

Green View Autumn 2016

Cllr Duncan Kerr



Hi, I am the Oswestry Town Councillor for Castle Ward and the Shropshire Unitary Councillor for Oswestry South. I write, print, and distribute this newsletter at my own expense to keep you informed about some of the important local decisions being made on your behalf, I hope you find it interesting. If you want to contact me on any Council or community matter my details are at the foot of this newsletter. When you have finished with this newsletter please recycle it or pass it to someone else to read.

The latest news from Shirehall.

As your representative I make a point of not only attending Council meetings but also ask questions on your behalf. I've sought answers on a wide range of issues from Councillor allowances to domestic violence; the sale of Council-owned farms and the impact of future cuts to Housing benefit and I'd be happy to ask a question on your behalf, or help you attend the meeting and ask it yourself! In my view democracy works better when those who have power are held to account. Unfortunately in the past few months we have seen some poor decision-making in the Council chamber, with an extra £20M being spent on computers and a refusal to support the campaign to keep A+E services in Shrewsbury and Telford. I will continue to argue the case for Oswestry and oppose cuts in services and I have made it plain that money can, and should, be found from cutting Councillor allowances and saving back office functions.

What a Waste!

The Smithfield site still lies empty and abandoned with little sign that it will be redeveloped soon, meanwhile the £4M or so paid to the Town Council languishes in the bank slowly depleting because the inflation rate is much higher than the interest rate. I am urging that this wind-fall is used to benefit all the town by getting some of the empty shops re-let. Hopefully with Council elections next spring we might start to see some action!



Cardboard recycling coming soon

It's several years since Shropshire told us we could no longer put cardboard with green waste, and finally their contractor Veolia has designed a new scheme which enables us recycle cardboard once again which is brilliant. Under the new service, which is due to start in November, residents will get a new blue bag for paper and plastics, cans and glass will no longer need to be separated.

GREEN PARTY COUNCILLORS WORK FOR YOU ALL YEAR ROUND

Working for you

An excellent campaign by local residents fought off proposals to build these eyesores on the corner of Stewart Road and Salop Road but the site still hasn't been cleared up. I am asking the Planners to pursue the owners and get them to do a proper job and keep the site tidy.



Protecting our NHS



I've been talking about the threat to NHS services for over three years now and although they have spent millions we are still no nearer to knowing what the future holds. I will continue to advocate for the improvement of our Minor Injuries Unit and for the retention of the A+E service in Shrewsbury and Telford. I am heartened that this campaign has been so well supported by the current mayor of Oswestry and thousands of Oswestry people who signed the petition. Let's all keep up the pressure.

Interested in joining Oswestry's Green Team?

The Green Party is working hard to ensure that at the next Council elections in May 2017 everyone in Oswestry will have the chance to vote for a Green Town Councillor and a Green Shropshire Councillor. We have had a marvellous response to our request for residents to stand to become Town Councillors but we still have a few seats to fill. If you are interested in standing then please get in touch with me. The Green Party meets regularly in Oswestry and you will be in good company. To fund our election campaign we have a benefit gig by Robyn Hitchcock in the Morris Hall, Shrewsbury on Friday the 28th of October, tickets are £15 from Outwhere records.

Finally a plea to horse-riders

A couple of people have complained about horse riding on footpaths (not bridleways) in South Oswestry. The main gripe is the "fertiliser" they leave behind. If you know these riders could you ask them to contact me to see if we can work something out, thanks.

6 Ways to Contact Cllr Duncan Kerr

- Come to one of my surgeries on the first Monday of each month from 5pm to 6pm at the Oswestry library.
- Email me on duncan.kerr@shropshire.gov.uk
- Call me on 07522116609.
- Leave a note with Barry at Hermon Chapel Arts Centre
- Contact Member services at Shropshire Council or the offices at the Guildhall Oswestry and ask them to pass a message onto me.
- Write, or call and see me at: Boderwig, Park Ave, Oswestry SY11 1AZ



Green Party
for the common good