

July 2002

# CONSERVATIVES IN TOUCH WITH BRIDGE RESIDENTS



Editor: Cllr Bill Oakey

## Traffic Speeds and Calming

Cllr Bill Oakey writes “When I asked for your support at the last City Council Elections in 1999, I pledged to take action on the biggest issue facing village residents – traffic speed and safety. I have been making steady progress but there still remains a lot more to be done.

The traffic calming measures in Bridge and the first pedestrian crossing have been a huge success. There are now more children who are able to walk to school safely and traffic speeds through the village have been reduced from an average of just under 40 miles per hour to under 30 miles per hour!

A second pedestrian crossing is due, together with further traffic calming, to make the village safer despite opposition from local Liberals. I have the support of not only the local Parish Council, but more importantly the support of over 80% of local residents. **Why then are the Liberal Democrats so opposed to these safety improvements?”**

# Changes in Running Canterbury City Council

You may have read and been interested in the changes in the way that Canterbury City Council will be run from 8<sup>th</sup> May 2002. Following acceptance of Westminster's edict to run Canterbury City Council on "Cabinet" lines, the Conservative Group (the largest single group of Councillors) was all set to run the Executive following the Liberal Democrat's well publicised decision to go into Opposition. Further assurances were received following their leadership change. At the last moment, they and the local Labour Party decided that a Lib-Lab pact would run Canterbury City Council.

*You simply cannot trust the Liberal Democrats  
and their leadership!*

## **Bekesbourne Children now get places at Bridge School**

Three of our new primary school age children in Bekesbourne were to be denied places at the Bridge & Patricbourne CEP this September. Following intervention from your local Councillor Bill Oakey, and MP Julian Brazier, they have now been offered places. The school has undergone extensive works replacing the old portakabin classrooms with purpose built ones and providing a computer suite. It is no wonder that its popularity means there are more applications than vacancies. Your local Councillor Bill Oakey promises to fight to ensure that admissions criteria favour local children and has already had discussions with KCC on this matter. **Local Children must have first priority to attend their local school.**

# Council Tax

Even before their recent U Turn, the Liberal Democrats had joined with the Labour Councillors in voting to push up your Council Tax by a huge 8.8%! This is four times the current rate of inflation and follows on from two previous tax rises of 5.75% and 6.5%. In both years the Conservative Councillors were outvoted on their budgets with the end result of over £500,000 of your money being wasted.

The new Liberal-Labour Coalition will now be responsible for setting next year's Council Tax and given that they are a publicly declared tax and spend Executive, you can look forward to yet another inflation busting Council Tax bill next year.

# Council Services

If the local Labour Councillors had their way we would all be suffering from the loss of our weekly refuse collection. It was only strong opposition from the Conservative Councillors together with a degree of commonsense from the Liberal Democrats that has preserved this service.

*The Conservative Policy on front line services is clear and unequivocal. We will deliver better value for money services to all our residents at a price that we can afford.*

*There's no substitute for year round service*

Your local Canterbury City Councillor

**Bill Oakey 01227 832397**

Holds regular surgeries and is available should you have any local problems.

*Your MP, Julian Brazier TD, holds regular surgeries in Canterbury.*

*To make an appointment please telephone 765332 or alternatively you can write to him c/o 9 Hawks Lane, Canterbury CT1 2NU*

*Your Local Conservatives*

*Working for the Community*

*Working For You*

**If you wish to help or join your local Conservatives please contact Bill Oakey on the above number or Neil Parsonson on 01227 765332 or write to them at 9 Hawks Lane Canterbury CT1 2NU**