



Conservatives

intouch with Towcester February 2011

www.southnorthantsconservatives.com

Your Local District Council freezes Council Tax

Over the last four years your District Councillors have worked hard to make South Northants Council more efficient, improve the services it provides for you and keep the Council debt free.

Keeping the Council debt free means you don't have to pay towards loan repayments, which means there's more money available for services than would otherwise have been the case.

It was obvious in 2009 that the National Debt crisis was so severe, and interest on investments so low, that we needed to find even more drastic ways of reducing spending, whilst retaining high quality services.

A year ago, as soon as the 2009 - 10 budget had been set, your District Councillors instructed South Northants Officers to 'think the unthinkable'. This process has been running for the last year and has resulted in our being able to set a budget which is not only debt free again for 2011 - 12 and future years, but does not require an increase in the South Northants part of the Council Tax this year.

The main ways we have achieved this is by not filling vacant posts combined with voluntary redundancies and, by beginning to share senior management with Cherwell District Council. The new Chief Executive should start their job by June.

Thank you to all of you who answered our survey -

In our last Newsletter we asked you for your views on the two Pharmacies in Towcester, here are your responses:

51% of those of you who replied considered that the Watling Street branch was 'Good' compared with 23% who considered the Swinneyford Road branch was 'Good'. At the same time 1% found Watling Street 'Poor' as opposed to 41% for Swinneyford Road. The rest either did not visit or felt they were 'Tolerable'.

A 'Good point' for both shops was their location - either in the town centre or close to the doctors.

On the whole people who used Watling Street found the staff friendly, helpful, polite and were given good advice. They were also pleased about the number of non medical items on sale at Watling Street. There were, however, several who had had problems with the prescription service, one who didn't like the music playing and one who was unhappy at having their name and address read out so that others could hear it.

Whilst those who used Swinneyford Road often complained about the long wait and felt the staff were not helpful, there were others who found them helpful and friendly. Again there were those who had problems with the prescription service. The main concerns at Swinneyford Road were that the shop was far too small, there was too little parking and the shop did not sell non medical items.

The Patients Forum is aware of these problems and has been working with Lloyds and the Health Centre to have the area under the canopy glassed in and a bench provided. It is also hoping to get a system of tickets, as in a supermarket, so that customers know when it is their turn and have an idea of how long they need to wait.

If the Ambulance station moves at some stage, it may then be possible to improve the parking situation. The staff at the pharmacies have also worked hard to improve the systems regarding the prescription service.

Contact details for
your District Councillors



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Caring and campaigning for our community





Census - why it matters!

Want to have your say on the future of our schools, hospitals and emergency services?

Then you must complete the Census 2011 form. It's a legal requirement, but the key thing is the information you give helps central government work out what money to hand out to local authorities for services they provide.

What you fill in is confidential - it's a snapshot of our time.

So **don't forget - Census Day, March 27th**

The best way to complete your form is online at www.census.gov.uk.



SNC gets it right - says Sunday Times

Councils that are setting a good example

Hull City (Lib Dem)
It cut pay for the post of chief executive by 20%, and reduced the number of senior managers by 31% — long before the spending cuts

Trafford (Con)
Trafford has the leanest management in Greater Manchester. It is to share higher-paid staff such as solicitors with other authorities. Its adult care service lets users decide what provision suits their needs

Cherwell District and South Northamptonshire District (both Con)
Looking to share a management team. Cherwell expects to save £3.4m in the next five years and South Northamptonshire £1.8m

Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster (all Con)
These three authorities have agreed to share management and some services, saving up to £10m-15m each

All figures for % of budget cut include council tax, and are for 'revenue spending power' in 2011-12, including NHS support for social care. When council tax is excluded, some councils have lost more than 10% in funding from central government. Sources: DCLG and the Local Government Association

5 reasons to Vote No to AV

1. AV is not a fair system
2. AV is an obscure and unpopular system.
3. AV is complicated and expensive.
4. AV is not a proportional system.
5. Even the "Yes" campaigners don't really want AV.

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Name:

*Email:

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*By giving us your email address and / or telephone number, you are agreeing to receive communications and information from us by email or telephone.

Are you interested in:

Becoming a member of the Conservative Party?

Helping with Conservative Campaigns?

Being informed of future events?

Contact details for your Conservative Member of Parliament



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To find out the dates, time and place for Andrea's surgeries, please contact Abigail Lee, on 01604 859721 or abi@wnc.uk.com