

# Activist

March 2014

## West Lancashire Conservative Association Members Newsletter

### 2014 ELECTIONS

On Thursday 22nd May 2014 there will be borough council elections and also the European Parliament Elections are on this day.

### Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal



The West Lancs Social Action Team together with the RS McColl store at Edge Hill University supported Operation Christmas Child in the run up to last Christmas with a very successful shoe box appeal. Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project, run by the Christian charity Samaritan's Purse. They have been sending gift-filled shoeboxes around the world since 1990. Boxes went to disadvantaged children in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Edward McCarthy (West Lancs Social Action Coordinator) said "This was a good cause for us to support, and we were overwhelmed by the response. Thanks to the generosity of West Lancashire residents and students many children will have gifts on Christmas Day morning. We received many boxes from Brookside Retirement Living on Aughton Street Ormskirk. On behalf of the Team, we would like to thank everyone who helped."

### Investment across West Lancs as Council Tax is frozen yet gain

Estate transformation in Skelmersdale, new play areas in Ormskirk and Burscough, and extra CCTV for West Lancashire's rural areas have been unveiled by the Conservative Borough Council. The new schemes, announced at the council's budget meeting on Wednesday night, come as the Conservatives froze the Borough Council's share of council tax for the fifth year in a row.

Labour councillors refused to support any of these plans. Cllr David Westley, Conservative finance spokesman, said: "This is a budget for the whole of West Lancashire, and is as a result of sound financial management by this Conservative administration. "We are continuing to invest in the borough without hiking up council tax, as the Labour group at County Hall have done. "The council has had to make some tough decisions but through prudent financial control, we are able to announce some exciting projects at a time when many Labour-run authorities in the area are having to slam on the brakes." On the evening, plans were also revealed for estate revival in Beechtrees, Digmoor, and Skelmersdale.

Read the full story on our website and in the local press.

### West Lancs Labour soft on crime' after CCTV vote

West Lancs Labour's opposition to CCTV shows they are "soft on crime. After West Lancs Borough Council's budget meeting, where Labour refused to support CCTV for Burscough, Scarisbrick, Downholland and Tarleton.

The full story is on our website.

### Chairman's Column By Cllr Ruth Melling



Dear members,

As I come to the end of my 3yr term of office, I would like to thank you all for your loyal support. We have as a party undergone many difficult decisions made at Central office and Government level which reflect on how we fair at Borough Council and County Council level. I cannot impress on you enough that if we are to remain in control of the Borough Council, the elections on May 22<sup>nd</sup> this year are of vital importance. If you can in any way help the candidates or the Association we welcome you letting us know.

Thank you to all members who come along to our fund raising events or donate in other ways. The 200 Club at present has numbers to spare and is a good way of helping- you may even win! The AGM is on Friday March 21<sup>st</sup> at New Church House, Ormskirk if you can come along I look forward to seeing you there, or at any events we hold in the future.

Thank-you again for your support during my 3 years in office.

Yours sincerely,  
Cllr Ruth Melling. Association Chairman.

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## Recent News Stories

- ◆ There have been many Autumn/Winter West Lancs Conservative branch events, thank-you to everyone who went and everyone who helped.
- ◆ War memorials across West Lancashire had been spruced up in time for 2013 Remembrance Sunday after works by West Lancashire Borough Council. The Council carried out works on memorials it is responsible for in Coronation Park, Ormskirk, Victoria Park, Ormskirk, Skelmersdale, Burscough, Newburgh, Lathom and Appley Bridge.
- ◆ The good work of Conservative controlled West Lancashire Borough Council in tackling litter, fly tipping and dog fouling has received national television coverage. Dame Joan Bakewell and a team from the BBC's Panorama programme spent the day filming the Environmental Enforcement Team as they patrolled Ormskirk on market day.
- ◆ West Lancs Conservative Future organised a Discussion night at Edge Hill University and also a Local Politics lunch. Edward McCarthy West Lancs Conservative Future Coordinator said "The events have been successful and we hope to have a Quiz night soon and further debate nights. Please get in touch for further details or to get involved" West Lancs Conservative future are holding their first AGM in February and recently attended the Cheshire and Wirral Conservative Conference. They also spent a night working with Ormskirk Street Pastors. James Trafford has been appointed the West Lancs Conservative Future Chairman.
- ◆ On Sunday 24th November the West Lancs Social Action Team tidied up a section of untidy land on Burscough's Station Approach near Tesco's. The project came from an initial suggestion from The Grove and Burscough East Councillor Ruth Melling. The team was made up of local West Lancs residents and Cllr Ruth Melling. Cllr Ruth Melling said "The day was a great success. Thank you to everyone who took part. The bulbs we planted will look lovely in the spring. We spent time tidying up the front section of the land and planting bulbs. We would like to thank West Lancs Borough Council Parks and Rangers Team who supplied much of the equipment we used on the day." Edward McCarthy Co-organiser and Knowsley Ward Borough Council Conservative candidate for 2014 said "It is amazing how a handful of people from the community pulling together for 2 hours can improve an area for the whole community. Well done and thank you to all who helped. We also planted bulbs in Ormskirk and Bickerstaffe today." Bulbs were planted in Junction Lane Burscough too.
- ◆ Tenants and residents of West Lancashire Borough Council are to reap the benefits of a new way of working which aims to deal with issues they raise more quickly. Conservative controlled West Lancashire Borough Council has worked with Aareon UK and 1st Touch Mobile to introduce a computerised mobile working system for its housing officers in the Estate Management Team.
- ◆ A wide-ranging Draft Economic Strategy which aims to identify opportunities for economic growth, business development and job creation for the borough is currently being developed.
- ◆ West Lancashire Borough Council is making Ruff Wood and St Helens Road Park even nicer places to visit. A total of £35,000 has been allocated for improvements at the two attractions with funding raised by the Council through developer contributions from nearby housing development sites.
- ◆ West Lancashire Borough Council has introduced a pay supplement to ensure that its staff are in receipt of the nationally-recognised Living Wage.

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

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## DIARY DATES

**If you have any future events to advertise please get in touch with Edward.**

**March 21<sup>st</sup>. AGM.**

**West Lancs Conservatives Association AGM**  
AGM will be held at New Church House, Park Rd, Ormskirk, Lancs L39 3AJ.

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013. Disraeli Night.**

The Disraeli Club at Briars Hall Hotel on Briars Lane, Lathom. Join like minded people for political debate about topical issues, Roast dinner and a glass of wine for just £10. Confirm your place by the Monday before event- by e-mail [thecharmels@aol.com](mailto:thecharmels@aol.com), or by telephone on 01695 574073. Time: 7pm for 730pm. (Please note different date)

**May 22 .West Lancs Borough Council Elections and also the European Parliament Elections.**

West Lancs Borough Council elections held today. A third of the 54 seats will be contested. Time: 7am-10pm. Please get in touch if you would like to help with the election campaign.

***NB West Lancs Conservative Future events in March/ April see Twitter/Website.***

## Taking super-fast broadband further and faster in rural West Lancashire

An extra £3.84 million of government money for super-fast broadband will help business start-ups and job creation in some of Lancashire's hardest to reach rural areas, Culture Secretary Maria Miller announced recently.

The nationwide rollout is a key part of the government's long-term economic plan to secure Britain's future by providing better access to super-fast broadband, and in allocating funding the Government has worked to ensure as many families and businesses as possible benefit.

Local projects in the North West will now receive additional funding from a £250 million pot, with the hardest to reach locations amongst those who stand to benefit most. This funding is in addition to the £1.2 billion already invested by central and local government and will ensure 95% of UK homes and businesses have access to super-fast broadband by 2017.

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