

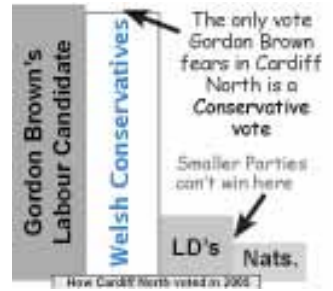
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Working for you in Rhiwbina



“MASSIVE REFORM OF PLANNING LAWS NEEDED”

Jonathan Evans, Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, has pledged to work for a massive reform of UK planning laws to put local communities “back in the driving seat” when new development is proposed.

“Over the summer, many people in Cardiff have been alarmed to hear of developers and land owners proposing changes to our communities that have not been approved by the Council in the Local Development Plan. It may be true that many of these schemes will never get off the ground but the whole procedure whereby the decision on the Local Development Plan will now be made by the WAG, and not the Council, lacks public confidence.”

Too often, local communities are seeing their priorities over-ruled by Welsh Assembly inspectors. To add insult to injury local councillors are warned not to express opinions on development proposals on legal grounds.”

All of this can unfairly undermine public confidence in locally elected representatives.”

It is time to put local communities back in the driving seat when development plans are considered.”

LOCAL HSBC TO CLOSE

After lengthy consultations it has been announced that the HSBC branch in Rhiwbina is to close on the 15th January 2010. HSBC have informed us that the closure was not taken lightly and various options were considered to keep it open, including changing opening hours, but the branch is just not commercially feasible.

In a letter from to Jonathan Morgan AM from HSBC Area PFS Director, Nicola Twigg, we have been informed that HSBC have written to all their Rhiwbina branch customers giving them 12 weeks notice about the closure. This will give customers time to discuss alternative banking methods with staff. Customers have also been assured that their bank account numbers and sort codes will remain the same. Administration of bank accounts held at the Rhiwbina branch will be transferred to the nearby Rhyd-y-Penau branch. The closure will not result in any redundancies either, staff working at the Rhiwbina branch will be redeployed in other local branches.

Although it is apparent that this was not an easy decision for HSBC to make, it is still shame to see small branches close, especially in areas such as Rhiwbina where keeping shops and businesses open in the centre is vital to the community. It also means local residents will have to travel further which may be difficult for the older members of the community.

Jonathan Morgan AM commented on the matter “As a Rhiwbina resident it is sad to lose another bank from the village after so many years. We need to do more to keep our suburban villages alive, and I hope that whatever replaces the bank will be a helpful addition to our campaign to keep our villages going”

Your Local Conservatives



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How we plan to help... Pensioners

Over the last 12 years, the culture of savings in Britain has been eroded. Thanks to a decade of irresponsible lending and borrowing with pension funds being raided, everyone in Britain is now landed with huge levels of debt with Pensioners left particularly vulnerable.

Conservative Parliamentary candidate Jonathan Evans told In Touch "The Conservative Party will raise the basic state pension in line with earnings to help stop the spread of the means test. At the same time, we will look

at how we can simplify the rules and regulations around pensions to encourage companies to offer high quality pension provision to all employees." Jonathan added, "However, there is no easy way out of the financial black hole that Gordon Brown has led this country into. In order to safeguard people's retirement income, the state pension age will rise by one year for men to 66 from 2016 and 65 for women from 2020. This is how we can guarantee dignity and security for pensioners.



FLOOD DEFENCE

Heavy rains in early summer this year caused damage across much of Wales, including many homes in Rhiwbina. Dwr Cymru Welsh Water has recently completed a £240,000 flood prevention scheme designed to increase the capacity of the local wastewater network and help alleviate the risk of internal flooding to properties in the area. The scheme included a new sewer, 200 metres of new pipes and an underground storm water storage chamber which were installed at Heol y Coed.

The job took 14 weeks to complete and Andrew Bowen, regional investment manager for Welsh Water, said: "The scheme represents our commitment to invest in our network and will directly benefit local residents."

Jonathan Evans, Parliamentary Candidate, said "I welcome this investment. For some time I have been pressing policy makers to recognise that climate change is not just about global warming. It is also about ensuring that our infrastructure - drains, sewers and flood defences - can cope with the frequent heavy downpours we are increasingly experiencing."

Rhiwbina PACT Meeting
For details of the next PACT meeting please visit www.ourbobby.com



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