



Edited by: Cllr John Cole (592989), Cllr John Briggs (581746) & Sara Clarke (598630)

Lib Dems fight to protect our green spaces



Lib Dem campaigner Sara Clarke and Cllr John Briggs working on the 'Hands off our Back Gardens' campaign.

www.handsoffourbackgardens.org.uk

Local Lib Dem Councillors John Cole and John Briggs and campaigner Sara Clarke are backing a campaign to make the Government protect local back gardens and green spaces from over-development.

The Government's current planning policies treat your back garden as a "brownfield site" ~ like an old industrial site ~ which means they are vulnerable to infill development.

"But back gardens are not like old warehouses and past Tory and Labour Governments were wrong to label them as such," said Sara Clarke "Too many green spaces in Baildon have already been concreted over and developed into blocks of flats.

"Liberal Democrats believe back gardens serve important social and environmental purposes including space for wild life and to allow rainwater to soak away.

"The Lib Dems have published a Bill in Parliament calling on the Government to protect back gardens and parkland from over-development. These local green spaces should be treated as the important "greenfield" sites they really are.

" This change would give local people the power to decide the right level of development for their own local community."

You can help tell the Government that you want your back garden protected, by supporting the Lib Dem ' Hands off our Back Gardens ' campaign today. Just sign and return our special petition.



PETITION

Hands off our Back Gardens!

I/We support the Liberal Democrat campaign to stop back gardens being treated as industrial brownfield sites by Conservative and Labour Governments. These local green spaces are important social and ecological green corridors that should be protected from being sold-off to developers.

Name

Address

Phone.....

E mail

Please return to: Sara Clarke. Baildon Liberal Democrats Freepost NEA 4863 Bradford BD3 7BR

Street Surgeries



Sara Clark, John Briggs and John Cole have been engaged in a series of "street surgeries" in Baildon. On two Saturday mornings every month they walked three or four streets which have been pre-delivered with notices of the surgery.

Residents leave the surgery notice in their window to invite us in to discuss a wide range of local issues. If you would like us to come to your street, then please get in touch with John Cole on 592989 .

Lib Dems working for you all year round

Government U-turn on the Post Office Card Account



Sara Clarke who campaigned in Baildon to save the post office card account

The Government has done a U-turn on their plan to abolish the Post Office Card Account.

Residents in Baildon added their voices to the thousands of others who objected to the plan and on December 14th the

Minister announced in the House of Commons that the card account would continue beyond the original deadline of 2010.

Focus would like to thank everyone who signed the petitions and made the government see sense.

Unfortunately, in the same speech, the minister also announced another round of about 2,500 post office closures. Many of these will be in rural areas but with the Post Office losing £4 million a year, closures in areas like Baildon cannot be ruled out.

Recycle plastic - don't burn it

Cllr John Briggs and Lib Dems in Shipley have continued to say NO to the burning of plastics as a way of tackling the area's growing waste mountain.

A report to the Shipley Area Committee revealed that the reason why the Council is not pushing forward with plastic recycling is that the plastic will be needed in the waste to make it burn if it is to be heat treated in future. Lib Dems said that burning the plastic was as bad for the environment as burning any other fossil fuel and that it should be recycled instead.

The Conservatives on the committee voted the suggestion down and it looks as though they are on target to incinerate plastics.



Cllr John Briggs with his collection of plastic waste

Could YOU be a Baildon Town Councillor ?

Baildon is on track to run elections for its new Town Council on May 3rd this year. Nominations open on 27 March and nomination papers must be returned by noon 4 April.

If you are interested in being a Town Councillor please get in touch with the Council - Salman Mather Tel: 432204 or Jane Hughes Tel: 437146 to receive an applicant pack.

Baildon has been divided into six wards and there will be two vacancies for each ward - twelve in total.

It would be good both to have enough candidates to trigger a ballot in each ward, and to have a number of candidates who are under the age of forty five. You can stand for election if you are over 18 .

Not only is there an official applicant pack but John Cole is so keen to encourage potential councillors to stand that he has produced his own "information and advice sheet". This is a non-party publication so all residents are welcome to a copy. Just contact John Cole on 592989.



Thank you

Thank you to everyone who signed our **supermarket petition** and thank you to the residents of **Southdown Road** for your support for cutting out rat-running and making the area safer for the local community. Thanks also to people who responded to the **housing survey**

Building Work Starts at Salt Grammar

The builders are now on site at Salt Grammar School. A new "state of the art" school is due

to open in September 2008 which should be a delight for Baildon children to learn in and for the community to use.

Problems which had delayed the signing of the contract were resolved when John Cole, a governor at the School, brought pressure to bear in City Hall and drove the parties to a resolution.

Tackling Un-adopted Roads



John Cole has been working with householders on **Angel Street, Perseverance Street and Wainman Street** to get these roads adopted.

As the picture shows, the streets are currently the Lake District in miniature. Householders will have to pay for the repairs because they own the road, but John Cole is

negotiating with the Council, on behalf of the residents, to try and get the easiest payments mechanisms put in place.

Something to Say?

Use this box to write to Sara about any concerns you have.

Name.....Phone

Address.....

E mail

- I will display a poster for the Lib Dems
- I can deliver a few Focus leaflets in my area
- I will back the Lib Dems at election time

Please return to: Sara Clarke, Baildon Liberal Democrats
Freepost NEA 4863 Bradford BD3 7BR

If you return this slip, the Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you have provided to contact you from time to time about issues we think you may find of interest. Some of the contacts may be automated. You can opt out of some or all contacts at any time by contacting us.