

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Our County councillor has delivered nothing

I WAS interested to read the letter from John Lodge in your paper last week.

During his County Council election campaign earlier this year Mr Lodge pledged to 'take the party politics out of local politics' but he is now talking about an alternative administration. Dress it up how you like but that sounds like WAR, which in itself is a 'party', the problem being that it is a single issue party that appears oblivious to other key services and activities essential to a robust community.

Mr Lodge has pledged a lot but delivered nothing. Whatever happened to the temporary Thaxted Road traffic light rebate that he promised? Road surfaces are already deteriorating in and around Saffron Walden and winter has barely started. Worse than

that Mr Lodge is trying to claim credit for projects that were underway long before he got involved, his meddling at County Hall is now working against the Saffron Walden area.

And what of planning? Build the houses in Elsenham said Mr Lodge during his campaign and when a proposal is put forward he calls it 'omnishambles.' The new organisation UUR that Mr Lodge's WAR party is affiliated to, opposes house building everywhere which is a popular political slogan but leaves Uttlesford exposed to unlimited, unwanted development on a calamitous scale.

- Paul Draper
Newport

People don't mean to be unfriendly

OH DEAR. What a sad letter from 'I am so lonely I could scream'. Sad but I fear very true. This area can appear to be unfriendly.

And I do agree with the writer that Harlow is indeed a friendly place very akin to my own South Yorkshire town. (I have been told from time to time to return to it but no matter!) And I hear comments such as "We don't want to be like Harlow". Well, I also feel very sorry for folk that dismiss Harlow in such an arrogant and patronising way. However, I'm afraid that when, at a certain age, one moves to a new place you are the one who has to put yourself forward. Not easy, I know, if one is a bit shy and folk have already formed their own groups and friendships - these are sometimes very difficult to break into. I don't think they really mean to be unfriendly. Some are a bit thoughtless and so

wrapped up in their own affairs they have no time to be involved with others. Some are very friendly indeed once you get to know them. Regrettably, though, people often say 'you must come round for a coffee' or 'you must have a drink with us sometime.' Unfortunately, they forget to say when! I would suggest to the lady that perhaps she should join a political party. ANY political party. There are always two or three in every town and you are immediately surrounded by folk of the same ilk all eager to welcome you in.

Your correspondent in Newport can call me anytime and I promise I will say "fancy a coffee?" And I will say when.

- Edna Forest, Saffron Walden

Car parking offer 'too little too late'

AT THE RISK of sounding ungrateful am I alone in thinking that the comments made by Cllrs Barker and Rolfe in last week's article 'UDC unveils free car parking programme' make little sense?

Cllr Barker claims "We understand the Christmas trading period is one of the most important and busiest times for retailers". Both claim they wish to support local trade and that free parking will help do this but free parking from 3pm on three Saturdays and from Christmas Eve to January 5 will, I fear, have little effect.

Surely if genuine and impactive support is to be given to the traders of our town free parking should commence much earlier and for much more than just two hours on a Saturday afternoon when it is getting dark and cold and most people are heading home.

I am sure the majority of people start their Christmas shopping long before Christmas Eve and free parking all day on all December Saturdays and perhaps even one day midweek as well (Market Day?), all suitably advertised, would have a much greater effect than that being offered. The period in question (December 24-January 5) will I am sure be helpful to some but the real impact would be felt before the big day not after it.

As well intentioned as it might be I believe this will be very much a case of too little too late unless, of course, a very late decision could be taken to amend the offer?! Most unlikely I fear.

- Ashley Seymour
Saffron Walden

Charity shop volunteer

REF: YOUR STORY last week about the lonely lady in Newport. I also volunteered at one of the charity shops in the town (charitably it will remain nameless!) and I gave up after a few weeks because I was despatched to sort through piles and piles of old clothing while the regular clique stayed in the shop meeting the public, chatting and laughing. I felt we should all take in turns to do the 'dirty' jobs but I was ignored and eventually stopped going.

- Name and address supplied

Beloved Archie died of anti freeze poisoning

SADLY I had to have my beloved cat Archie put to sleep last Thursday. He had been poisoned with anti freeze and within hours his kidneys had been damaged beyond repair.

I would like to bring to people's attention the fact that this substance is deadly to small animals - both domestic and wild. I certainly had no idea how toxic it was and would happily spray my windscreen with it on a cold morning without thinking twice about where it would drain away.

All it takes for an animal like a cat to be killed is less than a teaspoon. We think that Archie simply walked through a puddle of anti-freeze and then licked his paw....

I would like to raise awareness so that we can avoid this happening to any other families.

- Caroline Catlin, Saffron Walden

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