



**THANK YOU
RESIDENTS
FOR ALL YOUR VOTES!**

IN TOUCH

North West Essex Constituency Conservatives

Autumn 2023

Our share of the vote increased and we were the second best performing Conservative group in the country, continued inside...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Will Uttlesford's excessive **borrowing** be its downfall?

Updates from your MP, Kemi Badenoch

Who will R4U blame next for their problems?

How did **Uttlesford Conservatives** buck the national trend?

When will we *ever* get a Local Plan?

And why 'Saffron Walden' is no more...

JOIN US



Promoted by David Beverly on behalf of NWECCA, The Old Armoury, 3 Museum Street, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1JN.
Printed by Solopress, 9 Stock Rd, Southend-on-Sea SS2 5QF

 @swtories  facebook.com/swtories
 @swtories  office@saffronwaldenconservatives.org.uk

WILL UTTLESFORD'S EXCESSIVE BORROWING BE ITS DOWNFALL?

In the last few months we've seen many Councils of all political colours brought down by their borrowing habits.

Until recently, it was cheap to borrow money and invest it in things like commercial property, solar farms and a myriad of other schemes.

The rationale for this was simple: the margins made on these investments would bolster revenue income and help avoid the otherwise inevitable cuts to essential services .

What a fabulous theory that would be if it worked! But for Thurrock, Woking, Slough and Croydon the wheels came off and they have **lost billions of pounds**.

The trouble is our very own Uttlesford District Council, under the incompetent leadership of Residents for Uttlesford, has fallen for the same trap. In the last four years since taking power they have **borrowed**

hundreds of millions and invested it in commercial property. In total UDC has borrowing that stands at more than £250 million. That consists of long and medium term borrowing of roughly £150 million. But interest rates run at approximately 4.2%. so that costs **£6.3 million every year** without paying back any of the capital.

The rest of the borrowing is from other local authorities that were originally at rates as low as 1% - but a large proportion of that has to be repaid within the next few months. So that means reborrowing and this will certainly be at significantly higher rates. Even if they get a generous 7% rate this still doubles the annual cost of the debt to **circa £13million**.

And it's residents through council tax increases and fewer services that will pick up the bill for this brash approach.

MORE FUNDS TO TACKLE ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR


Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst has announced that Essex will benefit from £1.1m new funding to address anti-social behaviour (ASB) hotspots from the government's ASB Action Plan.

Roger said: "This funding to deal with ASB comes on top of the GRIP programme to deal with crime hotspots which we have already received. Since 2016 we have funded the expansion of Essex Police by 900 officers, so it is now by far the largest and strongest it has been in its 184 year history.

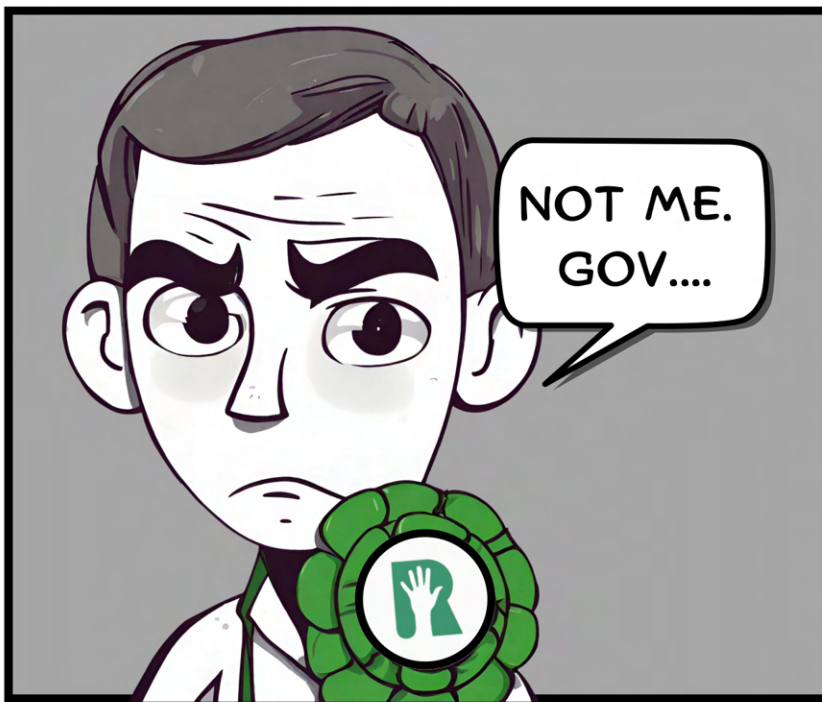
Across the county, ASB has been reduced by 60%, and burglary and homicide have been halved.

We have more to do to prevent violent crime, especially violence against women and girls which has risen so much, and to reduce theft. But I am pleased that the investment we have made is starting to work." The government has also announced an additional £1.4m funding for Essex from its Safer Streets Fund.

This will supplement the £4m local Safer Streets funding announced by Roger in June. The programme will be open to local councils to bid for projects, such as better CCTV or street lighting or to set up support groups for particular areas, over the next few weeks. The programme team will especially welcome projects aimed to improve the safety of women and girls.



Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst



STOP BLAMING THE GOVERNMENT!

After four and a half wasted years R4U have finally released their proposals for the new Local Plan.

R4U have lost their planning powers and already over 7500 houses in Uttlesford have planning permission but are yet to be built. Many of these developments have little infrastructure or community benefit because it has been done piecemeal. The developers are the winners and tax paying residents are the losers.

The new Plan has proposals for a further 1636 houses in Takeley, 1280 in Saffron Walden, 869 in Gt Dunmow, 489 in Thaxted, 412 in Newport and 390 in Stansted. 6 communities will change rapidly because R4U have been slow to deliver a Plan or a 5 year land supply. Their only response is to blame the Government.

The residents of Uttlesford have been badly let down.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTES AND SUPPORT

We are so grateful for the support the Conservatives received at the Uttlesford District Council elections in May.

We may not have won control but we polled 14,447 votes across the district, which means we bucked the trend of many areas by increasing our votes. So much so that we were the second best performing Conservative group in the country. And that is thanks to you.

We now have 11 elected Conservative councillors on Uttlesford District Council. They are committed to serving their communities, to listening and supporting where they are able. And to holding the administration to account on your behalf.

They will tell you what they are doing through Parish

Council meetings, local newsletters and social media but please also contact them whenever you need to. Many of the unsuccessful candidates will also stay in touch and would also appreciate contact from residents.

Key topics, most of which were raised on the doorstep during our campaigning, are included in this newsletter, including housing, the Council's finances, and boundary changes.

The most important element of local democracy is to understand the community we represent and to be a spokesperson for your views. We are all local residents and need to work together for our collective advantage.

BOUNDARY CHANGES

Parliamentary boundaries are changing in time for the next General Election.

The changes are to make the number of voters in all seats within 5% of the national average of 72,886. The total number of seats - 650 - does not change. What does it mean for Saffron Walden constituency?

First of all, a name change to North West Essex. But we will lose Hatfield Broad Oak, Hatfield Heath and the Hallingburys to Harlow constituency and Radwinter, the Sampfords, Hempstead, Little Bardfield, Stebbing and Felsted to Braintree constituency.

They will still be Uttlesford for district council matters, but voting for their MP in a new constituency at the next General Election.



Kemi Badenoch

@KemiBadenoch

kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

Member of Parliament for the Saffron Walden Constituency

It was a busy summer recess - out and about in the constituency as well as travelling to India for trade talks as part of my role as Secretary of State for Business and Trade. But I'm now back in Parliament, and it is all hands-on deck as we work to resolve the challenges coming up this autumn.

In Westminster, Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in education settings has topped the agenda. I've spoken to all our local schools that have cases of RAAC. All were able to open for the start of term. Most of them have mitigations in place and I am supporting the few schools that have had to vacate certain buildings until surveys are completed.

The media went into a frenzy on this issue, but this affects fewer than 1% of schools. And since 2018 the Government has been proactively working with local authorities and trusts to establish which schools have RAAC and support them reinforce the affected buildings.

The Government presses on with its priorities to halve inflation, grow the economy, reduce debt, cut our waiting lists, and tackle small boats. On a local level I'm also working on delivering my plan for our communities. This has included welcoming the 500 extra police officers for Essex and joining our Uttlesford District Commander for a walkabout in Great Dunmow. I launched my Rural Crime Survey which you can respond to using the QR code below.

I visited Broomfield Hospital and Little Waltham surgery to discuss waiting lists and the 8am GP phone rush. The Government has allocated additional funding for both areas as well as introducing new technologies to tackle them.

Cllr Susan Barker and I dropped into Dunmow library to catch up with the Uttlesford Citizens Advice Team to hear more about how our most vulnerable are managing with cost-of-living pressures. I will be feeding back to my ministerial colleagues to ensure we continue to have the support in place for them.

With so much going on, I will be sharing more in my e-newsletter which you can sign up to at www.kemibadenoch.org.uk You'll also find my latest bi-annual report there so residents can get an update on my 6-point plan and local issues that I am working on.

Scan me



Scan to complete Kemi's Rural Crime Survey...

Scan me



Scan to access Kemi's latest Reporting Back..