

Osborne Street green

The works for a cycle and footpath across the green are complete apart from the defence from invasion that we asked for. That is promised and hopefully will be complete by the time this leaflet is delivered.

The Northern Road site.

Many local people, with our unqualified support, disputed this planning application every step of the way.

Our concerns were entirely justified.

It is clearly overdeveloped just as we predicted. At a recent Council meeting I asked the Tory chair of planning to bring his committee to see the consequences of their decision. We were not impressed with his response. You can be sure the big wigs will be there for the media event when it's finished. Grand Designs?

The worst road in Swindon

Bessemer Road West just gets worse with potholes. We have had a request in for this to be resurfaced for years but it is now in the programme at last.

This may have been done by now but the gas mains people gave notice of a need to dig up the road.

Flooding risk survey

Swindon Council has started the process of identifying areas of flooding risk in Swindon. There will be an opportunity for residents to air their concerns but you can do that through us.

We may not know all the problems and welcome your comments.



**Des
Moffatt**

I am very pleased to have been selected by the local Labour Party branch to be your Labour candidate for the May Council election. A well attended meeting of local members selected me from a panel of three by secret ballot.

Although opinion polls now tend towards Labour we have never taken your support for granted. So as usual we will be seeking to canvass the whole ward starting March, to gather your opinions on how you community should be run. I apologise in advance for any possible disturbances our calling may cause.

If you are able to help in any way or would like to become involved please let us know at any of the addresses below.

Contact us any time,
Sue Barnes 49 Lynmouth Road 882311
Des Moffatt 525a Ferndale Rd, 336276
Kevin Small 9 Jennings Street 495220.

Name.....

Address.....

Email.....

Western March Voice of 2011 Labour

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**Councillors' surgery from 6.00 to 7.00
Second Wednesday of the month at
Western CC, Somerset Road.**

Des Moffatt selected as Western's
candidate for the May Council election.

The Tory Council's latest budget

Dogs mess, we can do something.

Not all development is bad

Former rail works

Ferndale Residents Association will have
their AGM in the Southbrook pub on
Monday 14th March at 7.00

<http://swindon-labour.co.uk/>

This is an all Swindon service site that will become increasingly important in keeping Swindon citizens informed

Promoted by Kevin Small 9 Jennings street SN2 2BQ on behalf of Des Moffatt 525a Ferndale Road Swindon. SN2 1DG. Printed by Demoff, 525a Ferndale Road. Swindon SN2 1DG

Swindon's Tory budget

Swindon Tory run Council has made 21 million pounds worth of cuts and it sounds like boasting when they keep saying it.

The facts are that Swindon has had a reduction in grant of £8.5 million in one year with more cuts to come.

There is an 8.9% cut in Swindon's grant while Wiltshire has been reduced by 2.2%.and other county authorities like Dorset actually got an increase in funding.

Despite their constant mantra of us being "all in it together" Swindon comes off much worse.

This is a double whammy for Swindon because our council has been cutting back on services for the past 4 years but they appear to have got no credit for that from their fellow Tories in power at Westminster. The result is that the only things local Tories have left to cut are frontline services. Expect to read in the coming months more stories like the recently privatised Home Care service in which 57 people were made redundant

It's all down to the very complex formula by which Whitehall mandarins calculate what a town or city needs to run services. While Swindon seems to be a wealthy place there are areas that really need the support that some cities take for granted.

When we had a Labour Government Tory Councillors were always going on about Swindon losing out but as they say on the football terraces, "it's all gone quiet over there".

Capital spending

Swindon Council has racked up £63 million of debts for the people of Swindon in the last two years.

This information came to light in the recent budget meeting when our own Des Moffatt raised this budget issue.

There was no answer and no explanation from the Tories.

The answer is obvious though, it's because of the downturn in the economy and the Tories did it for exactly the same reason as the Labour Government.

It will have to be paid back and in the meantime the loan charges will have to be paid. It is a lot of money for 70,000 house holds in Swindon to be responsible for.

Council Tax freeze.

The Council Tax freeze that the Tory government has implemented in England is not the gift it might appear to be.

If any Council does not increase the Council Tax they get a special grant equivalent to an increase of 2.5%.

If in later years the special grant is not made that is an instant increase of 2.5% Council Tax before anything else is considered.

Inflation at 4% this year and a likely 5% next and all those borrowings the Tories have built up that needs paying means Swindon is in for tough times indeed.

For more details of these money matters see Labours Swindon Webb site at <http://swindon-labour.co.uk/western>

Dirty dogs.

We have not given up on getting something done about the horrible mess that a very few people allow their dogs to make on our pavements and play areas.

Jim started a petition to get the Council to authorise Police Support Officers to issue spot fine for those caught doing it.

We will be bringing that with us on our canvassing rounds in March and April.

In the meantime be aware and make others aware that it is perfectly acceptable to put small quantities of dog mess in the rubbish wheelie bins provided it is properly bagged.

It must be bagged though and not a few months worth all at once.

Development, good and bad

We are most disappointed that it now looks like the post office museum will not now be coming to the Chain Test House.

It would have been of mutual benefit to them, Steam and indeed to the outlet village and to the town generally.

Regular readers will know that Western Councillors resisted any residential development on that whole site and were overturned by the Bristol inspectors.

The Chain Test House is a listed building and we will defend that.

The residential development is going ahead and given that it was going to happen we are not dissatisfied with what the developer is doing.

In fact it would be great if other developers, some with a privileged position in the media, were as attentive to their impact on existing surroundings.