

Baildon

March 08

# FOCUS



www.bradfordlibdems.org.uk

John Cole  
2948

John Cole's  
result last time

Con  
2343

Can't win here

Lab  
751

GRN  
549

Edited by: Cllr John Cole Tel: 592989 john.cole@bradford.gov.uk

# Massive response to Post Office campaign



**J**ohn Cole, has been inundated with replies to the Post Office survey in the last issue of FOCUS.

More than 66% of those who replied said they use their local post office at least once a week. Another 16% use it every day. A third of you use it to buy stamps and post parcels.

We have analysed your returns and sent this information to the Government Minister in charge.

Labour has already closed over 4,000 post offices in the last ten years, including two in Otley Road.

Now they are set on closing another 2,500. And don't forget that the Tories closed 3,500 before that.

John said,

**"Closing Post Offices means that older people will have to go further to**

◆ John pictured, left, with the post office survey returns

get their pensions. Others will make more car journeys, have a longer walk or take an extra bus ride. It could also have a knock on effect on other businesses.

The Liberal Democrats want post offices to 're-invent' themselves by providing many other services. We are campaigning to stop any more closures in Baildon".



## Supporting people



"When I needed help in dealing with the Trust, John Cole was there for me. I found him approachable and he gets results."



Mrs Agnes Carey, a Bradford Community Housing Trust tenant of Baildon, had a series of problems with the property she rents.

Experiencing difficulty in making progress herself with her landlord, she approached John Cole at one of his surgeries.

John personally took these issues to the Trust and Mrs Carey soon had the new water cistern and new gas fire which she required.

## Green light for road adoption

At its February meeting the Shipley Area Committee finally gave the "go ahead" for the adoption of **Angel, Perseverance and Wainman Streets** in Baildon.

This is the successful culmination of a long campaign by local residents, backed by John Cole. Residents have expressed their appreciation of John's persistent efforts – one e-mail of thanks reading "Delighted with the news: Go for it!"



# Liberal Democrats working for you all the year round

## Lib Dems would set lowest Council Tax increase in Yorkshire

The Liberal Democrats on Bradford Council have proposed the lowest Council Tax rise in Yorkshire.

While other councils push the 5% limit, Bradford's Lib Dems brought their budget increase in at just 1.9%

Once again, Labour refused to take part in setting the council's budget.

The Council is balanced with no party having a majority of seats, so on February 19<sup>th</sup> at a special meeting, Liberal Democrats, Conservatives and Greens all presented their budget plans.

**Labour didn't even bother to turn up.**

The Liberal Democrats' plans included:

- ◆ A Council Tax rise of just 1.9%
- ◆ £750,000 towards the new community centre at Cliffe Avenue
- ◆ Over £10m extra for care of old and vulnerable people including keeping the service for those who need help with washing and dressing
- ◆ Giving more cash to the Area Committees to spend on local services

- ◆ No cuts in the libraries budget.
- ◆ No charges for taking away big items of household rubbish
- ◆ Extra money for street lighting
- ◆ Investment to cut the amount of pollution produced by council activities.

Discussions were held between the three parties and a budget was agreed. All the main Liberal Democrat ideas were included along with some from each of the other two.

**Labour still refused to take part.**

At the full Council Meeting a few days later, Labour finally put forward their ideas but it was too late and the agreed budget was passed.

John Cole said, "The Liberal Democrats have co-operated with two other parties to forge an agreed Council budget which includes many Liberal Democrat priorities. We have protected the most vulnerable in our community and devolved more spending decisions to local communities."



## Replacement for Baildon Community Link - update

As part of the budget, the Liberal Democrats persuaded the Council to commit £750,000 to match Lottery money to provide a new community facility in Baildon.

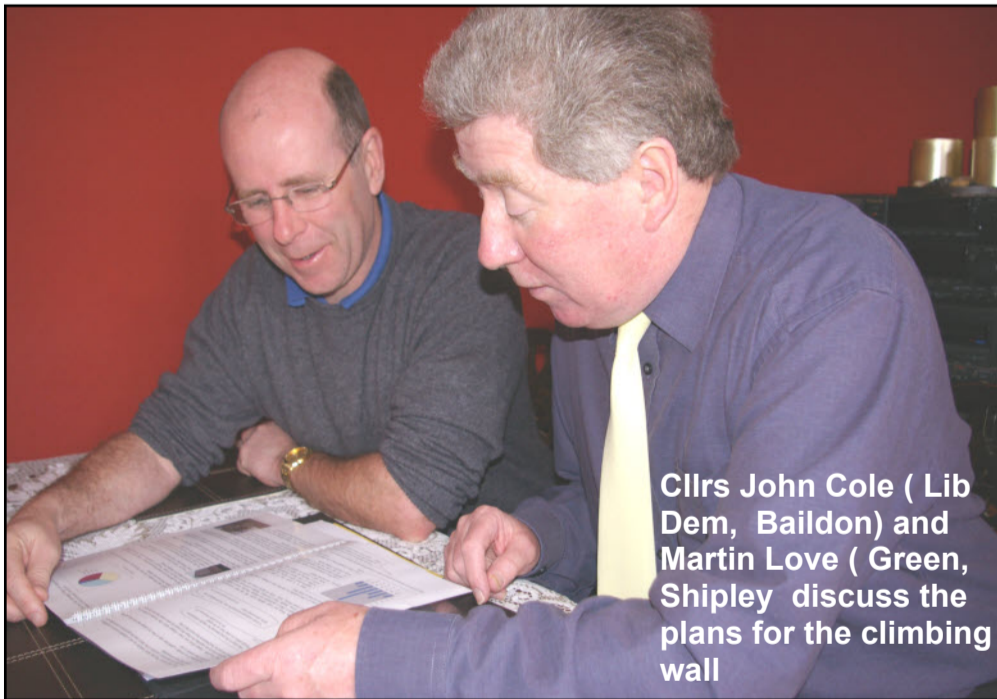
Baildon Community Link has won a £24,000 "Stage I" Lottery grant to prepare a "Stage II" bid which is very likely to bring in £500,000.

For years John has argued that this area needs and deserves a decent community centre.

He said,

"This is wonderful news and I look forward to working further with this project and seeing it through to a successful conclusion."

## Working together for the community



Cllrs John Cole ( Lib Dem, Baildon) and Martin Love ( Green, Shipley) discuss the plans for the climbing wall

Salt Grammar School, which serves both Baildon and Shipley, wants to have a climbing wall as part of the new sports hall which is being built.

Central government money does not run to the cost of the wall, but the Ward Based Investment Fund has come to the rescue. The fund which the Liberal Democrats suggested comes from the proceeds of the sale of Leeds/Bradford Airport.

Cllr John Cole in Baildon and Cllr Martin Love (Green Party, Shipley) have between them allocated sufficient cash for a top-of-the-range wall to be integral with the new building. The climbing wall will be a community asset, with outside groups being able to use it during evenings and at week-ends.

Our picture shows Martin and John in discussion. Martin said, "I am always pleased to cooperate with John, both across ward boundaries and party lines".



## STOP PRESS

In the December edition of Focus, we reported on John's attempts to get the footpath from Otley Road going down through the field next to Denso-Marstons resurfaced.

As Focus went to print John heard that the contractor was going on site shortly to lay a crushed stone surface.

## Surgery

Cllr John Cole will hold a surgery at Baildon Link between 10.30 am and 11.30 am as follows:

Saturday 5th April

