

# In Touch

Editor Simon Smith

## Whitehouse Ward

**Simon Smith**

I have lived in the area for almost 20 years and I teach at Sweyne Park School.

I am a District Councillor and I am chairman of the Development Control Committee. My prime interest in Local Government is to achieve value for money and first-class services - which residents deserve.

**Peter Webster**

As a Councillor for this ward and a former leader and chairman of Rochford District Council, I know many of the problems that concern residents. These issues range from traffic safety arising from speeding and "rat" runs, to controversial planning applications.



### Houses Houses Houses

The Labour Government says that Rayleigh should have more houses. Probably around 1800 by 2021.

As a Councillor representing residents, I have a very difficult choice to make. Simply say No to the Government and have the location of new homes forced upon us or reluctantly get involved in the choice about where they should be built.

***I want to hear your views!***

Do we shoehorn the houses into the small spaces that we have around the existing built up areas or do we open up more of our Green Belt land?

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I certainly understand that this one issue generates a tremendous passion in the residents of Whitehouse Ward and throughout Rayleigh. Many of us have invested much of our lives and our children's lives in promoting the development of Rayleigh.

My biggest concern is that the plans for almost 2000 new homes seem to ignore the need for infrastructure. We already know how busy our roads are. How will our drains and sewers cope? How long will we need to wait for a doctor or dental appointment? Will children be able to find places in local schools?

I pledge that I will be fighting my hardest to ensure more and better services come with the houses forced upon us. Infrastructure must come first and not be an after thought once problems start to occur.



### Listening to you

As Chairman of the Development Control Committee I oversaw the introduction of public speaking at meetings. It is only right that residents can put over the points that are important to them. The Council has a record of making good and prompt decisions that reflect our sound and reasonable judgement. However, a few developers are learning how to play the system and getting so called independent Government inspectors to overturn our local judgement. If you would like to have your say on planning applications near you, please let me, or Peter Webster my fellow Ward Councillor know.

### Handy Services

Rochford District Council's Conservative administration is now providing a Gardening and Handyman service to elderly, disabled or low-income residents. The service has proved extremely popular with over 400 gardening jobs and 200 handy jobs completed. There is a very modest charge for this service and no charge in cases of extreme hardship. Mr. S. Neville of Rochford District Council on 01702 318046 can help if you would like to use these services.

### Recycling

The Council is currently in negotiation with a number of interested bodies to work out a new contract for our rubbish collection so that we can all improve our re-cycling levels. It is so important that we all do what we can to preserve the environment.

There have been news headlines and scare stories about Councils introducing fortnightly collections, but I promise that I shall speak out and vote for a weekly collection in Rochford District of any foodstuffs put in your wheelie bin. We must not have smells and maggots in our bins!

### Your Conservative Team for Whitehouse

**Member of Parliament**

Mark Francois 0207 219 8287

**Member of European Parliament**

Geoffrey van Orden 01245 345188

**Essex County Councillor**

Mrs Mavis Webster 01268 775374

**Rochford District Councillors**

Simon Smith 07905 535315

Peter Webster 01268 775374

**Rayleigh Town Councillors**

Mrs Pat Aves 01268 771815

Jim Grey 01268 772491

Mrs Pat Toomey 01268 742479

*Please let me have your views-*

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