

Write to Saffron Reporter, 54 High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1EE or e-mail editor@saffronwalden-reporter.co.uk

unaware why the six councillors on the UDC cabinet decided to change UDC's strategy? Even if this were true, how can UDC councillors support a plan which their own evidence shows is the worst option for Uttlesford, and when are the UDC Cabinet going to explain why they are supporting this plan?

**Paul Gadd
London Road
Saffron Walden**

Current plan is so wrong

IT is with interest I read councillors Rolfe and Ketteridge's joint statement about their recent development plans for the district.

There seemed to be a threat in there that unless we approved and cemented the current plans, we may end up with a developer coming along and building 1,000 homes anywhere they liked and we would be unable to prevent it.

Well, I'm not sure that a developer could find a worse place to put a 1,000 homes than the council has proposed!

I would think and hope that if a developer said they were going to add 880 homes to the east of Saffron Walden with no infrastructure improvement to the town and links to main transport arteries and employment, they would be turned down flat. In my mind no plan is better than the wrong plan.

**Dave McLellan
Mandeville road
Saffron Walden**

Homes needed in area

THE consultation on Uttlesford District Council's housing plan has closed, Saffron Walden Town Council has opposed the proposals, and 2,150 people have registered their opposition.

But the fact remains that the UK urgently needs an increase in housing supply, and Uttlesford will need to accept its share of new homes.

Homes that are needed for our own families, for those who provide essential services for our local society, and for those who wish to live close to the employment opportunities in our region.

We need houses which are affordable for purchase and for rental, and for those who need a vital first step on the housing ladder. We share the concerns of residents and local councillors who criticise the proposals for what they lack.

The town, and the district, need an overall coherent plan which ensures that infrastructure, facilities and services are provided in proportion to the extent of any new building.

By failing in their responsibility to come up with a viable framework plan since it became a requirement in 2004, Uttlesford District Council has put us at risk of piecemeal development hastily put together at the last minute without regard to any gains which could benefit the whole community. We need affordable houses, but with them we need schools, medical services, community

Thanks for loving Walden

A BIG thank you to everyone who supported the Love Walden initiative, organised by New Life Church, Shire Hill.

It started with a week of free youth evenings, where the UV disco proved very popular and then culminating with a free fun day which took place on the common on July 7, alongside Blue Peter.

Despite the weather, we enjoyed being able to offer free fun sessions on seven different inflatables to many children on the day.

Our community tent was popular, and housed charities including Homestart Uttlesford, Besom, Christians Against Poverty (CAP), and mayor David Watson's chosen

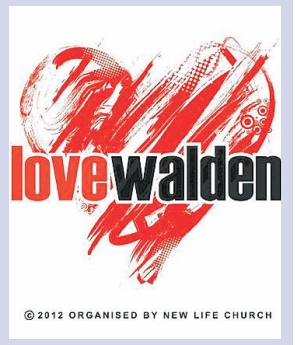
charities Riding for the Disabled and the Huntingtons Disease Association.

The CAP raffle for a luxury hamper was won by Linda Challis of Saffron Walden and the 'Guess the name of the Tiger' was won by a family from Thaxted Road. The winning name was Jewel.

Love Walden is a community initiative showing God's love to our town and will take place each year, with our 'helping hands' project and a community fun day on the common.

For more info call New Life Church on 01799 506045.

**Sarah Blackaby
Saffron Walden branch manager
Christians Against Poverty**



facilities and infrastructure.

By failing to construct a coherent long-term plan for development, the council has put us at risk of losing out on any of these benefits, and will expose us to incremental developments over and above the current proposals for 3,300 dwellings across the UDC area.

**Jane Berney
Parliamentary Spokesperson
Saffron Walden Constituency
Labour Party**

Worried about Newport

WE have more concerns about Uttlesford District Council doing favours for developers and landowners.

These groups made submissions to the consultation for their Newport sites

at the very last moment. They were immediately published by UDC.

The release on the website included the loading of 38 supporting documents, at least one of which was prepared by Sworders AFTER the final close date.

In contrast, very many submissions by individuals, and by bodies such as the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) and Save Newport Village, have remained unpublished two weeks and more after submission (they are online submissions requiring only a brief check by an administrator).

After complaining to UDC about the slowness of publication we were assured that remedial measures were being taken, but we have seen no evidence of this. And we doubt if individuals or residents' organisations would be allowed

to overstep the deadlines, or be given fast track privileges.

The council has some problems. According to the schedule the 'final' plan should now be produced. But with the almost total rejection of the current proposals they must surely do a further consultation on a draft before going to a final plan.

So we urge them to now stop doing the builders' bidding and instead work with residents and residents' groups to develop a sensible plan. A plan based on common sense instead of nonsensical predictions, which provides affordable housing, and which does not overload our towns and villages.

**Neil Hargreaves
Save Newport Village**

Debt Problems?

If debt is destroying your life then call us now.

When you're in debt they never seem to stop - the letters, the demands and the phone calls.

Wouldn't it be a relief if someone could help you to sort them out. Debt is less of a problem when managed correctly so call us now.

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52 Cromwell Road,
Saffron Walden, CB11 4BE

Save water, save energy, save money

We would like to thank our customers for their incredible support while we had the hosepipe ban in place.

Despite the record rainfall since April, our groundwater levels remain lower than normal, so please continue to use water wisely.

- Turn the tap off whilst brushing your teeth
- Take a short shower instead of a bath
- Use a bucket for washing the car
- Repair dripping taps
- Use a water butt to collect rainwater
- Let your lawn grow, it will stay greener longer

Please visit our website for free and discounted water saving devices at www.veoliawater.co.uk/drought

VEOLIA WATER

PLEASE USE WATER WISELY

Summer Holiday Activities

Patterns, Printmaking and Anglo-Saxon Shields!

Drop in sessions 11am - 1pm and 2pm - 4pm

Suitable for all ages but children MUST bring an adult

Usual entry charges apply. Children (18 and under) FREE

Adults £1.50, Discounts 75p; Annual Season Tickets £5 & £2.50

Saffron Walden Museum, Museum Street, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1JL. Tel: 01799 510333 Fax: 01799 510334

Email: museum@uttlesford.gov.uk
www.saffronwaldenmuseum.org

SAFFRON WALDEN MUSEUM

Wednesday 8th August and Wednesday 15th August
Patterns and Printmaking
(Inspired by Victorian Designer Owen Jones)

Wednesday 22nd August
Anglo-Saxon Warrior Shields
(In preparation for our Anglo-Saxon Living History weekend: 8th/9th September)