

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS – JUNE 4th

County Council elections take place on 4th June, along with the elections to the European Parliament.

The County Council has many key responsibilities. These include education, looking after vulnerable adults and children, social services, maintaining roads and pavements, strategic planning, youth centres, country parks, economic development, trading standards. Chronic underfunding from Central Government, the increasing older population of the south of the county and the major house-building programme in the north are all putting a severe strain on services and finances. Yet the County is continuing to deliver a 'Four Star' service as judged by the independent Audit Committee.

Your chosen candidates for the elections ...



TIM BUTCHER lives in Chalfont St Giles with his partner Emma. Tim who has a proven track record in campaigning on local issues says 'I hope that you will give me the opportunity to serve the people of The Chalfonts and Seer Green on the County Council. I have extensive business experience and want to bring this knowledge to the County Council so that services are delivered effectively and efficiently for the benefit of all our residents.'

Residents who may be away on 4th June or would prefer not to visit the polling station can apply for a Postal Vote. Please contact 01494 673745 and we will arrange this.



MARTIN TETT is the existing County Councillor for The Chalfonts and Seer Green. He is also now responsible for Strategic Planning and Environment services across the county. He has championed local issues including fighting for our community library, opposing the big developments at the NSE and in Bell Lane, He is a Governor at both Bell Lane School and Dr Challoners Grammar.

Can you help?

Your local Seer Green Conservative team is working hard. Please let us know if you can help with our work:

- I can deliver leaflets in my road
- I can display a poster at election time
- I would like a postal vote
- I would like to make a donation
- I would like to register my local support.

Please reply to:

Seer Green Conservatives
Disraeli House, 12 Aylesbury End
Beaconsfield HP9 1LW
or email:
cheshamandamershamconservatives.co.uk

Cheryl Gillan, MP for Chesham and Amersham, writes

ECONOMY

What a difference a year makes. About this time last year we were listening to the Budget in the House of Commons. As far as the Chancellor was concerned, everything in the garden was lovely.

This year the Budget, delayed until April, will present a very different set of figures. The rose-tinted glasses are off. The Labour Government has plunged each and every family and household in the land into debt which will take years to pay off.

Unemployment is rising. Familiar businesses on our high streets are closing down. More and more independent monitors are declaring the Labour Government did not pay heed to any of the warning signs. Our Prime Minister has blamed everyone and everything else, but the measures he has approved with his Chancellor, like the cut in Valued Added Tax, have made precious little impact.

EMPOWERING PEOPLE

Transferring power from the central state to local people.

Decentralisation, devolution and empowerment are part of the Conservative approach to government. We want to see powers transferred from the central state to local people and local institutions.

What would happen under Conservative reforms?

For instance, we would give local authorities a new discretionary power to levy business rate discounts. This would allow councils to help local shops and services, such as rural pubs or post offices. We would let councils set up their own local enterprise partnerships, to take over the economic development functions and funding of the Regional Development Agencies.

We would return powers and discretion back to local communities, by abolishing all regional planning and housing powers exercised by regional government. There would be greater use of direct democracy, giving power to residents to demand modification of excessive Council Tax rises and set up local referendums on local issues.

Your M.P. Cheryl Gillan holds a surgery in Amersham most Fridays.

If you have a problem please ring for an appointment.

Tel: 721577

email: gillanc@parliament.uk

POTHOLE PERIL

Council pulls out the stops for repairs



A DECADE of under investment by this Labour Government has starved Buckinghamshire County Council of cash to resurface our roads. To help manage the problem the council has put in extra resources and has been working closely with the Parish councils.

Now however, the coldest winter for many years has taken its toll on our roads: the combination of wet weather, snow, repeated freezing and thawing has led to thousands of new potholes across the county.

The Council responded quickly by hiring more contractors to make our roads safer. Up to 2000 potholes per week can be repaired. This is not the long term solution, we need our roads resurfaced. Tim Butcher, one of the Conservative candidates for The Chalfonts and Seer Green is calling on the Labour Government to invest more in our roads.

If you see a pothole telephone 'Highways on Call' on 0845 230 2882 to report the problem so one of the teams can put it right.

BEAUTIFUL BUCKS – *a great place to live*



IT'S OFFICIAL! *Buckinghamshire is the best county.*

A survey for the Halifax has shown we enjoy the best quality of life judged by factors such as employment, health, housing, weather, education and earnings. We also have the highest life expectancy and enjoy an hour's more sunshine per week than Great Britain as a whole! The County Council is also a top performer. The recent independent Audit Commission Report on all County Councils and Unitary Authorities has given Bucks '4 Stars' – the maximum possible for overall quality and efficiency. A Conservative administration has delivered year on year efficiency savings, held down Council Tax to below the South East average, received precious little Central Government financial support yet delivered top class services.

Well done Bucks!