

Inside Update from
Borough councillor
Paul Farmer

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Bury Town Council

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Market – your
questions answered

Town Matters

There have been happy endings to two stories featured in last summer's edition of In Touch.

Since we reported Paul Farmer's opposition to Sunday parking charges, residents of Nelson Road have found that sadly his prediction of drivers being unwilling to pay to use the nearby car parks has come true.

Fortunately Paul has been able to help arrange for residents' permits there to apply on Sundays in future.

Richard Rout and Paul Farmer were successful in their bid to prevent a mobile phone mast from being erected next to the PC World building. They have had less success with their campaign against speeding in the Historic Core.

Unfortunately there are still far too many instances of this, and only increased police presence and action is likely to deter it.



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On the first Saturday of every month, Councillors **Paul Farmer** and **Richard Rout** hold a drop-in surgery at Bury Library, between 10.00am and 12 noon. *No appointment necessary.*

Useful Borough Council telephone numbers

Main switchboard 763233
Emergency out of hours: 763252

Direct lines

Planning: 757675
Waste management: 757320/16
Highways: 757319
Environmental health: 757053



Conservatives

What has Paul Farmer been doing?

Since the last In Touch Paul has knocked on the doors of over 1,500 households, and listened to hundreds of residents' talking about local issues. As well as helping many with individual problems, his work has included the following.

Paul has arranged for **Alicia Court** to be cleansed regularly and for increased yellow lines to be considered there. He has also asked for changes in yellow lines to **Beech Rise**, and both these proposals have now been put to residents. **Beech Rise** also now boasts a pair of dropped kerbs at its junction with **Southgate Street**, following Paul's request on behalf of local residents.

Paul and Richard helped residents of **Castle and Mill Roads** in their successful fight to oppose three storey dwellings and an unwanted path from Parkway to the new development there. Paul has also chased up the resurfacing of **Castle Road** and arranged for Chalk Road South to be repaired. He is still working to try to improve parking opportunities in **Chalk Road**, following B & Q's new arrangements.

Together with others Paul has alerted the Borough Council to allegedly unauthorised works at a restaurant in **Churchgate Street** and as ward member he advised the Churchgate Area Association about its representation regarding

the **Queen's Head** extended opening hours. He also supported residents of **Hatter Street** by voicing their concerns at a licensing meeting about a street vending permit.

about the future of the fence between them and the cemetery. He is getting an overgrown hedge cut down in **Shillitoe Close** after trying for years, and also got the long grass cut by **Harrington Close**.

Residents of **Eyre Close** have expressed concerns about the state of the River Linnet nearby, and Paul has arranged for the borough engineers to inspect and work on it. He has also liaised with **Havebury** housing on behalf of residents there and in other parts of **Abbeygate**.

Paul has written to 150 residents in **Kings Road, Mill Road** and **Shillitoe Close** who are worried about housing being developed on the old **Hanchet's** site area. He has assured them that a master plan will be required before any planning application can be considered, and hopes to keep residents in touch. He is also campaigning for a master plan for the **BT** site in the town centre.

Nevilles Close residents have asked for cars to avoid blocking the old ramped entrance to the **Parkway** surface car park. Paul has arranged for this single space to be removed. He also chased officers to erect a permanent gate at the junction of **Nelson Road** with the **cattle market** car park, to avoid unauthorised access and unnecessary traffic.

Finally, after Paul's campaigning since 2002 for a safer exit at **Beech Rise**, **Suffolk County Council** have conducted the long promised survey of the **Southgate Green** roundabout, which it is hoped will lead to a revised road layout to include improvements at the junction – but we hope this won't take another four years!



Above: development in Mill Road

Below: Beech Rise dropped kerbs



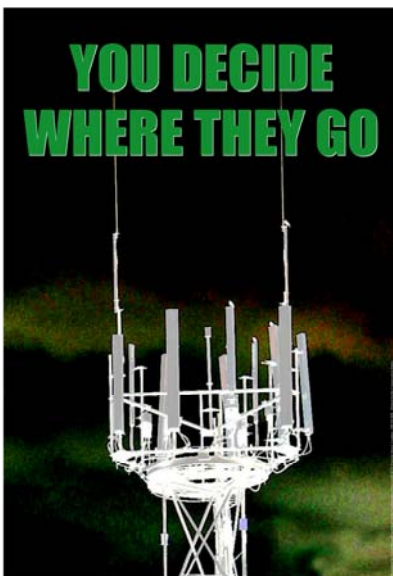
Paul has ensured that **Hospital Road** residents are on the waiting list for an assessment of a parking permit scheme. He has arranged for brown bins to be delivered to properties in **Alicia Court** and **Coppers Close** and made sure residents of **Shillitoe Close** had a say

Paul has long complained about the state of the bollards in **Abbeygate Street** and is working with others on a new system of metre high gates to protect pedestrians. He also ensured the repair of a bollard in **Angel Lane**.

What has Richard Rout been doing?

Richard Rout has been continuing to work hard on Bury Town Council on behalf of local residents.

Working closely with Paul Farmer, Richard has helped to address some key issues in the town such as preventing a new mobile phone mast being erected on top of the **PC World building** in Robert Boby Way and stopping the building of three storey houses behind Castle Road.



Richard represented local people at a top level meeting with **First Eastern Counties Buses**, **St Edmundsbury Borough Council** and Bury MP David Ruffley.

The meeting looked at our town's transport infrastructure and the long term viability of a

'park & ride' scheme that would relieve the strain on town centre car parking.

Richard has been a key member of the Conservative controlled Town Council which voted through a raft of savings in November 2006.

In their last *In Touch* Paul and Richard contacted local people asking if they needed more dog and litter bins in their area. Richard is now pleased to report that the Town Council has installed a number of bins across the town including one on No Mans Land Meadow and another in the Abbey Gardens.

Richard fought hard on the Town Council to support local residents in **Churchgate Street** and the surrounding area who were concerned by the application by the Queen's Head for extended opening hours. In a fantastic victory for local people the application for extended opening hours was turned down by St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

Paul and Richard's monthly surgeries continue to be a success and Richard would encourage any local people with an issue of concern to come along to Bury St Edmunds Library between 10am and 12 to discuss the matter on the first Saturday of each month.

No council tax increase!

Richard has been a key member of the Conservative controlled Town Council which voted through a raft of savings in November 2006:

- The Town Council has frozen Council Tax in 2007 – there will be no increase
- Councillor's annual allowances have been abolished saving £1700 a year
- The Town Mayor's allowance has been reduced to £250 a year

Richard said: "This is fantastic news for people in Abbeygate Ward and for everyone in Bury St Edmunds."



"The Town Council will continue to deliver high quality services to the people of the town but in 2007/08 there will be **no Council Tax increase**.

"I am delighted that the Town Council has voted to abolish the councillor's annual allowance and slash the Mayor's allowance to just £250 a year. These are real savings and emphasise the fact that we are here to give voice to local people as elected volunteers."

The Cattle Market Development

Paul Farmer answers your questions

Q Are you for or against it?

A When I joined the council I had my doubts, and asked to sit on the redevelopment working party, where I have not shied away from asking awkward questions. In the last three years we have planned a much wider "link" to the old town and included an underground car park with over 200 spaces. I believe that the plans we have now are much improved from the ones we inherited in 2003.

Q Won't it destroy the market, the independent shops and the old part of town?

A On the contrary. Many people already go to Ipswich,

Cambridge, Norwich or even London to do their shopping. With 35 new shops and a department store, local people and new visitors can spend their money in Bury – and keep the market and existing shops and cafés in business too.

Q Won't it just be like any other shopping mall?

A No. A grid of new open streets will be created, to reflect the historic core. A public building, food outlets and 60 new apartments will keep the area alive and safe at night.

Q Won't difficult parking put people off?

A The variable message signs, a new underground car park and a better used multi-storey will enable ample parking almost all the year round, whilst all the spaces near to the centre of town will be for short stay parking. Every town is busy at Christmas, so I hope the successful park & ride scheme will again be operating in 2007. Last Christmas we accommodated 3.4% more cars in Bury than at the same time in the previous year.

Q Isn't there an alternative to all this?

A Yes, a large rambling ugly car park and a dying town!



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Tell us what you think or let us know if we can help

Your Comments:

Please contact me about this

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