

GREEN VIEW - RADBROOK

INCLUDING RAD VALLEY, MYTTON OAK ROAD AND BOWBROOK MEADOWS

JULIA EVANS & CHRIS LEMON

YOUR OPINIONS MATTER - COMMUNITY SURVEY REPORT

In September and October we spent some time along with our community team speaking to residents about the issues that matter most to you. This was done with a full Covid-19 risk assessment and it was pleasing to be so welcomed by residents.

You told us that the things that matter most to you are **protection of green spaces and local health services**. These are both areas that we have been campaigning hard on over the last 3 years, so it was pleasing to know we're in tune with residents.

Green spaces - we will continue to work to keep our area tidy (see overleaf for our next litter pick) and we can't wait to get our rivers group up and running properly next year. We are also working with residents on the Darwin's Walk development to ensure **that key wildlife habitats are protected** during the next phase of building (article overleaf).

Local health services - with another lockdown in place as we write, we are helping to re-establish **the Radbrook Mutual Aid group**. 60% of you responded that you were concerned about your own health in relation to the pandemic. **If you need support, or are concerned about neighbours, friends or family, please email radbrookmutualaid@gmail.com**

In total we knocked on around a quarter of the houses in our area. If we didn't get to you, we'll be hoping to get to your house once restrictions are lifted and it is once again safe to do so. In the meantime **please feel free to contact us using the details on the next page.**



“AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN”?

As former NHS staff based at RSH we are **strong supporters of the incredible work our emergency services do in the community**. However, having been contacted by a Radbrook resident about increasing numbers of ‘blue light’ vehicles using Longden Road and Bank Farm Road (despite previous guidance that these were not main emergency routes), we wrote to residents in this part of our area to ask for their views and found that most residents share these concerns.



Chris speaking to a resident about increases in blue light use of residential roads

Everyone we spoke to was, like us, strongly supportive of emergency service workers. Without exception though, there was a high level of concern that **with three schools nearby this was an “accident waiting to**

happen” as one resident said. We are following up these concerns with the West Midlands hub team responsible for locating the ambulance depot and will report back in the next newsletter.

NO LET-UP ON CAMPAIGN FOR SAFER STREETS

We continue to hear concerns about **speeding and road safety** in our area and have discussed these concerns with local PCSOs. Whilst road safety teams do monitor speeds, including on Bank Farm Road this year, further monitoring can only take place when resources allow.

In the meantime we will continue to press for **20mph speed limits in all residential areas.**

A BALANCED APPROACH NEEDED FOR NEW HOUSING

We agree with residents we've spoken to that there is a need for more housing in the town and the wider county, but that this needs to be balanced with other priorities. **The three areas of highest concern for us are the types of houses being built, the public services being created for those new residents and the impact of those houses on wildlife.**

As the population of our town and county increases, it's essential that there are houses available and affordable for young people and those on lower salaries. Many developments permitted in Shrewsbury meet only the very minimum levels of affordable housing and, especially in **an area with so many key workers, we think this needs to change.** Additionally, the houses that are being built could and should have much higher environmental credentials than the 'race to the bottom' approach that we have now. We will be campaigning hard for changes on these issues up to and beyond next year's local elections.



Chris inspects the wildlife habitat under threat next to the Darwin's Walk development

The current spread of new housing across Shrewsbury is being permitted in a way that allows developers to get away without providing the services needed to go alongside them such as new schooling (as we showed in our previous articles on the lack of local school places) and health services. We will be lobbying the council to give **preference to more socially and environmentally responsible housing development.**

Finally, we share the concerns of many of our community about the **threat to wildlife habitat** from new housing. We continue to back the Friends of Radbrook Fields group to protect the green space to the north of Mousecroft Lane and we will also be supporting the group of residents on Bluebell Place and Violet Grove to defend the wildlife habitat there from being swallowed by the next tranche of housing in the area. A local residents' group has been set up to protect these ponds and they can be contacted on darwinswalkresidentsgroup@btinternet.com.

SOCIALLY-DISTANCED LITTER PICK ON RADBROOK FIELDS

We'll be out and about looking after our green spaces again on **Sunday 13th December**; this time on Radbrook Fields. The amazing folk on the Friends of Radbrook Fields campaign group have worked so hard to protect this area from development and we're going to give them a helping hand to pick up the litter that's accumulated there over the summer.



Julia and Chris with 2 of the 20 volunteers at the last litter pick

Meet at **10.30am at the Radbrook Community Centre** – all equipment provided. There's a bit of a slope to walk down to the area so please let us know in advance if that's a problem for you.

GET IN TOUCH



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🐦 @shrewsburygreen

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