

Thorndon Parish Council 6.6.2013
County Councillor Report

New Council Takes Shape

Now the dust has settled after the recent election, the makeup of the new council has become clear. The new political makeup of the council is: Conservative 39; Green 2; Independent 3; Labour 15; Liberal Democrat 7; UKIP 9. Therefore the Conservative group have an overall majority of three on the County Council; this majority has shrunk from 19.

The Conservatives remain the ruling group with their members exclusively making the decisions in a "Cabinet" made up of "portfolio holders" appointed by the ruling group.

Labour are now the official opposition, taking over from Liberal Democrats, unless a coming together of Lib Dem and UKIP takes place.

I will be raising again, the issue of "shadow" Portfolio holders Allowances, these extra allowances are still set at around £7000.00 per annum on top of the basic member's allowance. With now 4 opposition groups in this council these allowances are becoming even harder to defend payments to 6 opposition members from just one group who also have the benefit of a full time paid researcher.

A new scrutiny committee has been formed, The Education Scrutiny Committee, and I am pleased to report I have a place on this panel, that will look into how we best improve our children's educational standards.

Broadband Issues

The recent promised upgrades to the Broadband network, has been a welcome move forward, I have enclosed a PDF document of the proposed roll out programme.

Traffic Survey

Thorndon's traffic speed survey should go live any day, After a Follow up call, I have checked with our team and the survey equipment should be going out tomorrow.

It will collect data over a period of 1 week. The survey engineer anticipates we will receive the results in approximately 3 weeks' time. This means we should have the data for the next meeting.