

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lib Dems playing 'political games' over Local Plan

I AM WRITING in response to Cllr David Morson's (Liberal Democrat Group Leader) letter about the proposed local plan in last week's paper. His comments are extraordinary.

This is especially so given that Cllr Morson himself, as Vice Chairman of the council's Scrutiny Committee which met on June 12 2012, proposed the recommendation "to approve a strategy of dispersed development reflecting the existing hierarchy of settlements for the preparation of a Local Plan".

In moving this recommendation Cllr Morson is minuted as saying "that he appreciated the comments made by Cllr Watson and felt that there would not be anyone who was entirely happy with the proposed option, but the local plan had now benefited from two good discussions and the dispersal option did allow all areas to be considered for housing and also affordable housing. There was no dispute that the emergent option was supported by expert reports

which all suggested this option was the most viable in terms of empirical evidence".

It is very difficult to square this with the comments made by Cllr Morson in his letter last week. It is a shame that the Liberal Democrats see such an important and sensitive issue as an opportunity to play political games as demonstrated by recent letters from Lib Dem Councillors and activists.

The LibDem website proclaims their opposition to a new settlement, but their recent comments are opportunistic and contradictory. How can Cllr Morson have forgotten that as recently as June he proposed endorsement of the very plan that he now takes issue with!

- Jim Ketteridge
Leader Uttlesford District Council

Thaxted Road question

IF THE Thaxted Road site isn't a good place to position a Sainsbury's it certainly isn't a good place to position 880 houses!

Was Sainsbury's rejected a second time on the grounds that UDC had other plans for the site?

- Jen Hilton-Thomas
Saffron Walden

Big savings to be had when you travel by rail

I CAN'T HELP but think by making the ticketing machine on Audley End platform difficult to navigate Greater Anglia takes more money. To use your rail card to get to London you do not press 'for London terminals' - that would be too straightforward.

Instead you press 'popular destinations' at the bottom of the first screen; select 'off peak day return with travel card'; press 'add railcard'; select your type of railcard (Senior, Network, Family, Disabled, Young persons, Armed forces etc); confirm number of adults and children travelling; pay by card as instructed on right of machine, not the main screen. Simple really!

For those who don't know, a £24 Network railcard can be used by anyone; it is valid 12 months from date of purchase and three others can accompany you at the reduced rate. This can give 1/3rd off all trips to London and the South East, £10 minimum fare and use after 10am on weekdays. Return time restrictions are now lifted.

There are many railcards that offer big savings; 16-25-year-olds and seniors likewise. Disabled card holders may take one carer for the same price anywhere in England. Seniors can save £5 by buying their cards from UDC offices. Group travel only requires four people travelling and is often forgotten - no rail card is needed.

Remember that having a train ticket on the 2-for-1 offers gets you into numerous London attractions cheaper, just by showing your train ticket at admissions. Pick up the leaflet on the day at the station - assuming its open!

- Jackie Damary-Homan
Saffron Walden

★ EARRING FOUND. I found A hallmarked silver and (possibly) jade earring by Ice House Lodge on Audley End Road. I imagine it was lost by somebody at one of the picnic concerts. I would be happy to return it to the owner once they have shown me the matching earring as proof of ownership. My number is 01799 520053.

- Wendy Clemens
Saffron Walden

No plan is better than wrong plan

I READ WITH INTEREST Councillors Rolfe and Ketteridge's joint statement about their recent development plans for the district. There seemed to be a threat in 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 where the council has already proposed! I would hope that if a developer said they were going to add 880 homes to the east of Saffron Walden with no infrastructural 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
Saffron Walden

'Unjustified and undemocratic' plan

I AM DISMAYED at the District Council's latest 'Uttlesford Plan' and the lack of any coherence or reason in it.

The question of the additional traffic which would be generated in the already over-congested Saffron Walden residential east to west routes remains unanswered. Peaslands Road is already a nightmare due to the much smaller Friends' School development. This route will become far worse and further gridlock would be created should the planned massive Radwinter Road development ever go ahead.

UDC should be aware that they need to completely rethink the plans, not just make token reductions in new housing number plans (as happened with the Friends' School development). Given the massive opposition to the Uttlesford Plan, councillors would be wise to consider their re-election chances should they choose to push ahead with an unjustified and undemocratic scheme.

- Paul Sinnot
Saffron Walden

Saffron Walden Friendly Pool League Signing on night 3rd Sept 2012 at the Saffron Walden Football Club 8pm-10pm
New and old teams welcome to join
£30 signing on per team
£1 single and pairs signing on
Anybody interested in joining contact Archie Palmer
Mobile: 07577 976874
Email mjalsa@hotmail.com

Skate park rubbish

WITH REGARD to the story in the *Walden Local* about the skate park's clean-up team, while I say good luck to them for their efforts I would point out, as a neighbour of the said skate park, that a lot of the rubbish is caused by them in the first place.

Local residents in the area around the skate park have been cleaning up rubbish for years without so much as a thank you, or any recognition from the Town Council or the skate group (not that they were expecting any!) so this latest story seems to be a publicity stunt to try to convince everyone that we should give in to them and let them expand their park.

- Name and address supplied

SUMMER DAYBREAKS

Thursday 16 August GREAT YARMOUTH (Pick-up B)
Adult £16, Senior Citizen £15, Child £8

Thursday 23 August CROMER OR SHERINGHAM (Pick-up B)
Adult £16, Senior Citizen £15, Child £8

Wednesday 29 August BURY ST EDMUNDS (Pick-up C)
Adult £13, Senior Citizen £12, Child £8

PICK-UP POINTS:

| | A | B | C |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Newport, Old Forge | 0820 | 0820 | 0920 |
| Rowntree Way/Loompits | 0830 | 0830 | 0930 |
| Ross Close, Opp Kath Semar Schools | 0835 | 0835 | 0935 |
| Thaxted Rd/Peaslands Rd | 0840 | 0840 | 0940 |
| Common (top), Ashdon Rd | 0850 | 0850 | 0950 |
| Swan Meadow Coach Park | 0900 | 0900 | 1000 |
| Thaxted, Post Office | 0920 | - | - |
| Gt Chesterford, Jacksons Lane (top) | - | 0910 | 1010 |

Seats MUST be booked in advance please - pay on the day

★ PLEASE BOOK EARLY ★

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