

Witham South Ward

Witham Town Council By-election Special

October 2010

WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL By-election

Thursday 21st October

Please vote for Joyce Wells, your Green Party candidate

There will be a by-election to fill a vacancy on Witham Town Council on **Thursday October 21st**. Polling stations will be open from 7am until 10pm at The Community Centre, Dengie Close and at the Sports Pavilion, Spinks Lane.

Your local Green Party candidate is Joyce Wells. Joyce has lived in Witham South Ward for many years. She is a nurse working in the NHS. Joyce is keen to get more involved in community issues and help residents.

Joyce said

"We must ensure that Witham does not become over-developed and that new homes are built on brownfield land as much as possible. Witham cannot keep expanding into the countryside year after year. I would particularly like to see new buildings in Witham to be constructed well using green technology, solar panels, plumbing systems to reuse water, etc. We have the technology, we must strive to use it!"

If elected, Joyce will join the existing 3 Green Witham Town Councillors, making an even stronger group working for local residents, protecting the environment and improving community facilities in Witham. The Greens support keeping community halls open, maintaining the River Walk as a green corridor for the town and investing in new cycleways and safer footways.

Green Councillors lead the battle against Conservative-backed massive development plans for Witham

For many years, Green Party Town and District Councillors in the Witham Area have warned of the consequences of over-development of Witham and have worked with local residents to oppose excessive development plans.

On 14th September, a proposal from Green District Councillors, led by James Abbott, was approved by Witham Local Committee at a meeting at the Public Hall – calling for a reduction in the huge numbers of houses planned for Witham by Conservative-led Braintree District Council. Many residents of Witham South Ward were at the meeting.

However, despite hundreds of objections to the 'Growth Locations' of 300 houses north of Witham and the 600 houses at Lodge Farm, a small group of Conservative councillors at BDC have continued to force the development proposals through each level of the Council, totally ignoring the clearly stated views of local people. There seems to be an increasing attitude of 'Braintree Knows Best'.

One Conservative Councillor even tried to claim that local objections at the Witham Committee were "premature" despite the fact that a major decision was due to be taken by BDC's LDF Panel

the following week to go ahead with the 900 extra houses !

And at the LDF Panel meeting on 22nd September, both of the Labour councillors voted with the Conservatives to once again push through the Growth Locations.

If elected to Witham Town Council, Joyce will work with fellow Greens to stand up for the interests of Witham. The town has already taken thousands of extra houses over recent years. Almost all the land up to the A12 has been built on, and the additional new proposals would see development marching towards Rivenhall and Hatfield Peverel.

As far back as the 1980s, the Greens were warning of the traffic problems that the Maltings Lane development would cause and the need to make the development smaller, but more sustainable. But what happened ? The houses were crammed in, there are hardly any community facilities and the developers got consent for even more houses – over 1,000 in total.

More recently, residents from the Constance Close area have had to battle against houses being crammed in at high density on open land near them.

This overdevelopment of Witham has to stop !

Green Town and District Councillors support providing appropriate numbers of homes, especially affordable housing for local people. This can be done using brownfield land. New houses should be fitted with the most up-to-date green technology, such as solar panels and rainwater recycling. Land should be provided for growing food. Homes must have decent gardens for families – not sub-standard yard spaces.

Good News - Recycling continues to rise

Thanks to the continued support of local residents, household recycling in Braintree District has recently reached 55%. This is good news, and vindicates the campaign Green Councillors have been supporting for many years. Recycling saves energy and resources. And it helps to avoid having to bury or burn waste – the prospect of a major incinerator at nearby Rivenhall Airfield still looms large over this area – a plant that would burn up to 1,000 tonnes of waste a day and would lower local air quality. It could draw in hundreds of 40 tonne HGVs from a wide catchment every day, and that could include waste trucks coming through Witham.

Green Councillors have led the campaign against a major waste incinerator in this area and have helped to hold it off – since the 1990s.

To contact the Greens, please telephone 01376 584576

For more news on what your local Green Councillors are doing to help local communities, please visit

www.witham-braintree.greenparty.org.uk

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