



“HAPPY NEW YEAR” says Frank O’Kelly, Lib Dem Cllr for Cippenham Village. See Frank’s local action file on back.

FOCUS on Cippenham 42

Cippenham Village edition

Lib Dem Cllrs trying to save Slough services as Labour’s bankruptcy crisis gets worse

A SHOCKING NEW REPORT SHOWS LABOUR COUNCILLORS LEFT SLOUGH IN AN EVEN BIGGER MESS THAN FIRST REALISED WHEN THEY “BANKRUPT” THE COUNCIL IN 2021, & LOST POWER IN 2023

Slough Council has been badly damaged by:

- 1. Years of Government under-funding key services;**
- 2. Incompetence of Labour Cllrs who lost control of the Council’s finances with many years of unaudited accounts;**
- 3. And now, this new report (see red box right). It shows that as the historic record is checked, it becomes clear the council’s finances were even worse than first thought!**

Commissioners’ Report Sept ‘24

Governments send Commissioners into “bankrupt” councils. They force councils to reform & make cuts, sell-off assets. Slough has had Commissioners since 2021. In 2024 they checked the previous records: “as a result, the future financial position has become more serious.”

So, Government, now Labour, appointed Commissioners are demanding more cuts & sell-offs.

How are Lib Dem Cllrs trying to help tackle this terrible Tory/Labour mess?

1. Cllr Frank O’Kelly is chairing the Council’s Audit Committee

Since he was elected in May 2023, Frank O’Kelly (see right), has been chair of the Council’s Audit Committee. Frank is drawing on his business experience to help sort out the mess. The Committee considers the reports from the professional auditors who are trying to clear up the back-log of unaudited accounts left by Labour. **This is crucial to help identify a way forward to try to rescue Slough Council.**



2. Get more money for roads & facilities from developers in Slough

Most councils use 2 schemes to get money from developers when they are granted planning permission. This money is used to pay for new facilities such as roads, health centres etc. When Labour controlled Slough Council they only used one of the 2 methods, and got in much less money than most other Councils. Lib Dem Cllrs successfully got Slough Council to agree to use both schemes, **& Slough is beginning to get more money.**

3. Cllr O’Kelly is campaigning to keep our Cippenham library services open
Slough Council is consulting on plans to close Cippenham library. Frank O’Kelly says: “Libraries are not just for borrowing books, they have evolved into lively community centres. They can be a key support to young, old & vulnerable residents. They can help mothers & the unemployed. If we lose a library it is gone forever. Please help the campaign to save the library. The key thing is to go onto the 2024 libraries consultation page of Slough Council’s website & oppose the plans - see back for QR code & petitions”

Cllr Frank O'Kelly's Action File

Cllr Frank O'Kelly: "Ways we can work together please to save Cippenham library":

1. Complete the Council's consultation document - see front page, or use this QR code. The Tory Leader of Slough Council said this will be the key evidence in the decisions on the library.
2. Sign a local petition (Frank helped organise several) & sign the one on Slough Council website (this is separate from the consultation).



IVY CRESCENT MAST

This massive mast suddenly appeared at the end of **Ivy Cres**. Cllr O'Kelly & residents successfully convinced the Slough council planning department to issue a notice to get the mast taken down.

The next fight for the residents & Frank was against the wireless company's appeal.

ELTHAM AVE: getting fly-tipping cleared



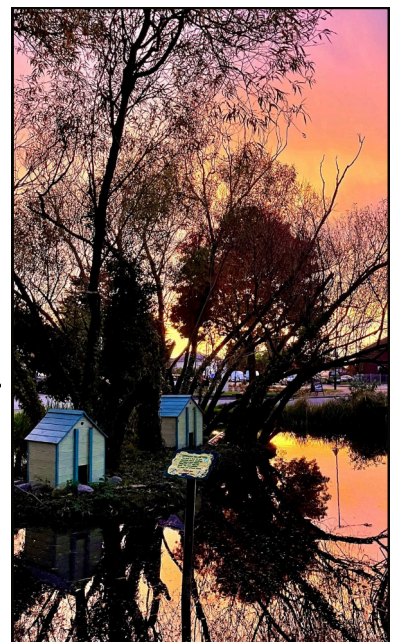
Passing motorists are thought to have dumped waste into the communal waste area of apartments in Eltham Ave. **Cllr O'Kelly** got the Council to clear the mess.



The doors were repaired to reduce the instances of flytipping. Please report flytipping here: <https://www.slough.gov.uk/report> If not cleared: Contact Cllr O'Kelly

Cllr O'Kelly & colleagues cleaned the pond

Cllr Frank O'Kelly (in front of the bin, by the pond), local residents, volunteers from the Royal British Legion, from the charity Good Gym Slough, & the landlady and staff from the Kings Head Pub, worked to clean up Cippenham Village Pond & the Cenotaph. Evening photo right.



Cllr Frank O'Kelly standing up for pensioners against Labour's Winter Fuel cuts

Cllr Frank O'Kelly's successful Lib Dem motion called on Slough Council to campaign against the cuts to the pensioners' **Winter Fuel Payments** made by the Labour Government (Labour MPs's own fuel bills on their second homes are paid by taxpayers).

The motion also said the Council should do more to help pensioners claim the benefits that they are entitled to get.

Slough's Labour councillors failed to support the motion to help Slough pensioners, all other Cllrs supported it.

Frank says: please contact me or others in the Cippenham Lib Dem Focus Team if you have a Council issue I might be able to help with, or if you could help us, eg deliver Focus in your area

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Website: <http://sloughlibdems.org.uk> - the website has more details on some stories & Lib Dem campaigns.

And you can join the Lib Dems on this website

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