

Jan Gavin

Standing up for Redlands Ward



A personal message from Jan:

"I was really honoured to be selected to stand for **Labour** in Redlands Ward at this year's Local Elections, which are now only a few days away. I have lived in Reading since 1978 and am totally committed to the town and all its communities.

I have met so many wonderful and interesting people in Redlands over the last 7 months and have worked hard to keep you informed about what is going on in the Council which will affect you. Whether I Win or lose on May 5 is now up to you.

Here are just some of the issues I have been working on in the last 7 months."



Jan investigating roads in Redlands too narrow for emergency vehicles to get through.

Pavement Parking – Fines for All

Last autumn the Lib Dems and Tories planned to introduce a scheme without consultation across the whole town 'early in the New Year', which would see fines of up to £60 for anyone caught with wheels on the pavement. I wrote to the local papers, used Freedom of Information requests to find out which roads would be exempt and asked questions at Council. Under sustained pressure from Labour they revised the scheme and have promised that they will consult this summer. We agree that pavements are for people and that selfish drivers should be fined, but many streets in Redlands are just too narrow for emergency vehicles to access without some cars parked partially on the pavements. **Labour will not go ahead with this scheme.**



Campaigning with parents for safer road crossings

Safe Walking Routes to School

Parents and Governors at Redlands School are very concerned about the dangerous road crossings on the walking routes to school. We asked parents to give us actual examples of 'near misses' and were shocked by how many reported dangerous driving.

We appreciate that budgets are tight but felt that something must be done, so we invited Cllr Willis the Tory Lead for Transport to come to the school and meet with parents and governors to talk about what solutions we could put in place. **Cllr Willis refused our invitation** and even suggested that the culprit drivers are in fact parents who are taking children to school. This is not an acceptable way to treat worried parents. **If elected I promise to work hard to find a solution to this issue.**

Back to Black Bags



Jan fears we will see more of this if we go back to rubbish collection in black sacks.

The Lib Dem/Tory coalition agreement promised that they would re-introduce weekly household waste collection. What they did not tell people was that this means going back to using black sacks.

When I spotted the proposal was going to be discussed at a council meeting recently I wrote to the residents in all the streets in Redlands that had been chosen for the weekly sack collection scheme to tell them this was happening and to seek their views on the idea. The response I got was overwhelmingly against the idea of returning to sacks. People are concerned that unprotected sacks will attract rats, be ripped apart by foxes and cats and are unsightly and squalid. Many were concerned about how many bags they would be allowed and how the elderly or disabled would manage to carry bags through the house each week.

Redlands Lib Dem Daisy Benson is reported in the Evening Post as having said “this scheme would offer a better service to residents”. That is certainly not what most people have told me. We are promised that residents will be consulted before the scheme is introduced and that a majority will have to be in favour. **Make sure you get your views known.**

Extension of Parking Meters into Redlands



The Lib Dem/Tory Budget and the Local Transport Plan both included the proposal to raise £1/2m from extending unpopular Parking Meters from the town centre into the University/Hospital area of Redlands in 2011. The report which outlines this proposal made no mention of further public consultation. Labour Councillors tried unsuccessfully to find out which streets would be affected.

I wrote to residents in the defined area warning them of the 2011 budget plan. Since doing so, the Lead Councillor for Transport has categorically denied that there are any such plans for streets in Redlands. This welcome U-turn begs the question why was it in the budget plan and how are they going to now raise the additional £1/2m which is already committed elsewhere? **Labour have no plans to extend the Parking Meters at present.**

Reasons to vote Jan Gavin in Redlands Ward on May 5

I will:

- ✓ **CONSULT** with you about the issues you care about in Redlands
- ✓ **BE ON YOUR SIDE** and a community champion
- ✓ **SPEAK-UP** for the people of Redlands at the Council
- ✓ **REPORT BACK** to you on my work as your local councillor

Vote Labour May 5