

## REPORT FOR RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL JUNE 2009

### FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE FORD

#### SINCE MY LAST REPORT I HAVE UNDERTAKEN THE FOLLOWING COMMITMENTS

**4<sup>TH</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June**

Hosted a Ringwood School student for part of her work experience attachment. She had spent two days with Central Government in Westminster shadowing Desmond Swayne MP. She then spent time with Cllrs Rippon-Swaine (on election day) and Goff Beck learning about County and District administration. She then came to Ringwood Town Council with me on 4<sup>th</sup>. A special thank you to the staff who made her so welcome and gave their time to explain things to her.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> we attended a most interesting site visit to the Pyros hazardous waste processing plant at Hardley, an outwardly sinister place but regulated to the nth degree. This was followed by a meeting in the afternoon, at Fawley, of the New Forest Environmental Protection Liaison Committee, of which I am a NFDC member. The young lady said that she was very pleased that she had chosen politics for her work experience week, and had found it much more interesting than she expected!

**11<sup>th</sup> June**

Attended the Conservative Group meeting at Lyndhurst, where the results of the previous week's elections and were discussed, along with any lessons learned and caution over possible conflicts of interests/loyalty for those who hold dual (and sometimes triple) council memberships.

**13<sup>th</sup> June**

Held my usual monthly surgery at Stillwater Park with Cllrs Steve Rippon-Swaine and Michael Thierry.

**15<sup>th</sup> June**

This morning NFDC officers gave me my Chairman's briefing on the reports to be discussed at the Environment Review Panel meeting tomorrow (Thurs 25th June). Subjects this month mainly concern coastal and flooding matters AND the setting up of a task and finish group to examine the priorities for the refurbishment/rebuild of the District's public conveniences. This will include Ringwood's but with no time scale admitted, although they are a priority and considered to be among the worst in the District and, as I keep saying, a let down for the Town. I will try to be included in the working group unless it is considered that it would be too much of a prejudicial interest for me to be so.

**18<sup>th</sup> June**

Attended the Corporate Overview Panel: The agenda items included Treasury Management issues, Procurement Strategy, Annual Employee Report, Bad debts writeoff and the Annual Review of Complaints to the Council. I have the full agenda with reports should any member wish to peruse.

**22<sup>nd</sup> June**

**Was present at the Flag Raising in honour of Armed Forces Day at NFDC Appletree Court Lyndhurst. This is a new National dedicated day, when all local authorities will mark the present and past work, and sacrifices, made by members of the Armed Services , both regular and voluntary, from their localities.**

**23 June**

**Cabinet Briefing.**

**There was a briefing for Cabinet members and Chairmen of the Panels and Committees on items to be discussed at the next Cabinet meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> July. Agenda with reports available on the NFDC website.**

**24<sup>th</sup> June (today).**

**As part of the Public Conveniences group, I attended the first of the meeting re the renovation of the Milford-on-Sea PCs. Discussions starting from scratch ie. Existing buildings survey, developing the design specification before inviting tenders for the work, planning permission (NFNPA conservation area) etc. The general feeling was that they should follow the Fordingbridge model.**

**This was followed by the Environment Portfolio holder's briefing .**

**A full agenda with matters affecting Ringwood including abandoned shopping trolleys. I was informed that the report of the investigation/consultation is nearly ready and will be presented to the Environment Review Panel in September. It does cover the whole of the District as there are other towns where there is also a problem. I was also advised that any Town council approaches to the supermarkets in Ringwood should bear in mind that the Furlong car park is NFDC property and that they should be included in any possible policy discussions.**

**Regarding the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (CNEA) sadly it is not good news. I will explain further tonight**

**Tomorrow 25<sup>th</sup> June**

**I will Chair the Environment Review Panel. The agenda includes Project Integra Scrutiny; Shoreline Management Plan; North Solent Management Plan; and Review of Public Conveniences;**

**Followed by attendance at the penultimate meeting of the Green Audit Board of the NFDC**

**Christine Ford**

**24 June 2009**