

# CONSERVATIVES IN TOUCH WITH BRIDGE RESIDENTS



EDITOR: BILL OAKLEY

WINTER 2002

## GOOD NEWS FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

Despite the efforts of Cllr Vye to stop our second pedestrian crossing, the 72% of residents who voted for it, have won the day. This means that there will be a safe crossing placed between the Londis Supermarket and The White Horse Inn making it safer for schoolchildren using Bifrons Path to walk to school and safer for all of those residents of Riverside Close who want to go to the Supermarket and cash point.

The good news is that despite the dire predictions of the County Councillor, no parking places will be lost. Work on this crossing will be completed early next year.

*Your Local Conservative City  
Councillor Bill Oakley puts pedestrian  
safety high on his priority list.*

## Howletts Zoo Footpath

Bekesbourne residents will be aware of a planning application by Howletts to close the footpath that goes right through the zoo. Bekesbourne with Patricxbourne Parish Council will resist this vehemently unless a deal can be brokered by the City Council, KCC and the Public Rights of Way (PROW), to get Howletts to provide a footpath along Bekesbourne Lane to link up with a new footpath.

Your Conservative City Councillor, Bill Oakey, will lead the negotiations, which, if successful, will provide safe walking from Lackenden Cottages to Bekesbourne Station.

*Bill Oakey is determined to improve the safety of pedestrians.*

## More Good News in Bridge

After a summer of chaos in the High Street I can report that, at last, we now have storm drains that are able to cope with the flash flood type rainstorms seen recently. Households in the High Street will be spared of the constant flooding, and residents in Brewery Lane will no longer have to wade through standing water every time it rains.

Thanks to persistent lobbying by your City Councillor on the Highways Agency the work is now completed and ready for the winter.

*Remember it was the Conservative Leader, Harry Cragg, who chaired the Flood Scrutiny Committee that has brought about these improvements.*

## **Now for the not so good news ... ....Council Tax Shock**

*Councillor Bill Oakey writes, "Early this year the Liberal Democrat and Labour Councillors combined forces to run Canterbury City Council. They have already planned to raise next year's Council Tax by a staggering 8.7% (4 times the inflation rate)*

Worse still, in order to balance the books, a "Negative Contingency" of £400,000 – (*CUTS*, savings and some new income generation) is planned together with a one off raid on contingency reserves of £261,000. Add these to the planned 8.7% increase and the true cost of this Lib/Lab budget will be the *equivalent* of a rise of 21% in Council Tax.

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The liabilities created by these "raids" on reserves and increase savings will have to be met in future years. It's a case of live today and suffer tomorrow."

**This is the real price and reality of a  
Liberal/Labour run Council.**

*Only a Conservative run Council can deliver  
a soundly balanced budget that allows  
YOUR money to be spent on basic services.*

*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 complete the form  
below and return it to Bill Oakey  
C/O 9 Hawks Lane Canterbury CT1 2NU**

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**I would like to help the local Conservatives by: -**

Delivering a few leaflets locally

Joining the Local Campaign Team

Joining the local Conservative Association

Name .....

Address .....

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Tel No. ....