



**Your M.P.
Cheryl Gillan**

Dear Constituents,

The Labour Government's confirmation that if returned to office they will drive the High Speed railway through the Chilterns has caused enormous concerns in our constituency.

The Conservatives have made it clear that they are not accepting the route and are the only party that have questioned the routing. In consultation with Theresa Villiers MP, our Shadow Transport Secretary, I have received her assurance that a Conservative Government will not let HS2's report close down our options.

I have made it crystal clear to Lord Adonis, Labour's Secretary of State for Transport, that the environmental impact of any route has to be properly assessed – again with the support of my Shadow Cabinet colleague.

Above all, the communities in Chesham & Amersham must be able to make their views known.

When I met Lord Adonis, I raised detailed questions about the impact of the project, on the commercial and financial liability, as well as the examination of alternative routes.

The proposed route crosses the widest point of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and I have asked for the detailed environmental impact studies. The Secretary of State says he will not produce these for us to examine until after the General Election.

In addition to asking about specific cases of hardship and what the compensation packages might be, I have also asked about the construction proposals, the number of workers who will be required and where it is proposed that they would be housed and the routes for construction vehicles.

I have a large series of meetings being arranged so that we can build a case for a better route. I will place all updates from my office on my website at www.cherylgillan.co.uk and all constituents can let me know their views via a dedicated email line – gillans2chilterns@cheshamandamershamconservatives.co.uk.

*Yours sincerely,
Cheryl Gillan MP*

VILLAGE PARKING

Struggle to find a parking space in the Village?

One reason might be the closure some years ago, by their new owner, of the 16 parking lots and 16 garages at the end of the Parade. They remain boarded up, unusable and increasingly derelict. In 2007, Chiltern District Council refused an application to construct a 3-storey block of 9 flats on the site. Their reasons, loss of much-needed parking and inadequate amenity space for the flats, were powerfully upheld at Appeal.

A re-application, again for 3 storeys, 9 flats each with a parking space, and 16 "public access car spaces" (of minimalist dimensions), has been made and refused, and again, is being appealed. Local District Councillor Don Phillips has made the strongest objection to the proposal to the Planning Inspectorate, not only because of loss of genuine public parking, but also because of the visual impact of the planned extensive balconies facing the immediate roads, which would have to serve as play spaces, laundry areas and, probably miscellaneous storage. The result is awaited.

GORDON *going 'ON and ON'*



Gordon Brown has announced that if there is a hung Parliament as the result of the General Election he plans to stay on as Labour Leader, possibly to try and form a minority Labour Government with the Lib Dems. Surely the prospect of Gordon

Brown going 'on and on' is enough to make any reasonable person determined that we need a clear, decisive election result.

Your Conservative Councillors

COUNTY:

Martin Tett	07939 278064
Tim Butcher	07970 806998

CHILTERN DISTRICT

Don Phillips	762754
Mike Smith	724893

PARISH

(clerk@littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk)

Chris Ingham	762197
Peter Martin	737466
Christine Gibbs	763316
Martin Dale	766896

**Your M.P.
CHERYL GILLAN
holds a surgery in
Amersham
most Fridays.**

**If you have a problem
please ring for an
appointment.**

**Tel: 01494 721577
email: gillanc@parliament.uk**

HIGH SPEED HORROR!

The Labour Government's route for a high speed train line between London and Birmingham will tear a scar across the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Running from Ickenham, through Denham and then under Chalfont St Peter, Chalfont St Giles and some of Old Amersham the new rail line would emerge in Amersham Old Town and then carry on through some of the most beautiful and unspoilt countryside in Britain including passing Wendover on a raised viaduct. *"Don't be fooled. This is no quaint, ordinary railway line."* says Martin Tett, County Councillor for the Chalfonts, *"This is a new 'motorway' with a wide land take, electric overhead cabling along the entire route, electricity sub-stations and very noisy. With up to 18 trains an hour travelling at nearly 250mph the noise will never stop. Even in areas like the Chalfonts, which will be tunnelled under, there will be new access roads, ventilation shafts and emergency exits every mile."*

There are already two railway services from London to Birmingham city centre and the existing Chiltern Line service is soon to have a major multi million pound upgrade. *"This route looks to have been chosen very politically"* said local District Councillor Mike Smith. *"We are already hearing of people being unable to sell their houses and planning blight spreading some eight or more years before the planned building starts."* The Conservative Party supports the concept of high speed rail but is committed to reviewing the route. *"In Bucks we support the alternative route via Milton Keynes which is also supported by Milton Keynes Council"* says Martin.



What the tunnel would look like as it enters Old Amersham



HS2 - Straight through the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?

HE WHO PAYS THE PIPER...

The enormous control over the Labour Party exercised by one massive Trade Union has become very apparent.



The Labour Party has always been dependant on Trade Union funds but today one union - UNITE - has become dominant. UNITE, which has also been responsible for organising the British Airways strike, has contributed **over £11m** since Gordon Brown became Labour Leader four years ago. It provides **a quarter of all Labour Party funding** and sponsors 100 Labour MPs and 25 Labour Lords. In addition, 59 new Labour candidates are being sponsored by UNITE, further increasing its influence over the Labour Parliamentary Party. Most notably the UNITE Political Director, Charlie Whelan (pictured left with Gordon Brown), is now the key strategist behind Gordon Brown's re-election campaign in the marginal constituencies.

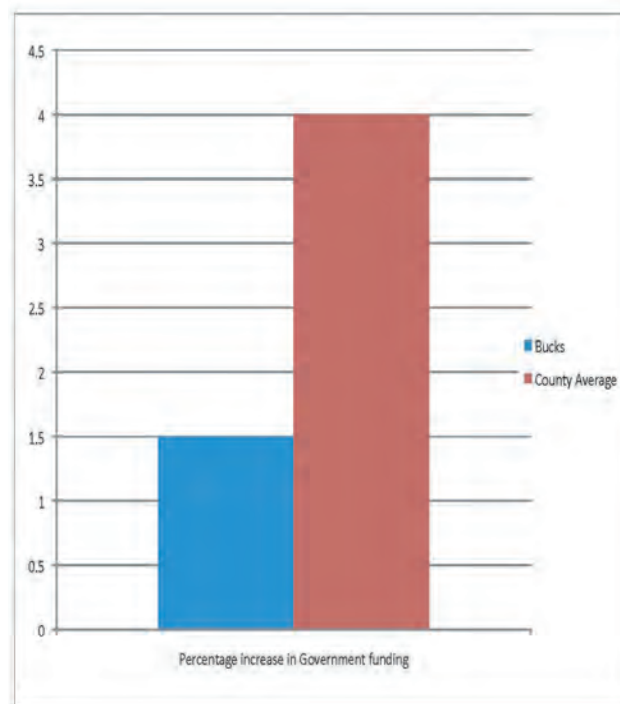
"Labour has attempted to throw mud at the Conservatives and Lord Ashcroft" said Don Philips, District Councillor for Little Chalfont, *"but in reality the influence and control exercised by UNITE over the Labour Party is far, far greater. How can they continue to take so much money from a Trade Union that has been determined to make life hell for so many ordinary holiday makers and travellers?"*

"It is fair to describe the Labour Party as the political wing of UNITE"
(Peter Watt, former General Secretary of the Labour Party)

COUNCIL TAX INCREASE – 'lowest for many years'

Chiltern District Council (2.5%) and Buckinghamshire County Council (2%) have announced their lowest Council Tax increases in many years. This is despite **for the fifth year running** receiving the lowest level of increase in Government funding towards the service central government requires local councils to provide. For example, where the average for counties is an increase of 4%, Buckinghamshire will get a **mere 1.5%** – just 0.3% of the County's budget. The situation is even worse for Chiltern District Council with an increase of only 0.5%.

"We have been able to keep Council Tax increases down by a combination of £8m of efficiency savings, £3m of increased charges and £6m of service reductions. It is only right that in difficult times local government looks to minimise the burden on local people" says Tim Butcher, Local County Councillor. *"Nevertheless it remains a disgrace the way in which this Government takes money from the South East and redistributes it in funding to its heartlands in the north."*



LABOUR'S 'FREE CARE' CON!

The difficulties faced by an ageing population are very real. Many of us will face the prospect of having to sell our house or surrender our life savings to pay for care when we grow old. But don't be fooled by Labour's new 'Free Care' Con trick.



After thirteen years in office Labour have suddenly discovered the problems faced by the elderly and their relatives just before an election – coincidence?

Of course not! This has been a blatant attempt to 'buy' votes from senior citizens. Even worse, like all Labour promises, it is a deception. The promise of free care only applied to those older people who suffered from the most critical needs and who continued to live in their own homes. All those in Care Homes or with lesser needs would receive *no* extra help.

And where would the money have come from for this so-called '*free care*'? Well the Government proposed to contribute £420m – mainly from raiding the NHS budget. The rest would have come from 'extra efficiencies' in existing local council budgets. The Government says this will cost £250m. The Directors of Social Services – the experts, who should know, say it would have cost **at least £500m!** All this money would have to be found from either increases in local Taxes or massive cuts in local services. Thankfully, a cross party alliance in the House of Lords has delayed these plans so that they can be properly thought through and costed.

DON'T BE FOOLED! This proposal was not a 'free service' for all our elderly citizens, it was a cynical half measure funded by yet another massive Labour Stealth Tax.

PARISH PUMP...

- Conservative Parish Councillors Christine Gibbs, Martin Dale, Peter Martin and Chris Ingham are glad that your Council, under its chairmen Francis Wilkinson and now Brian Drew, has saved £40,000 by retendering the contract for grounds maintenance throughout the Village. The Council has refurbished the tennis courts in **Westwood Park**, converting one to multi-games use, to include football and basketball, and is working on further improvements to the park.

- **Beechwood Avenue** is a beautiful road enjoyed not only by those who live there but also by those who walk, cycle or drive down it. Unfortunately, many of its lovely trees had to be felled last year as a result of disease. Using his small, local 'Community Fund' County Councillor Martin Tett has paid for replacement trees to be planted. *"This is a beautiful village and we need to preserve its rural aspect"* said Martin. *"I am particularly grateful to the Parish Council who organised the replacement planting and liaised with local residents."*



Newly planted trees in Beechwood Avenue

- At the request of the Parish Council, the County Council has put bollards on the pavement opposite the shops in **Burtions Lane**. *"We had lots of complaints that inconsiderate parking was taking place which was also very dangerous"* said Parish Councillor Chris Ingham. *"Hopefully this will be much safer for people crossing the road or trying to drive down the lane."*



Pictured left: Burtions Lane bollards

- Little Chalfont's own Community Library is due for a 'makeover' soon. With funds from Buckinghamshire County Council and Chiltern District Council, the Friends of the Library and the Community Association are going to landscape the area in front of the library. *"It's been looking a little tatty for a while, hopefully soon it will be an attractive focal point for the village"* says Parish Councillor Peter Martin.



Little Chalfont Community Library

- Also at the Parish Council's request, new pushbike parking has been installed by the County Council at the end of the shops in **Chenies Parade**. No excuse now not to keep fit when popping down to buy the paper!

- The District Council is consulting residents over its plans to provide for 450 **new houses** in Little Chalfont, 140 in St Giles and 200 at Newlands Park. *"Everyone has the chance to respond to this draft scheme, to the Council, by 23 April and I urge all to seize the opportunity"* says Councillor Don Phillips, Chairman of the Planning Committee.

- The County Council has put an extra £2m into **repairing the potholes** from the recent terrible weather. The upper section of **Cokes Lane** has already been resurfaced and other local roads are proposed for the Summer.

Remember to report potholes to Highways on Call on 0845 230 2882.