

# FOCUS

From your **Liberal Democrat team**  
[www.boalibdems.org.uk](http://www.boalibdems.org.uk)

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## Will Bath's Clean Air Zone bring more traffic to our area?



Helen Belcher and Sarah Gibson campaigning on Clean Air Day

Bath and North East Somerset Council (BANES) published plans for a Clean Air Charging Zone on October 16th, involving a charge on higher emission vehicles in Bath city centre. However, the plan could bring more traffic into Bradford on Avon and surrounding villages. "I fully support tackling the issue of pollution in city centres," says Cllr Sarah Gibson, "but it mustn't simply shift the problem elsewhere."

Cllr Gibson, with Winsley and Westwood Councillor, Johnny Kidney, will be meeting BANES this month to raise concerns about the effect on villages such as Winsley.

Sarah says, "The plan is now out for consultation. I expect Wiltshire Council to be expressing concerns, and residents may wish to do so too."

Go to [www.bathnes.gov.uk/bath-breathes-2021-overview](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/bath-breathes-2021-overview) to have your say.

For a statement on the wider traffic issues affecting Bradford see [www.boalibdems.org.uk](http://www.boalibdems.org.uk)

## CATG spending

In the last financial year, the Community Area Transport Group (CATG) contributed £1,548 to Limpley Stoke Parish Council for 20mph speed limit amendments, £825 to Winsley Parish Council for the topographical survey at Winsley Hill canal bridge, £1,701 to Winsley Parish Council for the Dane Rise/ Hartley Farm ladder markings and £430 to Winsley Parish Council for the rugby club hardstanding. These proposals are proposed by, and match funded by, the Parish councils.

Note: Our apologies for the confusion caused by errors in the April Focus which suggested the CATG had funded the drop kerb at Dane Rise and the road markings on the Winsley by-pass; in fact funded by Winsley Parish Council and Wiltshire Council respectively.

## Men's Shed

The Dementia Awareness Alliance (DAA) for the Bradford on Avon Area, including the villages, hopes to set up a Men's Shed in Bradford on Avon. DAA Chair, Cllr Jennie Parker, says: "A men's shed is somewhere for men to gather to chat, to make things, to organise trips and activities - a bit like a WI for men. The DAA support the project because it could be a place where men with dementia could meet."

Ideas to contribute? Do let Jennie know.  
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# Wiltshire Lib Dems warn that the Council is heading for a financial crisis

## Helen Belcher

**By the time you read this, it's entirely possible that the Conservatives will have agreed a Withdrawal Agreement from the EU, and it's entirely possible that they won't.**

Liberal Democrats believe that international co-operation is the best way forwards, for world peace as well as prosperity.

In 2017, Liberal Democrats, including myself, sought election asking for a People's Vote on withdrawing from the EU once we knew what would be on offer. It wasn't that popular a stance then. It is now – with around half the population wanting a vote. Proof that the "will of the people" is not a static thing.

I want an  
**EXIT**  
from  
**BREXIT**

It's easy to see why. Hardly anyone thinks the Conservatives have done a good job with

Brexit negotiations. The risks of leaving without a deal are becoming increasingly clear. Jobs are at risk; investment is avoiding the UK; EU staff are leaving our public services. Wiltshire is not immune.

Most people think carefully about major decisions in life, and think again. We have not left the EU yet. It is not too late to join the campaign to Exit from Brexit.

**Helen Belcher,**  
*prospective parliamentary candidate*

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Tory-led Wiltshire Council is facing a financial crisis because of cuts forced on it by Conservative central government, some of which it can't deliver. Wiltshire has sought £26 million of cuts this year to address a budget shortfall caused by reduced government funding and the local Conservatives' decision to freeze council tax between 2010 and 2016.

In September councillors were told that the council has only managed £15.6m of planned cuts. This includes cuts to social care of £5.6 million. Fortunately for those affected, the council has failed to implement planned cuts to services such as those caring for people with learning

disabilities, mental health, family and children's services. The 20-strong Lib Dem group on Wiltshire Council warns of a 'black hole' in the finances, and that next year services may be hit even harder.

Lib Dem prospective parliamentary candidate, Helen Belcher, said: *"Theresa May told the Conservative party conference that austerity is over. Not for the people of Wiltshire it isn't. Not for the old, the cared-for, the carers, the disabled, the children in need and people with mental illness. Gradual increases in council tax over the years could have maintained high quality services for all, instead of chaos and cuts."*



*Helen Belcher on the recent People's Vote March*

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