

Working Hard for You!

GRAPPENHALL & APPLETON THORN

THANK YOU!

Mike, Ryan and the FOCUS Team were delighted with the results in May and extend their deepest gratitude to you for putting your faith in them for the next four years.

Despite boundary changes for both the Borough and the Parish councils, the Liberal Democrats still enjoyed fantastic results on Thursday 5th May. 'We weren't complacent during the campaign and we tried to contact as many voters as possible,' explained re-elected Councillor Mike Biggin, 'but we have a record of action which stretches back decades, based not only on the work of current Lib Dem councillors but also our predecessors'.

Borough Council results

Candidate	Party	Number of votes
Mike BIGGIN	Lib Dems	1306 - ELECTED
Ryan BATE	Lib Dems	1119 - ELECTED
Olivia REILLY	Conservatives	565
Iona GILLIS	Conservatives	421
Andy HEAVER	Labour	380



Your successful Borough Councillors Mike Biggin (left) and Ryan Bate, out collecting their signs which many residents commented on as we were out on the doorstep.

For the new Grappenhall ward on the Borough Council, the Liberal Democrats out-poll the Conservatives by about two-to-one and Labour finished in a distant last-place. 'I'm thrilled by the results and am really looking forward to working with Mike to represent our residents over the next four years,' said newly elected Councillor Ryan Bate, 'I have been involved with local politics for many years and to be elected to serve the area where I have grown up is a wonderful feeling.'

'From speaking to the many residents that we met during the campaign, we are already aware of a range of issues which people are concerned about,' Ryan continued, 'from housing developments, to the standard of council services, down to the look of the area, we have a healthy to-do list for the next few months but we are very happy for residents to approach us and add to it!'

Parish Council results Grappenhall ward

Candidate	Number of votes
Mike BIGGIN	1017 - ELECTED
Ryan BATE	873 - ELECTED
Paul WENLOCK	731 - ELECTED
Ian FOUNTAIN	702 - ELECTED
Chris Worsley	688 - ELECTED
John McQUILLIAN	683 - ELECTED
Graham WELBORN	676 - ELECTED
Dave HOCKENHULL	658 - ELECTED
Dave CUNDY (TUSC)	155

On Grappenhall & Thelwall Parish Council, which was re-arranged into two wards, the Liberal Democrats won 100% of the available seats with the Trade Union & Socialist Coalition over five-hundred votes off the mark. 'It was great to see the FOCUS team doing so well in Parish results and for hard-working councillors to be re-elected for another four-year term,' said Councillor Ryan Bate, who will also serve as Chairman of the Parish Council for 2016/17, 'but as a resident of the villages, it must be disappointing to see that the other main parties showed no interest at all in the Parish Council elections. It is all well and good to put up candidates for Borough elections, hoping for national party allegiances and issues to carry you to victory, but the Liberal Democrats prefer to win elections through hard work at all levels. Plus you can't ignore the importance of Parish Councils anymore, we are doing more and more on behalf of residents as we try to find new ways of working with the Borough Council to best serve our residents.'

In Appleton Thorn, the Liberal Democrats continued their stance of not contesting the Thorn ward of Appleton Parish Council, which has been well-served by independent councillors for many years. We were pleased to see that Andy Cross and Dot Edwards saw off their Labour opposition and look forward to working with them to represent the village.

For Stockton Heath East - the Parish ward covered by the Grappenhall ward on the Borough Council - there was no contest. Pam Todd is the Liberal Democrat Parish Councillors for Stockton Heath East. Mike and Ryan look forward to working with Pam, along with her Conservative and Labour colleagues, in the best interests of the area.

Parish success!

KEEPING IN TOUCH ALL YEAR ROUND

GET INVOLVED

From libraries to churches, to gardens and community litter picks, with all sorts in between, hundreds of people across Grappenhall and Appleton Thorn are involved in their local community. They get a huge amount of satisfaction and enjoyment from contributing and we would encourage you to explore opportunities to get involved, either in something you know about already or something new.

Grappenhall & Thelwall Parish Council organises an Open Weekend, this year is scheduled for 2nd-4th September. This is designed to be a showcase of the many activities going on across Grappenhall & Thelwall, so pick up a brochure (available June/July) and see what takes your fancy.

If you want to get involved in a different way, your local FOCUS team is always looking for new members to help with things such as distributing this newsletter (four times a year) and acting as a network of contacts across the community. If you could help by delivering FOCUS or otherwise supporting your local Lib Dem councillors, then please get in touch with a current member of the FOCUS team (details below). Many current councillors started out by delivering FOCUS and whilst this is not an essential career path - you don't have to want to be a councillor! - it is a great way of finding out more about what's going on in your area and giving something back to your community.

YOUR LOCAL FOCUS TEAM

Borough Councillors



Ryan Bate

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Grappenhall Parish Councillors

Ian Fountain 01925 604990

David Hockenhull 01925 601142

John McQuillan 01925 602804

Graham Welborn 07563 268769

Paul Wenlock 01925 606140

Chris Worsley 01925 213496

Stockton Heath Parish Councillor

Pam Todd 01925 262737

We hold an advice surgery on the first Saturday of the month at the Thorn Inn (10:15-11:15am) and Grappenhall Community Centre (11:30-12:30).

NEWS & VIEWS

Speed watch & SIDs

In future Grappenhall & Thelwall Parish Council's 'clever' speed indicator device (SID), which records data as well as displaying speed information to drivers, will be managed by the Parish Warden. The standard SIDs, which display info, will be managed by volunteers who take care of the SID whilst it is on their street. If you'd like one of the SIDs on your street, contact Councillor Paul Wenlock (01925 606140). Paul is also going to co-ordinate a team of volunteers for a community speed watch scheme, which involves using speed cameras to record data in key spots around Grappenhall & Thelwall. A number of people have already volunteered and Paul will be in touch soon; if you'd like to get involved please contact Paul.

Grappenhall AND Appleton Thorn

As promised in our last FOCUS, we want to see the village of Appleton Thorn represented in the name of the ward, as it is in the name of this newsletter. Councillor Ryan Bate met with Warrington BC Chief Executive Steven Broomhead recently to discuss how this could be done. Professor Broomhead has promised to look into the matter and get back to Councillor Bate. We will update you in a future issue of FOCUS.

Street signage

We know that dirty or damaged street signage is a massive bugbear for residents. We have already reported street signs on Alexandra Road and York Road for replacements, together with the faded one-way signs near the top of Albert Road. The give way sign at the bottom of Georges Crescent, which is currently standing at a precarious angle, has also been reported. If you know of a sign in need of attention, be it a clean or a replacement, then get in touch with your FOCUS Team.

Community clean up ready for Bawming of the Thorn

Councillor Ryan Bate was delighted to join the community clean team on Sunday 15th May but was saddened by just how much litter was spoiling Appleton Thorn. Collecting litter along Stretton Rd, Ryan found sweet wrappers, empty bottles and even discarded clothing! After litter picking, Ryan helped to tidy the hedge outside the Village Hall and chatted with the volunteers and Appleton Parish Councillor Andy Cross.

'It's fantastic to see so many people getting involved in the clean team,' said Ryan, 'people clearly have a huge amount of pride in their village, it is a really special place and I look forward to working with residents to keep Appleton Thorn a village to be proud of.'

Church Lane changes

A number of residents have asked questions about the latest works on Church Lane in Grappenhall village. This current phase involves laying pavements and driveways along the church-side of the road. Due to supplier and cost issues, Warrington Borough Council have had to change some of the materials involved compared to original plans however proper paving stone will still be used for all pavements and driveways. Councillor Dave Hockenhull met with WBC engineers to discuss the changes and, due to the higher costs of the original materials, agreed to the changes recognising that the new materials were still of high quality and will be in keeping with the area. Dave did however ask that WBC communicate any future changes with the Parish Council with more notice next time, as these changes had been made without any communication. WBC accepted that the lack of communication had been an error and would avoid repeating this.

Grappenhall Hall school update

Warrington Borough Council's disposal of the Grappenhall Hall school site is ongoing. All residents within one mile of the school will have received a public notice of the consultation. We would encourage all residents with a view on the issue to respond. Please note however that this consultation is concerned with the disposal of the site as a school, it in no way determines the future use of the site. Councillor Ryan Bate discussed this issue with WBC Chief Exec Steven Broomhead who clarified that there is no preferred future usage for the site. WBC are also conscious that any future use must be in keeping with Grappenhall village which is a conservation area, is home to many listed buildings and has limited access through Church Lane.

We aim to distribute an Autumn issue of FOCUS in September/October. If you'd be able to help deliver FOCUS to your street, please get in touch with the FOCUS Team.

You can now follow our updates and get in touch via Facebook:
www.facebook.com/grappenhalllibdems