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# Update Bulletin

Spring/Summer 2008



The 'no political spin' newsletter from

## Cllr. Ernie Clark.

Your Independent County and District councillor  
for the parishes of Broughton Gifford, Hilperton, Holt  
and Staverton

& Independent County councillor for Semington.

### *Dear Resident,*

May I start this newsletter by thanking everyone who voted for me in the Holt & Paxcroft county council by-election in February, which saw me elected as your new County Councillor. My thanks also to friends and family who helped by delivering leaflets or putting up posters.

In the end, the by-election was what might be termed a 'two horse race' between myself and the Lib Dem candidate. The

Conservative came a rather distant third, whilst the Green and Labour candidates seemed to be left at the starting tape.

The expenses return showed that the Lib Dems spent over £930 on their campaign. Put another way, that equates to nearly £1 per vote cast for their candidate, but I guess that the political parties don't have to watch their purse strings too carefully!

*Ernie Clark.*

## **Kerbside waste collections**

During the election campaign one issue was mentioned more than any other; why does cardboard and plastic have to be taken to recycling centres rather than being collected with glass, tins etc. from our homes?

At a recent Scrutiny Committee meeting I raised the subject and found most other councillors saying that it was also an issue in their area. It is something that all the political parties and Independents agree on.

The County Council is looking into how cardboard (and possibly plastic) can be collected from the kerbside but there are several possibilities as to how this can be achieved (hopefully without an increase in cost).

This issue will, quite rightly, be high on the agenda for next year's unitary council election campaign, but it is good to know

that public concern is getting action now with seemingly 100% support from councillors.

Another interesting development at Lambeth council in London is the recycling of Tetrapaks (the cartons that nearly all our fruit juices etc. arrive in). I will be asking the portfolio holder at the county council to investigate how this scheme works with a view to bringing it to Wiltshire.

## **Great Bear Distribution**

Their lorries run between CPUK at Staverton and the new warehouse by the Semington by-pass.

The frequency was planned to be one trip every 40 minutes but, currently, the lorries are running on a longer timescale of 70 minutes.

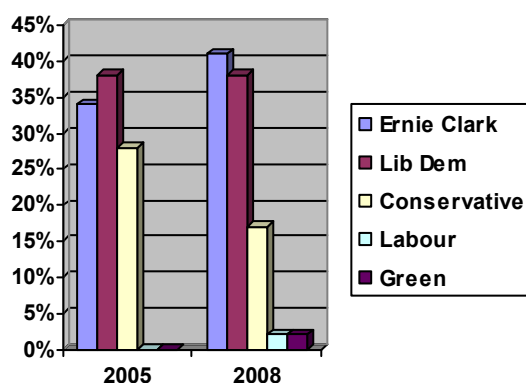
If you have any complaints about the standard of driving please contact Peter Smith (the CPUK manager) on 01225 784903.

**For up to date news on local issues, or to register for my e-newsletter, please visit**

**[www.ernieclark.org.uk](http://www.ernieclark.org.uk)**

The election result must have come as a shock to both the Lib Dem and Conservative parties. If we compare this year's election figures with the previous county council election in 2005 (rather than the 2007 district council election as the Lib Dems choose to) we find that neither party saw an increase in backing.

Support for myself increased by 6% to 41% of votes cast, whilst the Lib Dem share didn't change and the Conservatives saw their share of the poll fall heavily to just 17%



## Unitary council

Despite an almost total lack of enthusiasm from the public, the new Wiltshire Council will come into being on the 1st April next year with the election for new councillors taking place in May.

New boundaries for the electoral Divisions are in the process of being drawn-up by The Boundary Commission and public consultation will take place later this year.

## Fly tipping

Regrettably, this nuisance continues throughout the county. West Wiltshire District Council is responsible for getting rubbish moved and they ask that the public phone WWDC on 01225 776655 to report any incident.

The WWDC Enforcement Team will then check the waste before the contractor (FOCSA) is asked to remove it.

Please note that it is important that no one touches fly tipped waste. This is a) for your own safety and b) so that any evidence can be photographed in situ and bagged for investigation.

**Ernie Clark, your local councillor.**

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## **Potholes & local flooding**

In the County council budget for 2008/09 the administration made provision for a purge on the plague of potholes which they have allowed to develop over the past few years. Cynics would point to next year's election: surely not!

Also receiving attention is the issue of flash flooding. WCC is liaising with local farmers to keep ditches clear whilst the highways department is ensuring that grips (the 'gullies' that run into ditches from the edge of the road) are kept clear.

## **Saving our green spaces**

As ever, the pressure to develop our green spaces remains.

These areas, no matter how small, serve a vital purpose in ensuring that West Wiltshire remains a pleasant place to live.

Property developers are keen to build wherever they can regardless of the effect on local neighbourhoods. Their reasoning is obviously dictated by their need to make profits rather than any concern for the local environment and we must remain vigilant in monitoring their long term ambitions for this area.

## **How to contact me**

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