



## In Touch with Wheathampstead



### Marford Road Crossing Becomes a Reality

Wheathampstead had been asking for a safe crossing outside the Memorial Hall in Marford Road for many years before Maxine Crawley became County Councillor for the Village. Maxine says "I knew that the crossing was a priority so started working on it soon after being elected. A survey of need had to be completed which the Parish Council undertook brilliantly. After that I worked with Officers at County Council to deliver it. The Marford Road is very busy and the crossing is vital for adults and children to reach all of the facilities in and around the Memorial Hall safely. I've been delighted by the positive response".

**Road Improvements** - There have been a number of road improvements this year thanks to Maxine's Highways Locality Budget. You can't miss the signage that accompanies the road improvements at Brewhouse Hill! Nurseries Road and some footpaths have also been resurfaced.

Maxine is now considering schemes for next year, so please get in touch with your suggestions. She has already agreed to use some of next year's money to reduce the 60mph speed limit along Lamer Lane/Kimpton Road to 40mph.

**Derelict Garages Put To Good Use** - working closely with the Parish Council and residents, Conservatives are making good on their manifesto promise to provide more affordable homes. They are looking at the redevelopment of low occupancy, rundown garage sites which will help improve the Hill Dyke estate by removing sites of anti-social behaviour, meet local demand for affordable housing (social and shared ownership) and allow them to review the parking provisions. The policy of the current administration is to work with the Parish Council and not to impose things from outside and of course any project is subject to planning permission. Cllrs. Annie Brewster and Gill Clark are pictured visiting one of the potential sites with Cllr. Brian Ellis, the Housing Portfolio Holder.



As the plans are dependent on the help and cooperation of the Parish Council, it would seem reasonable to give priority to local people. Consequently, serious consideration is being given to reserving the rental properties for people on the housing list who live in Wheathampstead but that will depend on there being sufficient need.

**Conservatives Choose David Lloyd** - following a series of Open Primary Meetings held across the County, David Lloyd, the present Chairman of the Police Authority, was selected as the Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner candidate. The Election will be held on 15th November 2012.



Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will ensure that local people have a say in local policing priorities. They will make communities safer by cutting crime and link their police forces more closely to the people they serve. They will also hold the local chief constable to account for the delivery and performance of the force. The introduction of PCCs will mean for the first time the public will be able to directly vote for an individual to represent their community's policing needs. More information about the role of the PCC is available on the Police Authority website: [www.hertspa.org](http://www.hertspa.org).

**Gill Clark Says “Thank You”** - “I am very pleased to have been re-elected to serve you as a District Councillor and to continue to work with the Conservative Team in Wheathampstead. Elections are not won in the run up to Polling Day but by keeping in touch with the electorate, listening to their views and helping with their problems all year round which is my intention so please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to share your views or need my help.”



**Do You Want Superfast Broadband?** - well you can do something about it by backing the County Council’s campaign to bring superfast broadband to Hertfordshire. “Unfortunately from town to town, and even street to street, internet connection speeds vary significantly “ says Maxine. “We have secured government funding to improve access in areas which currently have no broadband or suffer very slow speeds but we need to demonstrate to broadband providers that there is a demand for superfast connectivity. You can either show your support by visiting [www.superfastforherts.org](http://www.superfastforherts.org) or by calling 0300 123 4040.”

**Additional School Places** - as the new school year begins there are 30 four year olds joining their friends in a new classroom at Beech Hyde School. In anticipation of a huge Reception year Maxine worked with school admissions officers for the last year to ensure that all Wheathampstead children started school life in their village. She says “the extra classroom took a while to negotiate and I’m delighted to have been able to deliver it. It’s a very modern, lovely room, very different from the portable classrooms we remember from our youth!”

It was also a difficult year for Secondary School places across the whole District. Even though almost all Wheathampstead children did secure a place of their choice Maxine continues to try to improve the situation.

She says “It’s a very stressful time for parents as I know having been through it myself. I’m not happy if a single child misses out. This year, as many schools now have Academy status, I’m visiting each secondary school personally to plead Wheathampstead’s case and ask for extra places.”

### **New Policy on the Sale of Council Homes**

- the government has recently made changes to the popular ‘right to buy’ scheme whereby residents who live in council owned accommodation can buy their home at a substantial discount from market value. The discounts range from 35% to 70% depending on property type and length of residency - up to a maximum discount value of £75,000.

The money raised from sales will be reinvested in new council accommodation in the District. To find out more information visit the District Council’s website or call 01727 819 506 and ask for a Right to Buy claim form.



**Raising Performance** - As vice chair of the Audit committee and as a member of the District Council’s Performance Scrutiny Committee, Nigel Huddleston (pictured) is making good on his election promise to closely monitor how your hard earned tax money is spent.

“Several housing tenants recently brought their dissatisfaction with repairs and maintenance to my attention” says Nigel “and this is a matter which the Scrutiny Committee will be investigating. If you are not happy with the way your Council Tax is being spent, or believe a council service is not up to scratch, please let me know and I will bring it to the attention of the right people.”

### **The Conservative Team**

Please do not hesitate to contact us to share your views or ask for our help :

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