

# BICESTER VOICE

About the Community we live in!

Spring 2015

## Health Services in Bicester

The original Cottage Hospital was built at Kings End in 1908 and then extended in 1928 when Bicester's population was 3000. By the 1970s the hospital served 12250 people, with both in-patient and day care facilities. Today, to serve over 30000 people, (with another at least 25000 more to come in the next 15 years) our new Community Hospital has just 12 beds!

So is the new hospital big enough? We don't think so. The original scheme in 2001 suggested 30 beds and that was before the town was earmarked for rapid expansion. Other towns have bigger facilities e.g. Abingdon (42 beds), Chipping Norton (14 beds), Wallingford (27) beds and Witney (65 beds) - yet we are undergoing the biggest expansion.

A town our size needs at least 30 beds together with more facilities — Outpatient Clinics, EMU, MIU, FAU, X-ray Diagnosis, for example. And what about a maternity unit? We had one in the 1950s!



Bicester Community Hospital

### Town Councillors Allowances!

Did you know that Bicester Town Council is one of very few Town or Parish Councils in the country to pay attendance allowances to councillors? Your local Labour candidates think that this is ridiculous at a time of austerity. **If elected Labour Town Councillors will insist their allowances are either ploughed back into local services or donated to a local charity!**

### In this Issue

- Health Services
- Howes Lane
- Young people
- Town Councillors Allowances



*"When I was a baby, I had a serious medical condition and without the NHS I would not be alive today. Every family has such a story.*

*I will defend the NHS from those feathering their nests at patients' expense. No more breaking up. No more competition. No more 'market place.' Labour will join up social care with our NHS, building effectiveness and ending injustice."*

Sean Woodcock

Labour Parliamentary Candidate  
and Leader of Labour Group on  
Cherwell DC



# Nightmare on Howes Lane?

Albion Land have re-applied for planning permission for industrial use at the junction of Howes Lane and Middleton Road. Plans include a 24/7 warehousing and distribution centre which means, **day and night**

- 3 storey high warehouses
- Light and air pollution
- Vibration and noise
- Articulated lorries on our roads

**And what about this lot parking on the new Eco-town 'Boulevard' or even Middleton Road waiting to enter the industrial estate?** The western ring road won't be completed! Instead, it will route through the Eco-town at 30mph. Not great news for the eco-town, let alone residents in Bicester West. We know traffic congestion is bad now and as plans stand it will get worse. Here are some questions to ask

- Why is the ring road not being completed properly? It needs to be a 40-50mph ring.
- Where will the traffic go — Bucknell Road?, Middleton Road? Shakespeare Drive?

**Finish the ring road now! If you agree, sign our petition on-line at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/howeslane>**



## He's Asking Us For More!



In the last edition of Bicester Voice, we noted the lack of interest local councillors have shown in the issue of the scarcity of leisure provision for Bicester's Youth. In March, 6<sup>th</sup> Form students at Bicester Community College held a "Question Time" event where they quizzed party candidates for the forthcoming General Election. A clear message emerged: **young people feel (like many adults) that, except at election time, politicians don't engage with them. This mirrors Councillors attitude that if you don't look at a problem, then it does not exist!** And anyway, local volunteers will solve it for free!! We do not accept local councillors' view that "**Bicester Youth Council closed because it lost its way**" or that there is "**a plethora of ways that young people can get their views across**". **We in the Bicester Labour Party believe our young people deserve better!!** Our candidates at the May election are making 3 pledges:

- 1. We will contact Bicester's youth organisations and, if invited, visit them to find out what they need. We will Watch, Listen, Learn and Support.**
- 2. We will campaign to reinstate Bicester Youth Council as a Forum for all Bicester's Youth organisations.**
- 3. The Council still holds monies from the Bicester Youth Council, currently doing nothing. We will campaign to use the monies either for a reformed Bicester Youth Council or to start a fund for youth development, to which appropriate organisations can apply for a grant.**

### Your local Labour Candidate

**Sylvia Howells,  
Cherwell District Council  
Bicester Town Council**

*"I will campaign for better local services for all ages and for Bicester to be developed sensibly with infrastructure which benefits all residents."*



Bicester Labour Party is actively campaigning on issues raised in this newsletter. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved, become a Registered Supporter (it's free!) or a full Labour Party member. You can get information on our constituency website <http://banburylabour.org> or by contacting Branch Secretary Steve Sargeant, 33 Overstand Close, Bicester OX26 4YP, Tel 07838373063, email [sargie56@hotmail.com](mailto:sargie56@hotmail.com)