

# Activist

June 2014

## West Lancashire Conservative Association Members Newsletter

### 2014 ELECTIONS

The Elections took place in May, we held on to Burscough East but lost Knowsley ward by just 28 votes. We welcome new councillors Sue Bailey, Jane Marshall to the team. We thank Ian Grant, Val Hopley and William Cropper for all their hard work.

Our new Council Leader is Cllr David Westley and Deputy Leader is Cllr Paul Greenall. In regard the European Elections Jacqueline Foster and Sajjad Karim held their seats, meaning we lost one seat.

### E MAIL

If you received this Newsletter by post and you have an email address, please email Edward your Email Address. This saves on Postage. [office@westlancsconservatives.com](mailto:office@westlancsconservatives.com)



### West Lancashire Borough Council's Conservative Cabinet approved a £105,000 cash injection for Ormskirk and Westhead public open space.

Section 106 monies from developer contributions in Derby Ward will now be used for improvements to Hurlston Brook and new wildflower meadow signage in Coronation Park (£10,000), a new footpath around the Churchfields site in Ormskirk (£25,000), enhanced play facilities and a new wooded area in Westhead Village (£60,000), and small-scale improvements at open spaces in Nursery Avenue and Thompson Avenue, Ormskirk (£5,000 for each site).

Derby Ward Conservative Cllr Paul Greenall said: "It's great news the Conservative Cabinet has approved these plans. The proposals have strong backing from local residents and will do much to improve the area. This news demonstrates that, by working closely with residents, local Conservatives continue to deliver real improvements for our area."

Conservative Cabinet Member for Leisure and Derby Ward Councillor David Sudworth said: "I am pleased once again that this Conservative council is bringing projects forward to improve public open spaces in Ormskirk and Westhead. With the expansion of Edge Hill, and new housing on the old hospital and Atkinson Kirby sites on Wigan Road, Derby Ward has seen a number of developments in recent years. It's therefore only right that monies generated from such developments are ploughed back into the local community to benefit the local community."

### Raffle

Many thanks to everyone who bought tickets. There is still time to send back your stubs, closing date 1<sup>st</sup> July. If you would like to be part of the Christmas Draw and don't normally get tickets please get in touch.

### 200 Club

There are numbers available in the Club 200 Club, please contact the office for details.

## Chairman's Column By Bill Weingart

Dear Members

It was a long, grueling campaign, but it paid off as we retained the seat in Burscough East and hence effective control of West Lancs Council. Losing in Knowsley ward by 28 votes hurt, especially after all the work that the candidate, Edward McCarthy, and his team had devoted to the election effort. Now is the time to begin planning for next May's election, but not after taking a well-earned break to enjoy the long daylight hours with our friends and families. Let me wish you all a great summer, after which we can resume the good fight renewed and refreshed.

Freedom and prosperity.

Bill Weingart



### West Lancs Conservative Future

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# Recent News Stories



- ◆ Thank you to everyone who attended our Spring events and to everyone who helped in the recent elections.
- ◆ The councillor in charge of West Lancashire Borough Council's leisure facilities has hailed the "significant investment" taking place in Skelmersdale. Cllr David Sudworth says plans for a new path and cycle way in Tawd Valley Park, linking the town centre with the new West Lancashire College and Ashurst, will complement improvements already made and others currently underway in the town. Cllr Sudworth, Conservative cabinet member for leisure, said: "I'm delighted the Conservative cabinet recently approved up to £200,000 towards the new Tawd path and cycle way.
- ◆ Ormskirk Rugby Club under 15s, Skelmersdale Ex-Services Association and West Lancs Branch MS Society are among the latest organisations to net a cash boost from the Conservative Borough Council. Almost 20 groups/individuals shared in a windfall of more than £6,500 from the authority's Community Chest, which is open to organisations across the borough for specific projects.
- ◆ High street shops, pubs and restaurants in West Lancashire are being handed a £2,000 tax cut thanks to local Conservatives. From April 1<sup>st</sup> businesses which occupy premises with a rateable value of less than £50,000 a year will be able to apply for a £1,000 discount in each of the next two years. Local Conservatives have also announced measures to help fill empty shops. This will see rates being cut by 50% for qualifying retail businesses who occupy units which have been empty for a year or more.
- ◆ Ambitious plans which could 'transform' Ormskirk town centre have been revealed. Consultations will begin this summer about the proposed £750,000 worth of improvements, including changing the layout of the popular outdoor market, resurfacing Moor Street and a £30,000 revamp of the town's ancient Christmas lights. As part of the project, to be jointly funded by the County Council and Conservative controlled West Lancs Borough Council, there are also plans to provide new children's play areas and paths in Ormskirk.
- ◆ Teamwork between two Conservative campaigners in Ormskirk has resulted in a promise of action from rail chiefs. Wooden fencing on the railway bridge on Bridge Street on Ormskirk has been damaged since last year. Exasperated residents turned to Knowsley Ward Conservative candidate Edward McCarthy and Derby Ward Conservative Cllr Paul Greenall for help. The Bridge straddles the boundary of both wards. They reported the matter to the bridge owners Network Rail who have now promised to take action.
- ◆ Cllr David Sudworth was welcomed to the all-new Artz Centre in Hartland, Birch Green, by Mark Ashton. Mark's not-for-profit Artz For All organisation took over the running of the old Birch Green Hall earlier this year after the council decided to give local community groups the chance to take over the day-to-day operations of the town's community centres on a long-term lease.
- ◆ A Parbold councillor has queried why a main village road hasn't been resurfaced when all roads leading to it have already been improved! Cllr David Whittington, Conservative borough councillor for Parbold Ward, is working with local County Councillor David Westley to lobby highways chiefs at County Hall over the apparent lack of action regarding Chorley Road and Bannister Lane in Hilldale.

## Events and News

- Coffee Morning in Summer 2014 and other events details to follow.
- If you have any future events to advertise please get in touch with Edward.
- Membership Drive-Do you know anyone who might like to become a member? Ask Edward for a membership form.
- Would you like to help with the Scottish No Campaign? Contact the office if you do.

## Meet The Candidates Evening



At the Disraeli Club on 3rd April at Briars Hall, local party members and activists had an evening with Kevin Beaty one of the North West Conservative Candidates in the European Parliament elections. The local party members and activists also had the chance to meet candidates for the Borough Council elections as well.

## Become a councillor

Would you stand up for your neighbours if they needed help? Have you ever considered standing as a Conservative council candidate? Conservative Councillors are already working hard across the area by helping their neighbours and improving their communities.

We think that's worth standing for. If you agree we'd like to hear from you. You won't have to give up your job or surrender your social life, and you will receive all the support you need to be a fantastic local Councillor.

For more information, please contact. Please contact the office for details.

For more information about our activities, or if you would like to help contact us-

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