



# Cricket Hill traffic chaos!

Local Lib Dem Councillors have met South East Water and Hampshire Highways to try to avert chaos due to a planned closure of Reading Road.

South East Water planned to close the road from the roundabout by Frogmore College to Frogmore Road for 4 to 5 months in February for a new water main.

The councillors, including **David Simpson**, raised many of the concerns and suggestions made by residents about how to minimise the impact including:

- Can it be laid across the Common instead?
- Can rush-hour traffic be allowed through one way in the morning and the other in the evening?
- Can they shorten how long it will take and work over the summer holidays when traffic is less?
- Making sure everyone is told what is happening.
- What can be done to help traffic get through more efficiently on **Cricket Hill** and **Rosemary Lane**?
- What can be done to help **Handford Lane** and **Vigo Lane** traffic get out onto **Cricket Hill**?
- Access by the emergency services



• If Reading Road is closed for five months, Cricket Hill and Rosemary Lane will be gridlocked. "They're bad enough at the moment!" says Hart Lib Dem

Yateley Common Management Committee has also suggested another route which would avoid most of the closure without damaging the Common.

South East Water agreed to look again at their plans. The works will **NOT** now go ahead until the issues have been carefully reconsidered.

# Partial victory on bus passes

Hampshire Tories have decided to make cuts to travel tokens and bus passes despite opposition.

Travel tokens for people with disabilities will be cut from £55 a year to just £32 from April 1st.

The Tories also wanted to stop pensioners' bus passes being used before 9.30 am. This would be unfair if you need to leave early for a health appointment or to visit relatives.

The good news is that our pressure has resulted in a partial climb-down as the start time will now be 9 am.

**Cllr Dave Neighbour** (right) said: "The free bus pass has been a great success, getting people to use half-empty buses, helping people keep active by getting out and about more and taking cars off our roads.

"It's surprising that the Conservatives were so keen to make life harder for people."





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## Local News

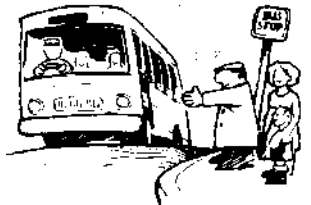


### Changes to Fleet Buzz

From 11th April there will be changes to Buzz services 71 and 82.

The 71 will still run early morning buses to Fleet and evening buses back from 4.15 onwards, but there will be no longer be any services in between.

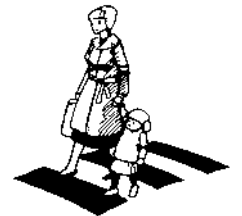
However, the hourly no. 82 to Farnborough will now carry on to Fleet, so it will still be possible to get to Fleet during the day, although it will take longer. The 82 will still go to Reading in the other direction.



### New crossing needed outside Waitrose

Local Lib Dem councillors are pressing for a proper crossing on the road outside Waitrose.

Local residents have complained that it is not easy to get across the road safely with the speed of the traffic. Hampshire Highways have agreed to see what can be done. We will let you know what they say in due course!



### Frensham Close footpaths to be resurfaced

It is generally agreed that many of the footpaths around Yateley are in a pretty poor state.

The problem is that the County Council budget for footpath repairs has been nowhere near enough for many years. The Tories would rather spend £40m on their plush new offices in Winchester!

Local County Councillor **David Simpson** has now persuaded the County Council to resurface the footpaths in **Frensham Close**, off **Robins Grove Crescent**. This will be done some time in the next 12 months.



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