



intouch

DEANSHANGER . PUXLEY . WICKEN

YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATIVE COUNCILLOR: ALLEN WALKER

On 5th May this year Local Elections were scheduled to take place in Deanshanger, which is a 2 seat Ward. However only two candidates stood and hence both were elected by default without the need for an election to take place. Therefore *Intouch* would like to bring you an introduction to your Local Conservative County and District Councillor, Allen Walker.



Allen with local MP Andrea Leadsom

Allen Walker was born and bred in Peckham, South London. He worked for Royal Mail for 38 years, taking early retirement, as a senior manager in 2001. This has allowed him more time to concentrate on local politics.

Allen has lived with his wife Ann in Deanshanger since 1988. They have one grown

up son and two grown up daughters, with four grandchildren and now two great grandchildren. Allen enjoys spending time with his family and friends, socialising, having a pint at the pub and playing golf.

Allen has been your District Councillor since 2003 and County Councillor since 1997. He is now Chair of the Finance & Resources Scrutiny Committee at South Northants Council (SNC), dealing with the financial aspects of the district and ensuring a balanced budget is attained and the taxpayer gets value for money. Also he is Scrutiny Champion at NCC.

Allen's main interests as a Councillor are protecting the Environment, Education and Community involvement. He has repeatedly objected to all major developments around Deanshanger and as former Chair of Governors at Kingsbrook,

insisted on raising education standards within the school community. He has consistently supported the smaller organisations in Deanshanger through his 'Empowering Councillor' money as the County Councillor.

Allen's track record over the years supporting the people of Deanshanger, Puxley and Wicken has been exceptional, as well as putting Deanshanger on the map for major funding projects.

ALLEN WALKER working for:

- ✓ More affordable houses within the ward.
- ✓ Better Communication with Local Authorities.
- ✓ Less anti-social behaviour within the ward.
- ✓ More opportunities for younger people.
- ✓ Better public transport between the major towns.
- ✓ Ensure that elderly issues are listened to.
- ✓ Protecting the vulnerable locally.
- ✓ Enhancing our Library service.

Feel free to get in touch

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BUSES & LIBRARIES



The number 89 Stagecoach bus service is now fully commercialised and as such now goes backwards and forwards to Northampton via Deanshanger and Stony Stratford. This you will agree is an actual improvement.

The new 90 Centrebus is wholly subsidised by Northamptonshire County

Council (NCC) and as such will maintain a reduced service until 2014 through Yardley Gobion, Potterspury and Cosgrove, and Wicken to some degree (although Wicken now has a new dial a bus service).

The Library still provides a major service in Deanshanger and recently has benefitted from some funding through Allen's NCC 'Empowering Councillor' money, which went towards some advertising and free computer lessons for local parishioners.

"Remember if you don't use it you could lose it!"

KINGSBROOK SCHOOL

Allen had to step down as Chair of Governors at Kingsbrook School due to the closeness of his work as an NCC Councillor and the merger with Roade School which made it untenable for Allen to speak on behalf of the community on this subject and represent Kingsbrook School Governors to the LEA whilst this was going through. Allen resigned at a time when he felt he had moved the school into a very good position and he fully supports the merger and the teachers and staff in their future endeavours to increase the attainment levels of our young people that will continue to go to the school.

STREET LIGHTS

Street light have been a major talking point recently; "are they going to be on or switched off"? Allen is pleased to inform you that Deanshanger will not see a reduction as yet in street lighting, since through your precept to the Parish Council, Deanshanger owns its own street lights!

PLANNING

Allen is clear that he does not want to see housing on the 'Green Belt' land in this area, and indeed this resolution has formed a major strand of Allen's manifesto as your Conservative Councillor since he was elected in 1997.

'People Power' saw the *The Beeches* overturned and nearly got *Stratford Road* overturned also. The Planning Inspector gave clear guidelines on building in Deanshanger in future for this development to succeed. Therefore *Puxley Road* and any further large developments, Allen will further object to on sound planning grounds.

Currently Allen is trying to get the village confine reinstated back into the Core Strategy for planning purposes at South Northants Council (SNC), after it was taken away in 2001.

COUNCIL TAX

You will be pleased to learn that your NCC and SNC Council Tax will not be increased for at least the next two years! Savings to both Authorities had to be made. At SNC it was something in the order of £1 million which was achieved through prudent previously accrued savings as well as the sharing of senior management with Cherwell Council. Allen is the Chair of the Finance and Communities Committee at SNC as well as sitting on the Budget Working Group that scrutinises the Finances.

NCC this year had to make £73 million of savings! If you go to the NCC website, you will see precisely where the cuts have had to be made. Allen is the Scrutiny Champion at NCC and has to oversee the 4 committees that scrutinise the workings at NCC. As wide a consultation as possible took place to ensure only the right frontline services would be affected. Most of the savings will be made in back-office staff and more efficient ways of working.

POT HOLES

Allen is aware that pot holes are of major concern locally. To report them ring Street Doctor on 0845 601 1113. We are pleased to report however that the High Street in Deanshanger has recently been resurfaced to a high standard.