

MIKE RIGBY

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@CouncillorRigby

Since being elected as an Independent local Councillor in May 2011, I have not stood idle. In the face of a barrage of misguided plans and policies from Taunton Deane Borough Council and Somerset County Council, I have taken the fight to these organisations.



Libraries

Bishops Lydeard Library was threatened by Somerset County Council's short-sighted libraries closure plans. Heavily-used, particularly by local children and older people, the library closure would have saved the Council a measly £15,000 a year out of its annual budget of £350million. Together with others, I campaigned against the plan and ultimately, the Council was taken to Court and shown to have acted unlawfully. In the face of

continued and sustained objection, the Council decided not to continue with the closure plan. Bishops Lydeard and other libraries were saved from the Council axe. Thanks to all those who supported the campaign.

Local Business

An active member of the Taunton Chamber of Commerce and Federation of Small Businesses, I continue to promote local businesses. I'm a big believer in

the benefits of directing as much of our spending towards local businesses as possible, supporting as they do, local employment. I have been active in attempting to block moves by developers to take commercial and industrial land for housebuilding. What is the point in building ever more houses if there is no work?



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Cyclepath

One of the biggest issues raised on the doorstep during last year's elections was the desire to see a cycle path constructed to link Bishops Lydeard, Cotford St Luke and Taunton. As well as providing an alternative to the slow commute to Taunton, the cycle path would provide a valuable leisure resource bringing increased visitor numbers and money to our area. It will also form a proper off-road link for pedestrians and cyclists between Bishops Lydeard and Cotford St Luke. I have joined forces with Quantock Eco to try and make this happen. Follow my Facebook page for news on this important plan.



The Quantock Hills

Somerset County Council has united people from across the political spectrum against its plans to sell off thousands of acres of public land on the Quantock Hills. It's a major indictment of their lack of ability

that this County Council administration has said that others can look after it better than they can. The hugely popular Great Wood has just been sold to the Forestry Commission, an organisation that is itself under threat of privatisation, so how long before that ends up in private hands? The land has minimal capital value but is hugely valued by local people. It begs the question why? Great Wood may have been sold out from under us but the battle continues to save Over Stowey Customs Common, Thorncombe Hill and Cothelstone Hill for the public. Find out what you can do at www.facebook.com/CouncillorRigby And in case you were wondering, **your local Conservative County Councillor, John Wilkins, voted in favour of the sale**, despite his protestations of 'extreme concern'. This is what we get when we vote for Parties in local elections; Councillors who simply toe the Party line rather than stand up for what is best for the community.



Fly-tipping

You may have noticed

that fly-tipping has rocketed in the last 12 months. Is it coincidence that this has happened against a background of reduced opening hours and increased fees at the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres? Not likely. A doubling in the incidence and clear-up costs of fly-tipping precisely matches the period of these changes. I'm continuing to publicise the Council's counter-productive actions in this area and am confident of achieving a reversal.

Help!

What can I do for you? As I hope you've seen here, I am good at getting things done. I can do this either directly through the bodies to which I am elected or through intensive lobbying of those bodies to which I am not. If you have a problem that you think I may be able to help with, please call me on 01823 430852 or email me at mike@mikerigby.org



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www.facebook.com/CouncillorRigby

www.mikerigby.org

Email: mike@mikerigby.org

