

Green View

Porthill Ward summer edition

News and views from Julian Dean, Community Campaigner for Porthill, Frankwell & Kingsland



Julian Dean
your local campaigner

Fighting for a better Shrewsbury

Since my June newsletter I have been busy campaigning to

Defend the NHS Together with many other local people I gathered signatures against the proposed closure of one of Shropshire's A&E departments. We also gave out badges, car stickers and postcards. Later in the month I joined about 30 people to lobby the Town Council who unanimously passed a motion to oppose the downgrading of A&E services in Shrewsbury.

Question Time In July I joined several Green Party members in a lobby of Shropshire Council. We asked questions of leading Tory councillors in order to hold them to account on a range of issues. Anyone can ask a question of

Shropshire's cabinet members so long as you submit it a week before. The next council meeting is on 22nd September. The deadline for questions is 14th September. If you would like help in understanding the process please get in touch with me, or you can look on the web: shropshire.gov.uk/democracy/public-question-time.

Save the Quarry Pool At the end of July Natalie Bennett, leader of the Green Party of England and Wales, visited Shropshire for two days. We introduced Natalie to campaigners to continue our support for Save the Quarry Pool campaign. Over 60% of residents want the Pool to stay, but Shropshire Council leaders want to rebuild it in Sundorne. Campaigners believe this would quickly be proved to be a worse service. Over the next year campaigners are required to look at ways to improve the pool's business case, but surely there is also the simple 'democratic case'?



After Brexit Following the referendum result there has been a worrying rise in hate crime incidents targeting European migrants and other minorities. Supporters of Porthill Greens have witnessed racist abuse in Shrewsbury since the referendum result. Several Green Party members went to a well attended 'Hope Not Hate' meeting where we discussed ways to counter this worrying trend, and in August we set up a stall at the Cultural Diversity musical event in the Square to demonstrate our commitment to neighbourliness.

Green Party leader **Natalie Bennett** addressed a large audience in Frankwell in July on the theme 'After the referendum – what next?' The public meeting in the Guildhall was attended by 130 people representing many shades of opinion and other political parties. Natalie was joined on the platform by Gill George of 'Shropshire Defend Our NHS' and by Green Party councillor Duncan Kerr. Their hard hitting pieces were followed by lively debate.

Earlier in the day Natalie visited Porthill and the Quarry where she met campaigners for saving the pool. She told local media that the town centre pool is good for pool users, is more accessible to more people, helps to create a vibrant town centre, and minimises car use and life shortening pollution. You can watch a video of the news report by searching on the web for 'Shropshire Star Natalie Bennett Quarry swimming pool'. The campaign is at quarrypool.co.uk.



Julian Dean - working for the community of Porthill, Frankwell & Kingsland throughout the year

A&E

When we spoke to people in this area in April the greatest concern was the threat to the RSH's Accident and Emergency service. Campaigning has had an effect: the decision to close has been delayed but health bosses are still planning for one of Shropshire's A&E departments to be downgraded. More worryingly, the cuts are not limited to A&E.

Julian's 60 Second Survey "What's important to you?"



Julian Dean, your **Green Party Campaigner for Porthill**, is doing a survey of residents' views to help us set our priorities for taking action locally. What are **your** views?

1. How worried are you about these issues?

	Very	Slightly	Not at all
Improving public transport.			
Protecting a local A&E department.			
Providing opportunities for young people.			
Protecting our parks and other green spaces.			
Accessibility and safety of cycle lanes and routes.			
Keeping local shops and businesses thriving.			

Rushed decisions on 10 August will harm people who are frail, elderly or with mental health issues, with profound disabilities, and children with cerebral palsy.

The threat to A&E is part of a much bigger package. Local health service bosses are looking to cut £147.5 million each year, at a time when demand is rising due to an ageing and growing population. So as well as stopping the loss of one of the county's A&Es we need to be fighting for more funding across the board. I have designed postcards that we can all send to Daniel Kawczynski MP calling on him to support local health services. Our Town Council has voted to oppose the A&E downgrade and we'd like to see public campaigning from there too. I shall give my active support and will keep you informed.

KEEP 
2xA&E
SHROPSHIRE
& TELFORD

Shropshire Council news update

In July opposition parties supported a motion that would have seen Shropshire Council defending Shrewsbury's accident and emergency provision. Shockingly, the Tory majority voted this down.

At the same meeting the Tory leadership put forward their Strategic Plan for Shropshire. There was not a mention of reducing damaging emissions or protecting biodiversity. After Green Party councillor Duncan Kerr pointed this out an opposition resolution to remedy this was voted down, defeated by the Conservative majority.

In June I explained how Shropshire Council is planning to stop delivering a range of services from libraries to green spaces, and instead want town and parish councils to pick up the work and the bill. This plan has now been delayed until after next



May's elections. Council leaders plan to use money from reserves and from sale of assets such as the 'starter farms' for young aspiring farmers. There are real questions about the Tories' spending priorities. Should Shrewsbury's Guildhall really be provided rent free to the Shrewsbury university project? Will new IT systems at a cost of £25.3 million really deliver improved services? (see Shropshire Star 8 July 2016)

For your calendar!

Porthill Greens 'Save the A&Es' campaign weekend 10-11 September.

Film and talk at the Woodfield Stores annex, Woodfield Road, Monday 3rd October 6.30pm till 8pm. All welcome!

Porthill Greens **stall and A&E petition** Sat 24th September. Please contact us if you're willing to help.

Green Drinks are an informal get together for anyone with a greenish outlook! Next one Tuesday 13th September from 7.30pm in Old Post Office pub, Milk Street (and 2nd Tuesday every month)

You can contact us

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Reducing food waste

June's newsletter mentioned the new Food Hub. Each night Shrewsbury Food Hub workers receive alerts about surplus food from local retailers. Next morning volunteers collect the food and sort and distribute it to organisations that are able to use it. Food Hub volunteers include Clare, a local Porthill Green:



'I've been doing the Rubbish Diet for a few years now and was delighted when the Food Hub was established,' said Clare. 'Not only does it avoid perfectly edible, excess food ending up in landfill, but it helps a huge number of organisations reduce their food bills. I've particularly enjoyed the comments from the school breakfast clubs about trying out so many new foods.'

For more information shrewsburyfoodhub.org.uk.

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