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John Watmough speaking at a Council Meeting in support of the 846 bus campaign.

Action Report Back

John Watmough has recently spoken at two Council meetings standing up for residents of Windhill & Wrose.

846 bus saved but.....

On December 5th, he was at the Environment Improvement Committee when it discussed the 846 bus. As well as sending in signatures for the petition, he spoke strongly in support of resident who wanted to keep the bus on the High Ash / Cotswold Avenue / Spring Hill loop.

.....the fight for the 'loop' goes on

Thanks to efforts by residents along the route of the 846 bus who collected signatures on the petition, Firstbus have said that they will continue to run it for the foreseeable future.

However, they want to withdraw the bus from the High Ash/Spring Hill/Cotswold Avenue 'loop' due to parked cars.

Local Labour Councillors appeared to have accepted this decision but at the Council meeting where it was announced, John Watmough spoke strongly in favour of keeping the 'loop'.

Recycle plastic - don't burn it

On December 6th he was at the Shipley Area Committee to present your petition on recycling of plastic.

A report to the 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. John Watmough said that burning the plastic was as bad for the environment as burning any other fossil fuel and that it should be recycled instead.

He was supported by Lib Dem councillor John Briggs but the Conservatives on the committee voted the suggestion down.

"It makes all the difference " says local resident



In the last Focus we reported on a kerb in **Highfield Grove** which prevented wheelchair users getting to Morrisons. Following a request by John to the Council, the kerb has been lowered.

Mr Bland said,

" I could only get to Morrisons before by getting off my scooter and lifting it up the kerb. I am very grateful to the Liberal Democrats and John Watmough for getting the kerb lowered so quickly. It makes all the difference to me and will help others too."

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John and the Windhill & Wrose Liberal Democrats decided to conduct a doorstep survey of nearly 200 homes the High Ash area to find out people's views about the 'loop'. **75%** said that they wanted the bus to continue going round this loop and would use it.

Several people said that they did not use the bus, but believed that it should continue for the benefit of others. A few agreed that bad parking was a bit of a problem, but still felt the bus should continue.

John will be sending details of the survey to Firstbus to try to convince them that it is needed by many people in the area.



In the summer John Watmough received a complaint about the lack of a clear road sign for Moorfield Drive. Residents were very concerned that the ambulances, fire engines and doctors would have problems finding the road in an emergency.

So John took up the matter with the Council and a prominent new sign was put up in December, just 5 months later.

Residents had raised this problem with a local Labour councillor back in February 2001, and again in July 2004, but nothing happened.

Clearly it takes Lib Dem action to get things done!

Lib Dems working for you all year round

Labour dumps manifesto promise

Labour has also been accused of dumping a manifesto promise to recruit 24,000 community support officers. The target has been scaled back to 16,000 amid claims that police forces like West Yorkshire simply did not have the money to take them on.



West Yorkshire should have had 760 PCSOs by next year rising to 1,074 by 2008.

John Watmough said, "PCSOs provided a reassuring uniformed presence in the community which helps to make people feel safer. Labour clearly didn't work out the cost before they made the promise."

We've been robbed - again!

Labour cuts £30m over two years from Police budget

Once again the West Yorkshire Police Force is bottom of the league when it comes to the amount of money handed out by the government.

A complicated formula means that West Yorkshire will lose £15 million this year and next getting less for each person than other similar forces. This could mean big rises in Council Tax as the police struggle to balance their budget.

Police funding per person 2007/08	
Merseyside (Liverpool)	£187.29
West Midlands (Birmingham)	£173.82
Northumbria (Newcastle)	£171.83
Greater Manchester Police (Manchester)	£169.83
South Yorkshire (Sheffield)	£151.94
West Yorkshire (Leeds and Bradford)	£149.43

Government U-turn on the Post Office Card Account

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

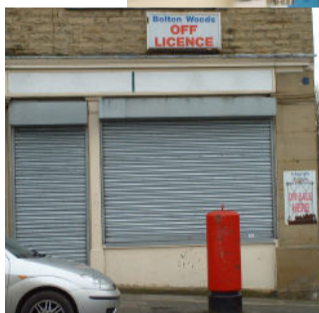
Residents in Windhill & Wrose added their voices to the thousands of others who objected to the plan and on December 14th the Minister announced in the House of Commons that the card account would continue beyond the original deadline of 2010.

Wrose PO (left) is still open



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

Unfortunately, in the same speech, the minister also

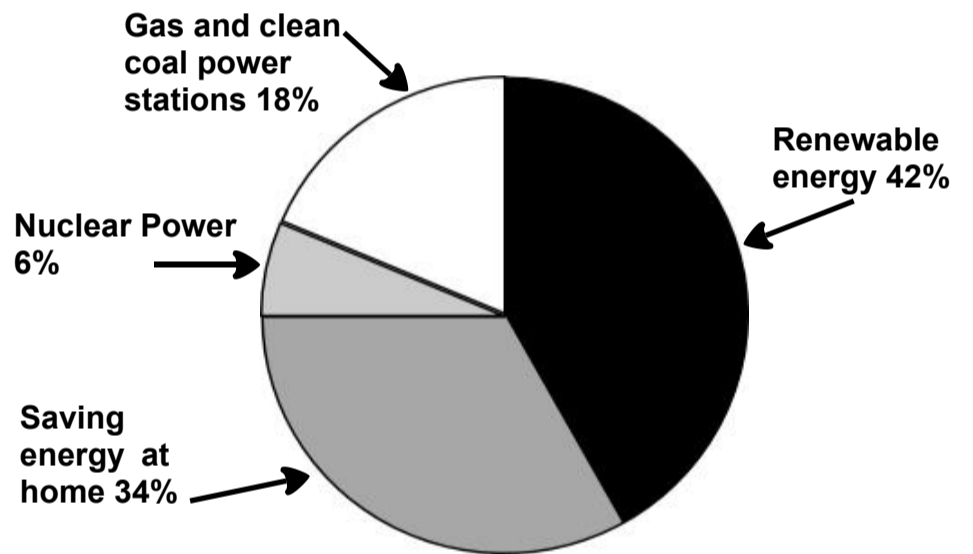


Bolton Woods PO closed

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 urban areas cannot be ruled out.

Environment Survey Feedback

In the August Focus we invited you to make your views known about environmental issues and how to solve the problems of climate change. The chart below shows how you thought it should be tackled.



We also asked whether you would support more nuclear power stations. 79% of you said no and only 21% said yes.

If you want to know more about saving energy visit the website of the Energy Saving Trust at www.est.org.uk or phone their help line on



Snippets

John and the Focus Team have:

Arranged for a gutter to be cleared in **Robin Walk** and trying to get some trees cut opposite Robin Walk;

Had a roadside marker removed that was left on the pavement in **Festival Avenue**. It was in a dangerous and precarious position and had been there for over 12 months. If it had not been removed someone could have injured themselves on it;



Had a new sign put up at **Roseberry Mount** to stop motorists trying to use it as a rat run to avoid the queue at the traffic lights

Got a promise from the council to cut the grass and tidy the land around **Oakdale Road** and **Haslam Grove**;



Something to Say?

Use this box to write to John 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: John Watmough Windhill & Wrose
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.