



## Councillor Edwards – always in the news

Freedom Party Councillor, Sharron Edwards

Councillor Sharron Edwards is taking the fight for freedom to the county council itself! Now is your chance to vote against the three main political parties and their failed policies. Here is a selection from our recent press files – proof, if ever proof were needed, that the Freedom Party's local government team is one of the hardest-working political groups in Britain

### Breath of fresh air

For the first time in 40 years I did not vote for the Tories at the last local election.

I've watched in despair as much of our beautiful village has been systematically turned into a concrete jungle. Councillor Sharron Edwards has been like a breath of fresh air to our local village.

I think it is remarkable how this lady is standing up on her own against greedy developers. I look forward to the day when we have more Freedom Party councillors like her.

**GRAHAM RUTTER, Wombourne.**

### Our needs put first

Congratulations to the Freedom Party Councillor Sharron Edwards for her hard work in trying to obtain rural ground for the village of Wombourne.

Other local councillors have failed miserably in validating a suitable site, exercising profit before people. At last in Councillor Edwards we have a councillor who puts our needs, the needs of the people, first.

**MRS V ELCOCK, Wombourne.**

### Nothing had happened

I would like to challenge Councillor Timms' comments (Letters, September 4).

He claims that the Sytch Lane site was proposed some years ago for a burial ground. If this is the case, why haven't we seen any movement on this issue until Councillor Edwards came along?

If it wasn't for Councillor Sharron Edwards bringing the matter to our attention, I for one would not have known about a public consultation, let alone a Draft Local Deposit Plan!

**LYNDON JONES, Wombourne.**

### Place for station

Sir, I wholeheartedly support the suggestion made by Councillor Sharon Edwards to re-locate the Wombourne Police Station.

Placing a police presence on such an elevated site, at the heart of the village would send a reassuring message to the whole of the community.

We have a pretty village in a lovely setting. Let's make it the 'jewel in the crown' with an imposing building and thoughtful layout.

**J Phillips Wombourne**

## No wish for political row

In answer to parish and county councillor Peter Timms letter of September 4, I wish to clarify a few facts.

After being elected as district councillor in May, I later proposed the Sytch Lane site for use as a burial

ground. I was advised in writing by the planning officer in June that it had been looked at as a potential site but not actually designated as such. At the same time it was also confirmed to me that my proposal and views on this site would be forwarded to the relevant department. I was therefore very pleased to see that the Sytch Lane site was subsequently included in late June in the Draft Deposit Local Plan along with the head of development services recommendations for this site to be suitable for a burial ground and not to be allocated for residential

development. Nonetheless, I was extremely concerned to read that the County Council had proposed this site for residential development along with the view that the land had been unused for 15 years and only horses grazed there.

I have no wish to turn this issue into a political argument. It is far too vital and important to the residents to obtain this much-needed amenity, especially now that our Sovereign has declared that no more burials can be undertaken at St Benedicts. Therefore, I would call upon all councillors to give their full support for this burial ground and lobby the County Council not to sell to the highest bidder, whilst residents take their active part in the public consultation process.

We must all work together on this issue.

**SHARRON EDWARDS, District and Parish Councillor.**

## Historians' bid to save 'unique' cottages



Councillor Sharron Edwards, right, with residents, from left, Lynda Packer, Robert Morris, Audrey Woodall, Gordon Fanthom and David Woodall

Archaeologists across the country are clamouring to add their voices to a dispute over the rise or fall of three 19th century nailers' cottages and workshops in Wombourne.

The buildings in Common Road face the threat of being bulldozed to pave the way for two detached homes and four bungalows.

They were granted a stay of execution by South Staffordshire planning chiefs last Tuesday, who deferred judgement on the application by Paul Westwood Homes Ltd proposing the new development, until a site visit by experts and councillors.

The potential developer and the current owner of the property, Simon Connelly,

Report by Sunita Patel

argues the building has been substantially altered over the years. The three cottages were knocked into one during 1975-76. They claim the house is now unsafe, uninsurable and structurally unsound.

But campaigners have refused to give up their fight, taking the battle to Whitehall to have the cottage and its outdoor workshops listed by the Secretary of State, from whom they are awaiting a decision. Parish and district councillor Sharron Edwards has been liaising with experts on the cottages' historical features and importance.

Dr Mark Horton, of Bristol University

and an adviser to Channel 4's Time Team programme, said the building types were extremely rare. Senior archaeologist for Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site, Paul Belford, described them as unique.

And former Wombourne resident and pupil at Westfield Primary and Ounsdale High schools, Dr Peter Wardle, believes the outhouses to be of considerable industrial archaeological importance.

Councillor Edwards said he had been inundated with phone calls about the site. "Local history is part of every Wombourne resident's daily life. These cottages may be of such importance that they may also be part of our national heritage," he added.

A LOOK AT MEDIA COVERAGE IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

Express & Star, Tuesday, July 13, 2004

## Joy as campaigners win fight against flats

Controversial plans to build 31 city-style apartments and a showroom on the site of a Wombourne service station have been thrown out.

Campaigners against the growing trend of modern developments in the village are celebrating after planning chiefs rejected the proposal earmarked for Brickbridge Lane.

Councillor Sharron Edwards, who spearheaded the protest, said residents were delighted. "Finally, the people of Wombourne are being listened to and being taken

Report by Sunita Patel

notice of. Residents from all over the village have supported their neighbours in Brickbridge Lane.

"They fought an excellent campaign and are encouraged that the vital issues raised have been properly addressed."

The application, by Oakhouse Developments, was refused by South Staffordshire District Council's chief planning officer, Bill Meredith, under delegated powers last

Friday. He said the luxury flats were out of scale with the type of existing development in the area and the three-storey element would result in a loss of privacy to surrounding properties.

"There was inadequate on-site parking which would lead to congestion on the road, causing highway danger, and access to the site would have been from Holloway Drive which has restricted visibility on to Brickbridge Lane," he added.

Residents are becoming increasingly

alarmed by the number of new estates cropping up across the area, claiming the housing boom is getting out of hand and is destroying the charm of the village, which is fast becoming a "concrete jungle".

The site of the Swan pub, in Common Road, could soon be home to 34 luxury flats, while 40 are planned for Tollhouse Way. And there has been news of 22 more heading for the village centre to replace the old Wombourne Library site at Windmill Bank.

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## Some Freedom Party policies

**IMMIGRATION** Successive governments have failed the British people by allowing millions of immigrants to settle in these overcrowded isles without any democratic mandate for a reckless policy with incalculable social consequences. Economic migrants including bogus asylum seekers continue to enter the country at the rate of at least 200,000 a year, a city the size of Birmingham every five years. Millions of Britons are in reality jobless yet Labour constantly cites 'labour and skills shortages' as an excuse for yet more immigration. Large scale immigration drives down wages, and imposes ever greater burdens on the health service, the social security budget and the housing stock. It benefits only a few exploitative multinationals and greedy gang masters in search of cheap labour. We will regain control of our borders, stop the asylum scam, and expel illegal immigrants.

**CRIME** One of the key reasons for the rise in crime is that there is now little sense of common identity or purpose. Furthermore, the softly-softly attitude towards punishment has acted as a green light to criminals. Society is entitled to punish criminals. If retribution is seen to follow conviction for a criminal offence, potential offenders will be deterred from a life of crime. It is also important that victims of crime can see that justice is taking place. We will ensure that police resources are targeted towards catching criminals instead of pandering to 'politically correct' fashions, and persecuting motorists.

**HEALTH** The National Health Service must be maintained, but it can no longer be regarded as the free provider of cosmetic and other lifestyle aspects of health care. The vast bureaucracy that surrounds the NHS must be slashed. Private health insurance should be encouraged through the taxation system to ease the burden on the NHS. Above all, the National Health Service should be our people's health service, not an international health service for benefit and health care tourists.

**EDUCATION** We will encourage a mixture of schools, both private and state run, grammars and technical schools. We will encourage competition from an early age. We will ensure that the basics are well mastered by all pupils at primary level by the universal reintroduction of traditional teaching methods. Trendy and incompetent teachers must be replaced. A vital part of any child's education as a responsible citizen is being taught about our great past as a nation. There will be an end to multi-cultural brainwashing. Respect and discipline must be restored.

**THE ECONOMY** In principle we support an economy based on free enterprise, for we recognise that governments do not generally run industries well. We are however firmly committed to protecting the strategically important manufacturing, agricultural and fisheries sectors. It is also an important role of government to sustain demand by maintaining business confidence, and to ensure that a well-educated, highly trained and motivated workforce is available. If a workforce shares common ideals and society at large is harmonious and united, then economic performance is greatly enhanced. It is clearly the duty of government to do all it can to ensure that this is the case.

**TRANSPORT** We wish to encourage a greater use of public transport (railways, buses and even a revitalised canal network), but recognise that to do so the transport infrastructure must first be improved. It is madness to tax the motorist without providing viable alternatives. We are opposed to the over taxing of motorists and small hauliers.

**EUROPE** Britain's relationship with the European Union must be renegotiated. We are willing to participate in a trading bloc, but will never agree to being bound by laws dictated by unelected bureaucrats. If necessary we would withdraw altogether. Renegotiating our position would result in saving billions of pounds that can be better spent on improving the transport system or to re-finance the NHS. We will never sign away our sovereignty and independence by abolishing the Pound. We totally oppose the Euro, and back a national referendum on our future relationship with the EU.

## Sir Patrick Cormac MP – a correction

In the previous edition of *Freedom News*, we were misled by an article that had appeared in the *Times* diary of 21st October 2003 into suggesting that Sir Patrick Cormac had declined to criticize Robert Mugabe because "it might embarrass the Government". In fact, as appears from the proceedings of the Parliamentary Select Committee for Foreign Affairs on 23rd March 2003, Sir Patrick had asked Foreign Office Minister Baroness Amos to convey the strongest protest to the French government for its lavish reception of Mugabe and his wife in Paris, which he described (very rightly in our view) as "a grotesque insult to the starving and bleeding people of Zimbabwe." We are happy to put the record straight.

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