnival and the team helped out at the popular Santa's Grotto held in Greywell. The new Prospect School in Woolston Road has opened and Lawns Day Hospital re-opened.

Ann Buckley is now on the management Committee of Staunton Country Park and was thrilled to see them win three major awards during 2007.

Faith Ponsonby has been working on ideas to revive Greywell/Park Parade Shopping Centre and is pushing for 30 minutes' free parking.

During the residents' campaign against the closure of Forestside Post Office, Susan Stocker and her team delivered details of the petition to every house in Bondfields ward. A letter was sent to the Post Office objecting to the proposed closure.



Nick Clegg is the new Leader



Leigh Park Lib Dems have welcomed Nick Clegg as the new party leader. Married, with two young sons, Nick is 40 and was only elected to parliament 3 years ago.

Nick's first job was to tackle PM Gordon Brown over the scandal of rising fuel bills and how they were hitting the poorest families. He demanded action against the energy companies charging more to people with pre-paid meters.

Lib Dems condemn PO closures

Warren Park resident, Ann Brown, has expressed anger over the decision to close the Post Office in One Stop in Botley Drive, along with West Leigh's only Post Office in Forestside Avenue. Ann told Focus:

"Warren Park is lucky to have kept a Post Office in Strouden Court and lots

of people signed the petition. These Post Offices are life lines in our local community and closing them could cause real hardship to many residents."

"We also need to see some action on the redevelopment of Strouden court. Uncertainty means existing services there may go."



**Lib Dems for all-the-year round action
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PRESS

NEW HOMES APPROVED

- * 60 homes on the old school site on Park House Farm Way.
- * 14 two-bed flats on old Wheatsheaf Pub site, Bramdean Drive.

Swimming pools success



County Council plans to develop the swimming pools at Barncroft School and Staunton Sports College have been welcomed by Leigh Park County Councillor, Ann Buckley.

The school are among only 14 in the whole county to get money to improve facilities. Ann said,

“ I’m delighted we’ve managed to convince the council to spend this new money.”

“The improved facilities will ensure primary school children will have access to swimming lessons in line with Key Stage 2 requirements.”

Battins councillor hits out over pay hike

Attempts by Lib Dems on Havant Council to defer increases in the basic allowances of councillors were thrown out by the ruling Tory group. They were backed by Labour.

Battins Lib Dem Councillor, Faith Ponsonby, had urged members **not** to award themselves increases costing £23,000 over a year. “We must avoid putting an extra burden on the borough council tax payers,” she said.

More money for Leigh Park Library

Leigh Park library has scooped more Lottery Fund money for improvements. New courses will be on offer to families for crafts and family histories, language skills etc. Ann Buckley said that the new money was a major boost for library users of all ages. The money follows a petition signed by 10,000 people asking for a major shake-up in the service.



Susan Stocker supported this, saying: “The money could be spent elsewhere in the Borough, eg for Off the Record or CAB.”

Services are threatened while car parking charges have increased. More cuts are likely to fund free bus travel for pensioners. Lib Dems want more local pressure to get a better deal for Havant from Mr Brown’s Government.

New hospital needed now

Lib Dem Councillors are pushing for clarification on the Oak Park Community Hospital site. Outline planning consent was given for a 90 bed community hospital. The hospital will be a replacement for Havant War Memorial Hospital and the Emsworth Day hospital. Services will include minor injuries, out-patients, endoscopy, diagnostics, and a day centre and rehabilitation for older people. The hospital was to include 25 beds for older

Warren Park voice for new reservoir

Lib Dem, Ann Buckley has finally been invited to join the Stakeholder Group for the proposed new reservoir next to Warren Park.

Ann said: **“There have been no councillors representing The Warren and Leigh Park, despite it being close to nearby homes.”**

Consultation will start soon - details on Focus Extra. Further meetings have been asked for in April for local residents. Everyone is welcome to visit the exhibition in the Community Centre. Let Ann know what you think.



people with mental health problems but these have been suddenly dropped.

Lib Dems are concerned that the hospital will be too small to provide services for the Havant Borough which will have over 6000 new homes and also Clanfield, Horndean and Rowlands Castle in East Hants.

