

Dear All,

Hope you have had a good month. I've been very busy with the family and fitting Green Party stuff in, as and when I can.

On Saturday 14th, Rob and I attended the Plastic Attack event in Chard, organised by Tim Eggins. It was a very productive event, getting press coverage from the Chard & Ilminster News:

http://www.chardandilminsternews.co.uk/news/chard_news/16159757.sustainable-chards-message-about-plastic-in-supermarkets/

It was fantastic to meet everyone and chat about Green matters with likeminded people. Many thanks again to Tim for organising this. We would like to do more events and activities like this, particularly in Chard, so watch this space!

On the subject of Chard, I was recently emailed by a supporter keen to fight against congestion, pollution and general traffic problems in the town. He has a point, we noticed how congested it was when we visited on the 14th; how aggressive the other motorists seemed to be and how they clogged up Fore Street trawling for parking spaces right next to their preferred shops! The trouble is that these issues are prevalent in all towns in the UK now. If anyone has any bright ideas about how we can campaign on this at a local level, please let me know.

For those of you who don't know, my husband Rob (our previous PPC) is currently the only Green Party Councillor in South Somerset (on Brympton Parish Council). This has come in very handy this week, when he discovered something very fishy going on at the Lufton development. In his role as councillor he had to do a site visit, as SSDC had applied for permission to fell some TPO'd trees! After more digging (no pun intended) it seems that Persimmon Homes is responsible for irreparably damaging the roots of these trees when contractors dug through them! However, rather than taking further action against Persimmon, SSDC is quietly sweeping the matter under the carpet. Brympton Parish Council is very unhappy about this situation and is taking the matter further with SSDC and the Environment Agency.

Meanwhile I've forwarded the story to Somerset Live and I'm hopeful it will run this weekend. We can't allow these multi-million pound developers to get away with "accidentally" damaging trees to maximise profits! Persimmon has a history of "accidents" involving trees – shame on them!

A quick reminder that our next meeting is tomorrow Sunday 29th, at 6:30pm at the YESS Club Yeovil (sorry if it's a bit early – needed a baby sitter!). We have lots to discuss, including the recent selection of my LibDem rival PPC.

Also, a friendly nudge to any members whose membership has lapsed recently (you know who you are), please renew as your support is so valued by all of us at the Green Party.

Have a good month and let's hope the May elections elsewhere in the UK are fruitful for the Party.
Best wishes

Diane Wood (PPC and Membership Secretary)