



MEET YOUR LOCAL LABOUR TEAM

Your local Labour councillors



Antonia Ryan
CBC Parkside
Ward Councillor



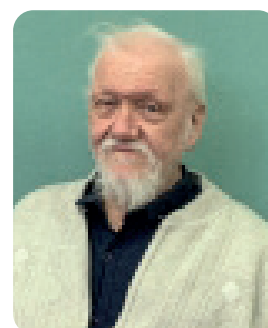
Clare Copleston
Parkside Town
Councillor



Abby Slough
Tithe Farm
Town Councillor



Chris Slough
Tithe Farm
Town Councillor



Don Dixon-Wilkinson
Parkside Town
Councillor

OPEN SPACES – NOWHERE IS SAFE

Central Beds Council plan to build houses on an open space used for recreation, in the middle of residential area.

Throughout we have demanded full consultation on the issue and transparency in the decision-making process, not just for the residents in Windsor Drive but for all of us.

Changes to the planning laws will make it easier for local authorities to ignore the planning objections of local people. For this reason we have asked the other political party on the Town Council not to remain silent, and to work with us on this issue.

As one of our councillors remarked about the planned Windsor Drive development: if the CBC get away with

this, no open space in Houghton Regis is safe.

Locally, the Labour Party have been supporting Windsor Drive residents in their fight to protect their open space from the development plans of the CBC.

Our councillors held an online surgery with local people and offered practical help in their campaign, delivering leaflets and even joining a protest outside Priory House on the morning the CBC met to discuss the issue.

Councillor Abby Slough says, we must remember that young people, in particular, need our support as we come out of lockdown. To take away the open space they have at present can only mean that CBC does not have them as a priority.

ON THE GRAVY TRAIN

There were remarkable scenes at the end of a key Council Scrutiny meeting as the Conservative Chairman finished the meeting early in order to take a personal phone call.

For the last year, the Conservative Chairman has been paid an additional £10,600 per year on top of his councillor's allowance to chair the meeting,

despite there being only 5 meetings of the committee during 2020. Yet in a recent remote meeting, he switched his camera off but left his microphone on whilst taking the personal call, before turning to the Clerk and stating, "Rebecca can you close the meeting for me. That's the end of it now." Antonia Ryan says, insiders tell me he was late for lunch.



Labour putting Special Education Needs first

It has been over 18 months since the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives voted against Antonia Ryan's proposal for an independent investigation into the Children Services department at Central Bedfordshire Council, to look at why children with special needs have been let down, many spending thousands of pounds to fight for a school place, or simply being left at home without one.

A year on, the department is still in disarray, whilst the Conservative Councillor in charge of Education pockets in excess of £30k in taxpayer funded allowances each year, whilst putting holidays ahead of important meetings.

Meanwhile, Antonia Ryan has been working with affected families to help them access services, and to ensure children have access to the education they deserve.



Finally on track for Houghton Regis' education

There is a no denying the closing of the secondary education provision failed the young people of Houghton Regis.

And we were listening to families during this time speaking out against the systemic issues that lead to schools not being fit for purpose to meet education needs, losing crucial time for exams and then ultimately being shipped out to schools miles away costing the council thousands per year.

The issue had been that families had not been listened to and the Conservative Council had failed to properly manage a strategic plan. .

But there is good news. Antonia Ryan has been working with the new Trust for our new secondary provision Houghton. She has been pushing for community engagement to ensure that we are not repeating the same mistakes and ensuring Special Education Needs is at the top of the agenda.

INTERESTED IN JOINING YOUR LOCAL LABOUR TEAM?

join.labour.org.uk

CONTACT US:

 [Dunstable and Houghton Regis Labour Party](#)

 www.dunstableandhoughtonregislabour.org.uk

 [@dandhrlabour](#)  abby.slough@houghtonregis.org.uk

Getting Houghton Tidy

Labour councillors have also been out working with residents, reporting potholes and tidying up our town.

If you see overhanging trees, untidy pathways or similar jobs, Please use this email address to contact Ben, Houghton Regis Town Ranger: Ranger@houghtonregis.org.uk or you can report through an app called Fix My Street.