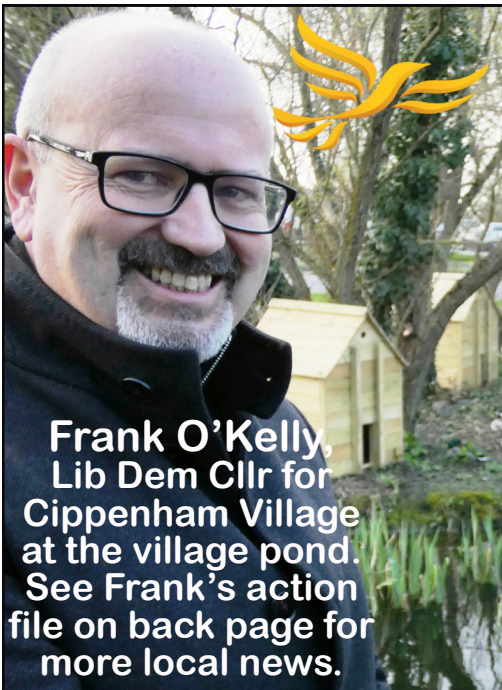


FOCUS on Cippenham 41

Cippenham Village edition

How can we get Slough out of the mess created by Tory governments & Labour councillors?



Frank O'Kelly, Lib Dem Cllr for Cippenham Village at the village pond. See Frank's action file on back page for more local news.

1. Lib Dems campaigning for a fairer deal for all local councils

Council leaders from all parties across England combined recently to say the Tory Government was not giving local councils enough money to provide the decent local services residents deserve.

They said the Government should provide local council with £4 billion extra to ensure adequate funding of services such as care for the elderly, education needs, roads, street cleaning, libraries, playareas.

At national level, the Lib Dems are the first, and so far only, party to support this. The Lib Dems' conference in March voted to back this call. Slough Lib Dem Chelsea Whyte supported this call: see right.



Chelsea Whyte
Lib Dem candidate to be Slough's next MP went to conference & supported the vote for fair funding

2. Experts had said it will take years for Slough Council to recover

In March 2022, an official report said to fully recover, Slough's badly-run Labour Council would have to carry on making cuts in vital services until 2029 because:

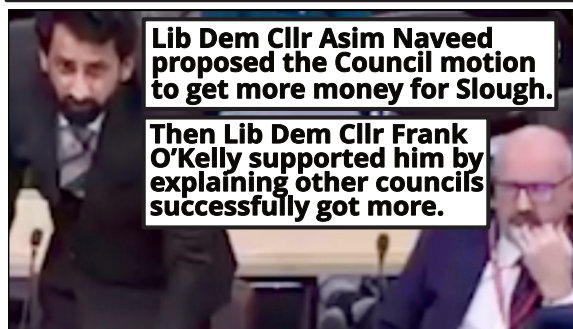
- **the deficit: "Is of a magnitude which has not been seen before across the UK"** and
- **"The Council has no complete and fully accurate accounts since 2015/16"**

In early 2023, Slough's Labour leaders agreed with the Tory Government that the town's Council tax could go UP by 10% in 2023/24 AND UP by 10% again in 2024/25.



Cllr O'Kelly says: "Lib Dems are working with the current administration to help fix the council, support residents, & ensure a Council tax rise lower than the 10% suggested above - see our website for details."

3. Lib Dem Cllrs are working to get developers to pay Slough a fairer share - but why did Slough Labour Cllrs fail to get us the same as other Councils got?



Lib Dem Cllr Asim Naveed proposed the Council motion to get more money for Slough.

Then Lib Dem Cllr Frank O'Kelly supported him by explaining other councils successfully got more.

Councils across the country combine 2 methods to ensure developers make a fair contribution to supporting local infrastructure when they are given planning permission.

But, Slough's Labour-run Council only used one of the two. The Lib Dem Cllrs successfully proposed a motion at Council supporting introduction of a combined approach using both. Slough's Labour Cllrs still refused to vote for this motion, even after Cllr Frank O'Kelly had shocked the meeting by showing how much less Slough got than other councils.

Cllr Frank O'Kelly's action files

Some things are fixed quickly.....but others can take months of work

Reported one day; fixed 48 hrs later

A resident of Cippenham Village ward told Cllr Frank O'Kelly about this dangerous missing drain-hole cover in **BATH ROAD**. He reported it to the Council, and 48 hours later it had been fixed.



Local residents and Slough transport officials have had some success in their continued work with Frank on issues with the buses at the village pond (first reported in Focus 40).

Bath Rd/Westgate retail park: Frank spent months pushing the management company to tackle issues effecting residents in **Bath Rd**, such as broken fencing & unmanaged trees.

A few examples of Frank's work

Plaines Close: Cippenham residents asked Frank to work with them to get action to tackle an overgrown hedge blocking the pavement. After a long battle this issue was resolved.

Earls Lane: Residents worried about the dangers when cars parked near junctions because of faded lines. Again there was eventual progress.

Care home: Cllr Frank O'Kelly provides support:



Chelsea Whyte (left) went with Cllr Frank O'Kelly on a visit to see the Operations Director (middle)

Lib Dem TIM BEARDER promises more community police for Slough



Tim Bearder (left) visits Slough to meet Chelsea Whyte (middle) & Cllr Frank O'Kelly (right)

Tim Bearder (above), Lib Dem candidate for May 2nd's election for Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner, visited Slough in late March. He told Cllr Frank O'Kelly & Chelsea Whyte, he had 3 priorities for Slough: **more community police; tackling violence against women; safer streets.**

Frank says: "please contact me or others in the Focus Team with any Council issue I might be able to help with: but, if possible, please try first to report fly-tipping etc on the Council website: <https://www.slough.gov.uk/report>"

Frank asks: "would you like to join our team working together addressing issues that arise here in Cippenham? There are many possible ways of helping, eg delivering these Focus newsletters in your area, letting me know about things that might become a problem & helping our campaigns, eg demanding action on sewage problems & signing our petition on the website or QR code below:"

Cllr Frank O'Kelly: Frank.Okelly@slough.gov.uk ; Tel: 07835 138 859

Chelsea Whyte: chelsea@sloughlibdems.org.uk

Website: <http://sloughlibdems.org.uk> - Cllr Frank O'Kelly's page is in the "Our Team" box at the top; **And you can join the Lib Dems on this website**

Liberal Democrats

