



Green News

Winter 2016/17

Barry's local newsletter

Hello and Happy New Year!

Over the past year I have been campaigning on some of the local issues that face our town and people. For those who don't know me I grew up in Oswestry and went to University in Birmingham and, after several years working as a musician, I returned to my home town and now run the Hermon Chapel Arts Centre on Chapel St. I am passionate about Oswestry and its future and how we can help prevent the demise of our thriving market town.



60 second survey and what's important to you

During the autumn I've been out and about collecting your views in my 60 second survey. This was a way for me to hear your views of our town, and what you want from our council. It was an opportunity for you to voice your concerns on issues from health care, jobs, activities, housing, anti-social behaviour, green spaces and more.

This is what you told me

Your biggest concerns were about empty shops in the town centre, about protecting the health services we rely on and on keeping the green spaces open.

I have researched what other towns are doing to tackle the problems of empty shops and I plan to write to the landlords and estate agents on a frequent basis. The thing that has surprised me most is that neither the Town Council nor Shropshire Council has either a plan, or any clear ideas on how to get empty shops re-let. It's time for some action!



Barry works for you all year round



Protecting our NHS

There's been a lot in the news recently about cancelled operations and pressures on hospitals. I am shocked that under "Future Fit" (the health plan for the future of Shropshire and Telford) **over £4 million** of the money that the NHS managers should have been spending on patient care has been given to consultants and lost in bureaucracy. The answer is clear, we need to keep the A+E at RSH in Shrewsbury **and** have an Urgent Care centre in Oswestry. I share your concerns and will work hard to make sure that Oswestry's needs are always taken into account.

Green Spaces

Our green spaces are important to us for some of the simplicities of life such as exercise, play areas, dog walking and our general well being. Under proposed cuts from Shropshire Council there are high possibilities of these spaces being closed! Over the years I have been working with groups such as Oswestry Green Space Association and HOOOH (*Hands off Old Oswestry Hill Fort*) and we can make sure we collectively voice our concerns before decisions are made for us.



Event: February 25th

And finally an invitation to an evening with the deputy leader of the Green Party Amelia Womack at the Hermon Chapel Arts Centre, Chapel Street on Saturday February 25th. We'll be talking about the future of youth services in Oswestry, the threat to the purpose-built Centre in Oak St and the drastic proposed cuts which will affect young people.

Thank you for taking the time to read and please contact me with your ideas, and any local issues or problems.

Ways to contact Barry: email bazmatronics@gmail.com or phone 07794 546 433 or write to me at Hermon Chapel, Chapel Street, Oswestry SY11 1LF

Barry works for you all year round