

INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY AND HEALTH CONCERN

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS _ 2nd MAY 2019

DIXON SHEPPARD for **LICKHILL WARD**

WHO IS DIXON ?

It has been an honour to have served the residents of Lickhill Ward, as your **District Councillor** for 9 years and, along with my wife Janice, as **Town Councillor** for the last 12 years - where I bring a life-time of experience in finance (“Group Pensions Planner of the Year” - Financial Times) to the Finance Committee.

I also had the privilege of serving you as **Town Mayor** during 2010/11.

Janice and I have lived on Lickhill Lodge in the same house for 42 years and our family now extends to two adult and five grand children.

I remain a very “down to earth” person and contribute to our community through service as a Trustee on the Management Committee of the Elizabeth Mills Centre, support for ‘Stourport Forward’ / ‘Stourport Town Centre Forum’, and the local PACT panel (which deals with local issues).

The Committee of ‘Stourport Civic Society’ has recently co-opted me as a member. For the last 16 Years, I have volunteered as a ‘Travelling-Ticket Inspector’ on the Severn Valley Railway.

I have been a former chairman of The Rover P6 (car) Club and frequently take my two ‘Classic Cars’ to various shows around the UK.

LICKHILL WARD AND STOURPORT TOWN MATTER TO ME

I am deeply concerned that THE VOICE OF STOURPORT IS **NOT** BEING HEARD on Wyre Forest District Council .

The removal of our **Leisure Centre** was a disgrace: there were people and organisations at the time willing to take it over but those at Wyre Forest DC wanted a new Leisure Centre located in Kidderminster, and without “competition” from Stourport.

All Health Concern Councillors at the time rigorously opposed the closure of our leisure centre which, together with the Civic Centre (Civic Hall), were not where previously owned by the old Stourport Urban District Council, but fortunately due to Health Concern and others this building has been saved.

The revised draft **Area Plan** issued for consultation in November 2018 included several sites not previously included in the 2017 draft - with neither warning nor consultation. It talks about the “preservation of the Green Belt” .. whilst including sites which are currently included in the Green Belt. There are many contradictions in the report for which I shall seek explanation.

The old municipal **Golf Course** remains a concern and I will, if elected, make every effort to get this ‘green space’ re-instated within the designated ‘Green Belt’. The Green Belt around our town is our protection against speculative builders.

The District Council constantly ignores the recommendations of Stourport Town Council on planning issues, blindly believing that “they know best”.

We need a second set of **Public Toilets** in the town, for our own “convenience” as well as for our visitors. Financial provision was made in the last Town Council Budget but this was opposed by WFDC who insisted that the Town Council pay the maintenance cost of the Riverside Toilets, without any share of the vast revenue from the Town’s Riverside Parking !

Dedicated Coach Parking is still urgently required on our Stourport Riverside Car Parks. This is an issue which I have campaigned about for many years.

Our **Twin Town** is Villeneuve-le-Roi - to the south-west of Paris. Just when we need to be on better terms with our neighbours this link has been allowed to lapse. I want to encourage the formation of a Twinning Association and so revive an activity first started in 1971.

The Halcrow Report in 2000 said that Stourport would be **Gridlocked** by 2015. We know this, only too well.

The Worcestershire County Council does nothing for us but continues to plan and build further river crossings for themselves, at Worcester.

In the meantime Stourport continues to get more and more congested and the pollution levels particularly at the junction of York Street/New Street and in the High Street continue to increase. When will those that 'plan' acknowledge our need for a **Stourport Relief Road** ?

Health Concern continues to campaign for a '**Doctor led**' - **Urgent Care Centre at Kidderminster Hospital**, combining the Minor Injuries and After Hours services, to take some of the pressure off Worcester Royal Hospital, which was never designed to cater for patients from Stourport / Wyre Forest or even to come from South Shropshire.

It is my belief that the best future for Stourport, Bewdley and Kidderminster would be for the Worcestershire County Council to become a **Unitary Authority**, delegating more powers to Town Councils, and resulting in the abolition of the District Councils such as Wyre Forest DC. **Make Savings** by 'stripping-out' a complete tier of local government !

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I hope that my points make sense to you. If you feel they have, please consider voting for me ..

Vote for **DIXON SHEPPARD**



“A vote for Stourport - on Stourport Town Council & Wyre Forest District Council”



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Remind me .. Who are Health Concern ?

Ours is the party which was formed from the Protest Movement which resisted the closure of our local Kidderminster hospital in 1999.

The Party is formed of local, Wyre Forest people who represent their community - in all three towns _ Bewdley, Kidderminster & Stourport _ and in the villages and rural areas across Wyre Forest.

What have you done for me ?

You - the voters of Wyre Forest - have elected Health Concern candidates to represent you at Town, District and County levels of government and, before that, you sent Dr. Richard Taylor to Parliament as your M.P. for two terms (2001—2010), sitting as an Independent and contributing to the Health Select Committee governance of the NHS.

So numerous Councillors have been giving of their time and energy to improve things and develop all manner of initiatives in our localities - both urban and rural.

How have you tried to keep in touch with me ?

Our Councillors have been available to be consulted throughout their terms in office - with their contact details listed on the Council websites and literature.

Details also appear on our party website www.healthconcern.org.uk which also lists the various council committees to which they contribute.

Health Concern has held monthly meetings at its headquarters (Comberton Hill, next to the SVR station) where councillors have been available to receive questions as well as for individual consultation.

What makes you different ?

Well, we're INDEPENDENT .. and that's something that this area has always been strong about .. From Bishop Baxter onwards.

Health Concern councillors think for themselves - without having to respond to a 'party whip' and troop through the lobbies obeying the 'party line'.

Seeing the mess that Westminster's in, shouldn't this be the way **YOU** should be voting ?