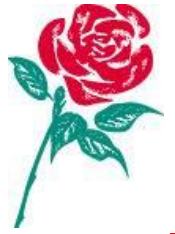


The Rose

Desborough Edition – February 2012



Desborough Library – more cuts



The County Council is about to implement cuts that may have an impact on Homework Clubs, large print books and computer assistance in our libraries. In addition local 'Friends of the Library' groups are being asked to take on the role of fundraisers to supplement the Libraries budget.

Each 'Friends' group (usually a small number of local people who do voluntary work at the library) is being asked to raise £2000 this year to go into a central pot. This means that even if the Desborough 'Friends' could raise the money there is no guarantee that it would be spent in Desborough.

Town Councillor Jo Watson says – *'We all know what an important role libraries have in our communities and this looks like the thin end of the wedge. It may only be a matter of time before they slash the funding for staff and try to get volunteers to run the whole service'*.

This is not the first time that the Tory County Council have cut library services in Desborough and in the past we have even faced the threat of closure. 'Use it or lose it' is a familiar slogan and we would encourage local residents to make full use of the services at our local library. In this way you will be able to keep an eye on any future proposals to make damaging cuts.

HAWTHORNS LEISURE CENTRE

Kettering Borough Council has voted to close the Hawthorns Leisure Centre despite the wishes of many local residents.

Where was the voice of local people? Desborough has four representatives on the Borough Council and they are all members of the controlling Conservative group. It is quite clear that some have very little influence in such matters and one, who is a member of the Tory Executive Committee, voted to close it.

There was a time when Desborough had Labour representatives on the Borough Council who listened to local people and spoke up for the town.

DESBOROUGH RESIDENTS PAY MORE TAX

Desborough residents are paying more in local taxes than people living in Kettering!

Since 1894 Town and Parish Councils have had the right to levy a local additional tax called a 'Parish Precept'.

Town and Parish councils used to be funded by a grant from the Borough Council and this covered the cost of the clerk's salary, the administration costs and allows some financial support for minor initiatives agreed by the Town Council.

However the Tory controlled Kettering Borough Council is reducing the funding of Town and Parish Councils each year so people in Desborough are forced to pay extra taxes.

People in Kettering do not have to pay this additional tax because the town is not 'Parished'.

Councillor David Coe believes that this is unfair for local people. He says -

"It is unfair for people in Desborough to pay additional local taxes. As Desborough continues to grow the Borough Council gets more and more revenue from the town but it seems that they only interested in spending the money in Kettering".

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