### **Franche and Habberley North**

# **Matters** February 2023

## Looking forward to 2023 Restoring Pride in our Community

#### Tackling illegal and inconsiderate parking

Residents have complained about parking along Habberley Road and Broomfield Road. David and Ben are looking to get more enforcement to tackle this.

#### Antisocial Behaviour

Ben and David met with the police, community housing officials and other local agencies to look at possible solutions to tackle the antisocial behaviour at White Wickets during the summer.

#### Keeping or spaces clean and tidy

Following the success of the clean-up in Beechfield Drive and Sandicliffe Close, David and Ben will continue to press the Council to carry out the jobs you pay for. Residents have been delighted that both of these untidy and uncared fore areas were cleaned up.

#### Pride in our Community

This is something very dear to both Ben and David who are committed to working ALL YEAR ROUND to keep our local area looking clean and; tidy and to restore pride in our community.

Ensuring our local area is maintained all year round restoring pride in the community

## Low Habberley – New Application



At the meeting of the planning committee in July 2022, Councillor Ben Brookes spoke against the application submitted by the developers. Councillor David Ross proposed a motion to refuse the application, which was accepted and passed by the committee.

David was advised that an appeal against the decision to refuse had been lodged. In December David, with assistance from the District Council started work on preparing a defence of the refusal which would eventually be heard and decided upon by the planning inspector.

A new application has been submitted for the site by Bovis homes and residents in the area have had a communication from them. David and Ben will keep residents informed of the progress of this application.

### Wyre Forest District Council's Conservative Group Propose Alternative Budget

The Conservative Group at the District Council **believe that front line services that are important to you should not only be protected but enhanced.** That is why we are proposing":-

- To increase the number of Environmental Protection Officers that tackle fly tipping from two to four officers.
- To increase the number of Civil Enforcement Officers from six to seven to specifically tackle

parking enforcement on double yellow lines in our villages.

- To increase the number of litter pickers at peak seasonal times across the District.
- To increase the grant support to our Parish Councils to undertake litter picking, bin emptying and grass cutting on a local level.
- To invest in arts, leisure and cultural activities in our District.

# **Restore PRIDE in our District by removing the CHAOS of the Labour, Green and Independent controlled council**



We will continue for more enforcement to tackle illegal parking



Conservatives



Your local Conservative team, Ben Brookes, George Connolly and David Ross are regularly out and about talking to local residents and working on issues

### **Community Leadership Fund**

Thanks to the Conservatives for forcing a U-turn by Labour, Green and Independent Councillors

The Community Leadership Fund of £1,000 per councillor was introduced by the Conservatives some years ago. Last year it was reduced to £500 with nothing allocated for 2023-2024. This is something we opposed as this money is used to grant groups and organisations within the ward, which do excellent work for the

**Pension Triple Lock** 

local community. David has used his £500 to provide Christmas Activities at St Catherine's Primary School and Ben gave £250 to 'Wyre Forest Talking Newspaper', based in Franche and to 'Simply Limitless' to provide food parcels over the Christmas period.



The Chancellor has announced that the September inflation rate of 10.1% is confirmed for increasing the State Pension from April 2023.

The triple lock was brought in under a Conservative Government to rectify the low pension rate after years of low rises under Labour.

State Pension increased by only 44% in the last 10 years of the previous Labour government, compared to 72% between 2011-2021 with the Conservatives.

\* All benefits will increase by 10.1% including the benefit cap

### Tackling Illegal Immigrants

The number of people entering the UK illegally in small boats has more than quadrupled in the last two years, from 8,404 in 2020 to more than 40,000 people in 2022.

A problem shared across Europe with the number of illegal arrivals up by over 50 per cent, with France alone receiving 100,000 asylum applications this year. Our cooperation with the French has led to 31,000 small boats crossings being stopped in 2022 – almost 50 per cent of the total crossings.

But more needs to be done to protect our beaches in Kent and to speed up the number of Asylum claims, with the Government announcing the following actions:

- A new agreement with Albania so that the vast majority of Albanian claimants can be removed with weekly flights until all Albanians in our backlog are sent home.
- A new, permanent, unified Small Boats Operational Command in the channel with 700 new staff to bring together military and civilian capabilities.
- Tougher immigration enforcement with 200 new staff and better data sharing with banks so they are unable to open bank accounts.
- Cheaper accommodation sites so we can move migrants out of expensive hotels. We will identify a range of alternative sites such as disused holiday parks, former student halls and surplus military land.
- Clear the initial asylum backlog in 2023 by doubling the number of caseworkers and radically streamlining the process.

### To Contact Your Conservative team for Franche and Habberley North



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