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Hilperton Update

Spring 2017



The 'no political spin' newsletter from

Cllr. Ernie Clark.

Your Independent Wiltshire councillor.

Experience Competence Energy Action Results

Wiltshire Council and parish elections this May

It is approaching that time again when I need to ask you to help me to continue as your local councillor. I have had the honour, and pleasure, of representing you on local councils for over twenty years now, and I hope that you feel, in that time, I have done all you could expect of me.

Even if you have not agreed with my stance on every issue, I have never ducked a decision and I have always been there to defend the outcome to you.

One of the most important parts of a councillor's role is 'case work', which means solving people's problems. This is the part of the 'job' that I hope I do best; it is certainly the most satisfying.

During the election run-up the parties may spend more money on selling themselves to you, but I prefer to stand on my record!

If re-elected I promise to continue representing you to the best of my ability; taking all your views into account and always thinking about what is best for the people of Hilperton Division.

Are you registered to vote?

Unless your name appears on the current electoral register you will not be entitled to vote at the May elections. You can check whether you are registered or not by contacting either myself or the Wiltshire Council election office.

Please note that if you have recently moved house you will not be automatically registered to vote. Some people presume that if they pay council tax then they will be registered as a voter - this is not the case. Unless you apply to be added to the register you will lose your right to vote.

Will you be here to vote on 4th May?

If you will be away on the day of the election (holiday, business etc.) you are entitled to ask for either a postal or a proxy vote (when someone you nominate votes on your behalf).

There is a deadline for both types of request (18th April for postal, 25th April for proxy). Forms can be downloaded from www.wiltshire.gov.uk/elections-homepage or you can write to/phone the council. If you need more information please contact me.

Future housing development in west Wiltshire and around Hilperton

The pressure to find land for house building is never ending. In the right place it is something to encourage as, apart from anything else, our children need somewhere to live if they want to stay in the area.

However, this part of Wiltshire seems to be blighted by having evermore housing forced on it but without the necessary infrastructure such as better roads, better schools, better health care, and more employment. We appear to be turning into a dormitory area with the Conservatives at County Hall happy for this to continue.

Shortly after the election, Wiltshire Council is planning to publish its Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD for short). The fact that the publication date is just after the election would indicate that it is going to be a very controversial document and the Conservatives want to keep it hidden away until after votes have been cast - it was first due to be published months ago but has suffered from 'unexpected delays'!

It is a tightly guarded document but I expect it to have plenty of bad news for west Wiltshire and this area in particular.

Can anything be done to save the open spaces?

The simple answer is 'Yes'. On the one hand it will be vital that as many people respond to the consultation as is possible.

But, for some of the open spaces, there is another possibility - the power of the Commons Act 2006. Provided the right to apply has not been excluded, anyone can apply under Section 15(1) of the Act to register land as a 'village green' if it has been used by local people for lawful pastimes 'as of right' (ie without permission, force or secrecy) for at least 20 years.

However, one of the 'triggers' which stops such an application from being made is the publishing of a DPD (see previous article on this page).

Time is therefore short to apply for any of the fields around the parish to be registered but it is still possible.

It is a straightforward process which takes some time but there is no financial risk in making the application.

If you would be interested in the scheme please get in touch with me urgently - time, as I have said above, is now very tight.

ERNIE CLARK; CARING AND CAMPAIGNING FOR OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

How to contact me

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