

# Chase Matters

News Covering Malvern Wells and Malvern Chase- Winter 2009



## Joe Smith Selected for Malvern Chase

**Conservative Association members in the two wards which make up the Chase Division were unanimous in selecting Joe Smith as their candidate for the County Council election.** Joe was elected to Malvern Hills District Council at the age of eighteen – an early introduction to public life, but one which he is relishing.

As one of the Malvern Hills District councillors representing the Chase Ward, Joe was appointed to the Brook Farm Drive Association, which, tasked with the management of the Octagon, already provides a venue for a youth club and has established a young mothers' play group. Joe is convinced that the Octagon can become the hub of a thriving community and is working with the Association to achieve that objective.



Joe Smith believes the Octagon can become a thriving community hub

It was excellent that, as the youngest member of the District Council, Joe was appointed as Champion of Children and Young People. One of the main reasons that he got into politics, he says, was to represent the needs of youth in Malvern. As a Malvern Hills District councillor he has made contact with schools and youth organisations and has developed a major interest in education.

“When elected to the County Council I intend to be much more closely involved with development of schools in the district to ensure that the County provides the optimum facilities for the education of our County’s children.”



Jill Campbell & Chris Cheeseman

## The Wells: Roads & Pavements

**MHDC Councillors Jill Campbell and Chris Cheeseman have been active in liaison with the County Council Highways Department to bring forward improvements.** Their intervention has helped improvements to be made in the area, reducing the risks of surface water on the Wells Road. They have also secured the resurfacing of dangerously worn pavement between the primary school and the Abbey International College and will continue to press for improvements to pavements beside Malvern Common.

# Facilities for Malvern's Younger People - TG's

**TG's is a charity which has been set up in memory of Tim Greenwood, a Chase School student, who felt very strongly about the need to provide facilities for young people in Malvern. As a former Chase pupil and as a District Councillor Joe Smith has been keen to support this idea.**



[Hannah & Joe looking over the site](#)

Joe has chaired a committee set up to look into what activities are available in the district for those aged between 13 and 17 years. One of the main recommendations of this committee was to support the TG's bid to obtain land off Townsend Way so that the charity can apply for lottery funding to build a complex which will include an indoor skate park, café and recreation rooms.

Hannah Campbell, who is Chair of West Worcestershire Conservative Future and Co-chair of the TG's Youth Action Committee says "Having the support of the district council is vital for us; without councillors' support we would be unable to gain lottery funding"

## Did You Know?

Worcestershire County Council is responsible for 71% of the Council Tax you pay. For 2008-09 the Conservative led council's budget requirement, however, is the fourth lowest tax rate of comparable Counties.

Joe says "I am training to qualify as a Management Accountant; I am acutely aware of the cost of local government and its effect on local tax payers. I shall always work for the best public services at the lowest possible cost. We never forget that it's your money we are spending."

## The Wells - Planning

**Local residents have been greatly concerned at the overdevelopment of the Old Station Yard site in Malvern Wells, which had been identified for housing in the local development plan.** The initial proposals were for an estate of 42 houses which involved major problems of drainage and road safety as well as damaging the appearance of the whole landscape.

Your Conservative District Councillors have fully supported local objections to the development and revised plans for an excessive twenty house development have now been rejected. Your councillors will continue to oppose overdevelopment while supporting and encouraging sensible schemes.



## The Post Office Debacle

**District Councillors from both wards have worked indefatigably, but in vain, to prevent the closure of post offices which are regarded as key elements of community life in Chase and Wells.**

Having organised public meetings and taken part in activities throughout the so-called consultation period, the District Councillors are bitterly disappointed with the outcome.

The closure of the Poolbrook Post Office denies an essential service to hundreds of local residents. Reviewing the situation Councillor Richard Simmonds said – “Despite the response of so many people the decision to close has been taken so that we are losing something which is vital to the community. It is clear that neither Post Office Limited nor the Government were ever listening to the people.”

The Post Office at Upper Welland has been reduced to a three hour a week outreach service, described by Chris Cheeseman as “a derisory, almost contemptuous, sop to public concern.” The cuts that have been made have so little effect in reducing the losses made by Post Office Limited that one must ask how long it will be before this Government permits even more closures.

## Refuse Collection

In 2009 all Malvern Hills residents will have the opportunity to state their preferred form of refuse collection. On this vital issue the Conservative Councillors have been adamant that you have your say. The options available are to continue with refuse sack collection or to move to a wheeled bin service, have your say and make a difference.

### Schools in the Wells

Malvern Wells boasts two excellent Church of England primary schools, both of which are fully subscribed. Congratulations are due to the Wyche Primary, which came top of the Worcestershire Primaries this year. Recently both schools have had expenditure for building improvements approved by the County Council.



Harriett Baldwin, Joe Smith & Richard Simmonds listening to the public's view on Post Office closures

### Nature Reserve

The nature reserve has seen several improvements during the course of 2008, including fencing and the introduction of Dexter cattle to graze in the open fields area. The reserve is maintained by the County Council's Worcestershire Countryside department.

# Tell us what you think...

**At present the Chase Division has no Conservative County Councillor.**

**Until Joe is elected bring your questions or problems to your District Councillors:-**

Jill Campbell, Chris Cheeseman, Richard Cook, Richard Simmonds & Joe Smith.

They can be contacted on 01684 5734369, office@wwca.org.uk or at the address listed below.

**Would you like to know more about the Conservatives in Malvern?**

Yes       No

**Would you like to help us to campaign on local issues?**

Yes       No

**How often do you want your refuse collected?**

Weekly       Fortnightly

**Are there any issues you would like to raise with Joe Smith?**

**I am interested in helping my local Conservatives by...**

Joining      Delivering a few leaflets      Displaying a poster  
Registering to vote by post

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone\* \_\_\_\_\_

Email\* \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to: WEST WORCESTERSHIRE CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION,  
FREEPOST NATW1204, MALVERN LINK, WR14 1BR**

Data protection Act: The information you supply us will be treated with the strictest confidence in accordance with the Data Protection Act. From time to time we may contact you with future details on Party Policy, special members' offers etc.

\*By giving us your email/telephone number you are agreeing to receive communications from us in this way.