

Vote Matthew S. Dent

Your Labour Candidate for Remenham, Wargrave and Ruscombe

Tory arrogance triggers £9,000 by-election

The resignation of a Conservative Councillor has triggered a by-election in Remenham, Wargrave and Ruscombe to be held on **21st July 2011**, estimated to cost the local taxpayer £9,000.

Cllr Claire Stretton resigned on 10th May, four days after local elections and a referendum on the voting system, were held across the country. She resigned because she had won a seat on Windsor and Maidenhead Council, after having moved to Maidenhead some years ago, continuing to sit on Wokingham Borough Council.

Had she resigned prior to the election, then the by election could have been held on May 6th, when the polls were open anyway. Cllr Stretton's cynical and self-motivated decision has placed the excessive and needless cost of this ballot on the shoulders of the hardworking people she was supposed to be representing.



Matthew S. Dent, Labour candidate for the Remenham, Wargrave and Ruscombe by-election

The people of Remenham, Wargrave and Ruscombe deserve better than this. Councillors should represent the local residents first and foremost, rather than putting themselves and their political careers first. Matthew S. Dent believes this as a matter of principle, and if elected he pledges to serve as a voice on the council for residents.

Matthew believes that the following issues are of particular importance to the area:

- **The library** – The Conservative administration at Wokingham Borough Council's plans to privatise the library are a direct threat to a vital public service. Libraries are key parts of local communities, and Matthew promises to fight against the moves.
- **Litter** – Remenham, Wargrave and Ruscombe is a beautiful part of the country, but is at risk of being spoiled by a rise in the amount of litter being dropped. Matthew is firmly in favour of robust measures to persuade people to dispose of litter responsibly, and punish those who don't
- **Vandalism** – Recent thefts from allotments in Wargrave, and vandalism of allotments elsewhere in the Borough are a concern to the hardworking allotment-keepers. Given cuts to policing, gardeners must be able to rest assured that their plots are safe.
- **Recycling** – With the new limits on household waste collection being introduced by the Council, it is essential that the provision of recycling facilities be maintained and expanded, both for reasons of environmentalism, and to prevent families being charged for collection of their rubbish.

Wokingham Borough Council plans to privatise *your* library services



Matthew S. Dent (centre) with a cross-party campaign against Conservative plans to privatise Wargrave Library

The Conservative administration of Wokingham Borough Council has recently announced plans to privatise the library services across the borough. These plans, which were not in any election literature and were not consulted on, put Wargrave's fantastic library at risk.

Matthew, a keen reader and user of the library, thinks this is disgraceful. "The library is a centre of the local community, giving a place for people to come and socialise, as well providing access to knowledge and entertainment to all," he said. "In small villages such as Wargrave and Twyford, it is especially important to the maintenance of a healthy community. The plans to privatise the library put it at direct risk of closure or exploitation by profit-driven companies. This is not just a threat to the library, but to the village itself."

Wokingham Council have offered the people of the Borough no consultation or choice on this issue. The people of Remenham, Wargrave and Ruscombe are unique amongst the wards of Wokingham, in that they have a by-election to make sure that their feelings are clearly heard.

The Conservatives have treated the people of Wokingham Borough with shocking contempt. They have foregone the democratic mechanisms which would ensure that such dangerous and ideologically motivated moves could not be forced through without the will of the electorate. And they have acted with a lack of respect for the residents of this ward.

Matthew and the Labour party are offering residents an alternative, a different choice to the same old blue and yellow. Matthew will be a voice in local government- your voice.



Wargrave Library is being threatened by the Conservatives' plans for privatisation

About the Candidate

Matthew is a resident of Wargrave, having lived in the village for the last four years, and in the area for the last five.

He is a law graduate, and a strong supporter of social justice and equal rights. He also volunteers as a helper at a local Cub Scout group.

Contacting Matthew

Matthew is keen to hear from residents, with any questions they may have about his campaign or positions, or any issues they wish to bring to his attention.

He can be contacted in the following ways:

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