

intouch

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ELECTED UNOPPOSED

CONSERVATIVE COUNCILLORS UNOPPOSED IN KINGSMOOR WARD

Both of your Conservative Councillors have been unopposed in the elections in Kingsmoor Ward in Whittlesey. This means that Martin Curtis will be re-elected to both the Town and District Council and Rita Jolley is re-elected to the Town Council.

Speaking about her re-election, Rita Jolley said: "Whilst I understand those who feel that they would have liked to have had an election, we were the ones that put ourselves forward and we did so because we enjoy representing both Whittlesey and Kingsmoor Ward. I am really looking forward to another four years as a Town Councillor."

Martin said: "It is always a privilege to represent this Ward, it



Martin Curtis: Town, District and County Councillor



Town Councillor Rita Jolley

is something I have done for over 12 years and I look forward to another 4. I would also urge the residents of Kingsmoor Ward to please remember to turn out on 5th May. There is still a critical referendum taking place on the Alternative Vote. I believe it

would be a huge, costly mistake if our country chooses a system of voting that gives opportunity to runners up. The current system is decisive, simpler and cheaper to run. It is important that the people of Kingsmoor Ward turn out to register a No vote."

COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY

Councillors are often told that they don't communicate enough with the people they represent. As someone that represents Whittlesey at Town, District and County level, Martin is all too aware of the need to keep in touch.

He recognises the importance of making sure people know what he thinks about political issues and what is happening in Whittlesey.

There are numerous ways you can keep in touch. Here's how:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Website: | www.martincurtis.net |
| Blog: | www.whittleseynorth.blogspot.com |
| Twitter: | @cllrncurtis |
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| Telephone: | 01733 759935 |

For those that don't use the internet, I also write a column for **Discovering Whittlesey** which is put through your door once every month.

SAY NO TO THE ALTERNATIVE VOTE



Even though you will not be involved in electing a Councillor on May 5th., you will still be eligible to vote in the National Referendum about the Alternative Vote. We urge you to turn out and vote No.

We have a simple system for electing our Members of Parliament; people stand for election and the candidate who gets the most votes wins. Under the AV system, the candidate with the least votes drops out and a voter's 2nd preference comes into play, this is carried on until a candidate gets over 50% of the vote. This adds unnecessary complication to our clear and decisive electoral system.

The Yes campaign is called Yes to Fairer Votes. One of their major donors is, apparently, the Electoral Reform Society, who could benefit significantly from a more complicated voting system.

BUILDING PROGRAMME AT SIR HARRY SMITH TO GO AHEAD

The Labour Government's Building Schools for the Future programme had to suffer serious cutbacks when the coalition Government came to power, a combination of the huge deficit that the Labour Party built up, along with the poor value for money of the scheme were the cause (confirmed by a recent report). Local Conservatives lobbied hard for the advanced programme in Fenland to continue, including local Councillor Martin Curtis who visited and spoke to a number of shadow Ministers both during and prior to the General Election campaign. This, combined with a sterling effort by the County Council to get the contracts signed as early as possible, meant that the programme goes ahead.

What does this mean for Whittlesey? Well it means that Sir Harry Smith CC will get a £10million revamp with work likely to start this summer. The work includes some new build along with major refurbishment of the existing school.

What a great example of Conservatives fighting for Whittlesey!

460 NEW HOMES APPROVED!

Martin Curtis speaks about the recent planning application

I am extremely disappointed by the decision at the planning committee of Fenland to support the planned development on Bassenhally Fields. I spoke against the proposals at the planning committee, but based on highways advice it was approved.

I am really concerned about the implications of this development. I am not convinced our roads will take it and I am extremely concerned that we are heading towards a situation where the traffic chaos that happens when the North Bank Road is closed will happen on a daily basis.

There are a number of areas which should be of concern to Whittlesey residents. Firstly the chaos that exists outside of Alderman Jacobs School will get worse. The situation now is unacceptable—so I cannot see how a planning decision that allows more cars along there can be acceptable. Also, planning applications for supermarkets, that seem to have broad public support, may be very difficult to progress now that this has been approved.

I struggle to think how this can be considered good or appropriate for our Town, but it seems there is little that can be done.