



# Focus On March Bramcote 2019

Edited by Hannah Land, Ian Tyler and David Watts  
[www.BroxtoweLibDems.Org](http://www.BroxtoweLibDems.Org)

## Budget Leaves Council Dangerously Short Of Money

The Conservative administration on Broxtowe Borough Council have voted to take over £600,000 from council reserves this year. This is on top of the near £1 million that they drew from reserves last year and leaves the council in a desperate financial position. If any large unexpected expenditure occurs the council will no longer have the resources to deal with it. The councils proposed budget also depends on them being able to shed more jobs. They have anticipated a £300,000 saving on staff costs over the coming year.

The Conservatives have decided that the borough council share of council tax won't go up this year. However their medium term financial plan, which was published this month, anticipates council tax going up significantly from next year onwards. The decision to not raise council tax this years probably owes a lot to the fact that there are elections for the council coming up in May. It must be obvious but the Conservatives cannot keep taking money from the reserves, year on year. Before long it will simply run out.

The **Liberal Democrats** on the council opposed the new budget as it leaves the council dangerously short of money. We also voted against a proposal to give councillors an increase in the amount that they are paid, and we are pleased to say that we were able to prevent this being brought in.

## Proposed Flats In Chapel Street

Broxtowe Borough Council is currently considering a plan to build 15 one and two bed apartments on the site of the old day nursery on Chapel Street. The proposal is that these 15 one and two bed apartments will have only 12 parking spaces. We believe that the design is poor and out of keeping with the conservation area. We also believe that it will lead to more parking problems. Chapel Street is so narrow that residents can only park on one side already and there are not enough spaces for the vehicles belonging to the current residents This proposal will make it far worse. Bramcote deserves better than this. We will be lobbying for these plans to be rejected. You can have your say on these proposals by contacting the planning department at the council and quoting reference 19/00026/out. We would encourage as many people as possible to have their say on this proposal.



The proposed new flats on Chapel Street.

## Anna Soubry

As you will no doubt know, Broxtowe's MP Anna Soubry has resigned from the Conservative Party, along with two other Tory MP's, and has joined the new Independent Group. We have had the opportunity to meet with Anna and talk about areas where the Liberal Democrats and the Independent MP's agree, and how we can work together. We hope this may lead to a new, kinder, form of politics.

## Liberal Democrats - Demand Better

## Affordable Housing

Research by the **Liberal Democrats** have shown that Broxtowe Borough Council has provided no new social housing over the past four years. With demand for social housing increasing strongly it is disappointing that nothing has been done to improve the provision in the borough. The research also revealed that last year only 8 properties were built which were classed as affordable. Virtually all the house building in Broxtowe has been in the form of large private properties, which make the developers the most money. We call on the council to ensure that there is an adequate provision of social and affordable housing in Broxtowe.

## 6 Votes In It

In May the voters of Bramcote get the chance to elect their councillors for the next four years. In the last borough elections the Conservatives won Broxtowe by just six votes from the Liberal Democrats. Please use your votes to make sure we win the seat back this year.

## Pot Holes

Nottinghamshire County Council has spent £1.75 million on new machinery to repair pot holes. They say that it will enable them to carry out repairs more quickly and that they will last longer. This will help them to tackle the backlog of thousands of pot holes on our roads. We welcome this and look forward to seeing an improvement in the condition of the roads in Bramcote.

## Bramcote Bake Off

The Great Bramcote Bake Off will take place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April between 14:30 and 16:30 at St Michael's Church, Church Street, Bramcote, NG9 3HD. There will be prizes for the top three cakes. Entry is £5 and to register your show stopper or get further information please ring Louise Bolton on 07851 293275 or email [bramcotebakeoff2019@outlook.com](mailto:bramcotebakeoff2019@outlook.com). The guest judge will be Bishop John Porter and there will be categories for adults and children.

## Rent Arrears

Over the past four years the amount of rent arrears by council tenants in Broxtowe has gone up by a staggering 49%. The major reasons for this seems to be universal credit. This has now been introduced in Broxtowe and it forces people into debt. Of the 168 claimants who have applied for universal credit since it was introduced in Broxtowe, 131 of them are already in rent arrears. Part of the reason for this is because the system frequently forces people to wait up to 8 weeks before they receive benefits, and often they have now other money to use to pay their rent. It is the same reason that usage of food banks in Broxtowe is increasing. We think this is appalling and that Broxtowe residents deserve better.

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# Tell us what you think

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- I will vote Liberal Democrat at the next election
- I can help deliver **FOCUS** in my area for 1 hour per quarter
- I would like to vote by post at the next local election

If you return this slip the Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you provide to contact you. Some of these contacts may be automated. You can opt out of communications at any time by contacting us.

Return to David Watts 6 Edingale Court, Bramcote, Nottingham, NG9 3LY