

News from Rupert Dent & your local Conservative team in

Bampton & Clanfield Ward

including Black Bourton



Championing our beautiful villages

Working hard for our neighbourhood and standing up for our historic villages

Rupert Dent has been District Councillor for the Bampton and Clanfield ward for a relatively short time, but he has been honoured to serve residents in this neighbourhood and would love to continue if he is successful in May at the election.

During his time as a councillor Rupert has really enjoyed working on three Oversight and Scrutiny

Committees and is keen to focus on:

- Reducing illegal sewage release by water companies.
- Reducing fly-tipping by prosecuting perpetrators.
- Ensuring the right homes are built in the right places, with the necessary infrastructure to support them.
- Keeping Council tax as low

as possible, whilst keeping high quality services.

Representing the ward's interests and working with the excellent teams at the District Council, that between them provide our excellent services, Rupert will continue to ensure local matters are prioritised.

He will make himself available to residents if they should have any issues; he would love to hear your views about any issues in Bampton, Clanfield and Black Bourton. His contact details are overleaf, and the contact number of the Conservative office in Witney, if you would like to join our election campaign, is below.



Working as a team with fellow councillor Ted fenton



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Contact your local team by calling: 01993 702302

FREE PARKING AT RISK IN WEST OXFORDSHIRE

The Liberal-led coalition at Oxfordshire County Council are looking to impose parking charges in West Oxfordshire. For years, the Conservative's popular free parking policy has been key to thriving high streets in our market towns.

During the COVID pandemic local businesses have been impacted by a drop in trade. The free parking in West Oxfordshire, thanks to Conservative-led West Oxfordshire District Council, has been an important lifeline, helping to support our High Streets.

The Lib Dem, Labour and Green coalition at County Hall have recently just increased parking charges at some locations in Oxford City. These will rise over 200%.

We should not allow them to remove our important policy and impose their stealth tax of car parking charges on the residents of West Oxfordshire.

Please support our petition calling on the Lib Dem Cabinet Member for Highways and the new Lib Dem Leader of Oxfordshire County Council not to impose any parking charges in West Oxfordshire: www.change.org/p/keep-free-parking-in-west-oxfordshire

Join the campaign today by e-mailing: office@witneyconservatives.com



The Free Parking policy in West Oxfordshire is in place thanks to the Conservative-run West Oxfordshire District Council. It is an important lifeline, helping to support our High Streets



Local Conservatives are active all year round, listening, campaigning and delivering for West Oxfordshire



A strong Conservative team standing up for West Oxfordshire and our unique towns and villages

What's at stake at this election

Voters face increased costs with the Lib Dems, who have shown themselves to be out of touch with West Oxfordshire residents.

The Liberal-Labour-Green coalition at Oxfordshire County Council is increasing your Council Tax this year despite increased funding from central government. Conversely, the Conservative-led District Council in West Oxfordshire is keeping its Council Tax charges as low as possible whilst retaining highly regarded local services and facilities.

Conservative councillors will continue to stand up for our area, ensuring West Oxfordshire is a greener, more pleasant place. Conservative-run West Oxfordshire District Council has pledged to become a carbon-neutral council by 2030 - a historic target which shows that Conservatives in this district are leading the way on climate change.

For lower taxes, high-quality local services, and councillors who listen rather than lecture: Vote Conservative.



Local Conservatives will stand for personal choice.

Action For Clean Rivers

Local Conservative Councillors have supported Witney & West Oxfordshire MP, Robert Courts, in his backing of stronger laws to tackle pollution in our rivers.

The recently-passed Environment Act puts in place more protections against water pollution than ever before, including a new legal duty on water companies to tackle sewage overflows.

The Act also places a new duty directly on water companies to publish near real time information - within one hour - on the operation of storm overflows. This already appears to be bearing fruit, with the Environment Agency recently announcing a major investigation into water companies for alleged illegal sewage spills.

Robert is working closely with local Conservative councillors to hold Thames Water to account locally, highlighting sewage spills and demanding infrastructure upgrades throughout West Oxfordshire. This has achieved success in areas such as Clanfield, with Thames Water recently delivering much-needed repair and upgrade works.

They continue to press for the urgent delivery of the planned expansion of Witney Sewage Treatment Works which will significantly increase capacity at the site to reduce storm overflows.

Conservative councillors will continue to support all efforts - locally and nationally - to reduce sewage pollution and protect the health of our rivers.



Witney's MP and Conservative Councillors are calling on the Lib Dem-run County Council to listen to the concerns of local residents and traders.

Supporting Witney High Street

Independent traders give our High Streets their unique character and are the lifeblood of our local economy. Local Conservatives are standing up for them and supporting a bustling Witney High Street.

Instead of listening to local traders, the new Liberal/Labour/Green coalition in County Hall have ignored their concerns and implemented a permanent ban on motor vehicles in Witney High Street, despite having no long-term plan for Witney's centre.

The County Council's cavalier approach has led to traffic chaos on surrounding roads such as Corn Street and Welch Way, a struggling High Street, and traders reporting a significant downturn in business. After a difficult couple of years due to the pandemic, local Conservatives believe the Liberal-led Council's dismissive attitude to local businesses is unacceptable.

That is why local MP, Robert Courts, has joined with Witney's Conservative District Councillors to call on the Liberal-led County Council to start listening to the concerns of local residents. We need a full and proper consultation so that Witney residents can have our say on the long-term future of our wonderful town and ensure its High Street is a success.



"The erratic, anti-business approach of the Liberal-led County Council is damaging Witney's historic high street, so I'm very happy to see local Conservatives talking practical sense."

Richard Martin, Local Witney High Street trader.



Local Conservative Councillors worked with local MP Robert Courts to deliver upgrades to Clanfield's sewage network - just one example of strong local action to tackle pollution.

Lib Dems fail to deal with Community Concerns

Rather than addressing the concerns of local residents, the Lib Dems and their coalition partners at Oxfordshire County Council have made national headlines by banning meat from Council events.

While residents want action on potholes and local transport improvements, the Liberals running the County Council are more concerned with vilifying local farmers and pushing their own agenda at the expense of personal choice.



up for our farmers and defend



Rupert Dent and Cllr Ted Fenton supporting Bampton Community speedwatch, helping to keep road users and pedestrians safe

Helping local speedwatch initiative

Bampton Community Speedwatch was set up in September 2021 to raise awareness of the issues around speeding in the village of Bampton and it is supported by Thames Valley Police.

Rupert Dent has been very happy to help the local speedwatch group by volunteering his time.

It has been reported that on seeing volunteers drivers tend to slow down, which in itself helps to keep everyone safe on the road.

Generally the group has been welcomed by locals and has the support of many drivers. Reducing speeding is important because: hitting a child at 40mph results in a 90% chance of death. At 35mph it is 50%, 30mph 20% - but at 20mph just 2.5%.

Working together Rupert and Ted will report roads for repair, help reduce speeding and make roads safer for all.

Provision of new litter bins

Rupert Dent has worked with West Oxfordshire District Council in reviewing its provision of litter bins across the district to make it much easier for residents and visitors to dispose of their rubbish responsibly, helping to keep communities litter free.

At the same time, the Council is investing in new litter bins so that older bins, which are reaching the end of their useful life, can be swapped out for bins that are easier to empty and more visually pleasing to help keep our villages looking their best.

- Where an existing litterbin is next to a dog waste bin, the dog waste bin may be removed as bagged dog waste is now accepted in with the general litter.

- Where two bins are close to each other and where usage is low, one of the bins may be moved to another location where there is evidence of litter and where there is no bin.

- Residents will start to see a phasing out of separate litter and dog waste bins. These will be replaced by a brand new single bin, which asks people to put litter and dog waste into the bin. Over a hundred of the new style bins are already in use in the district and proving popular.

Currently, the Council manages and empties over 1,200 litter and dog waste bins. The programme to check the condition of all existing bins is ongoing and it is important to make sure they are located where they will provide most benefit. Also, litter bins will be put in new locations as needed.

our plan

for West Oxfordshire



Local Conservative Team in Bampton

1 THE RIGHT HOMES IN THE RIGHT PLACES

We will work with local parishes and communities to ensure that local people can live in the areas that they grew up in and help protect our villages from large speculative developments.

2 KEEPING FREE PARKING

The new Liberal Democrat, Labour and Green coalition at the Oxfordshire County Council are looking to introduce parking charges across the district. Conservatives will fight to keep FREE parking.

3 CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2030

We will push forward with plans to convert to renewable energy. This will include switching from gas boilers and installing solar panels on council properties. Continue to install charging points in our car parks.

4 BUILDING BACK BETTER AFTER COVID

Continue to invest and support our communities and local businesses, so that they can carry on their recovery after the pandemic. The LoyalFree app introduced by the District Council has helped.

5 BETTER LOCAL SERVICES

Keeping Council Tax as low as possible whilst still working to improve services like our bin collections and maintaining our quality facilities across the district.

6 DEFENDING OUR WATERWAYS

We are keeping up pressure on water companies to stop dumping sewage in rivers. We are also working to cut the effects of flooding. This will include building better drainage systems and providing free sand bags when needed.