

*No taxpayers' money was wasted in the production of this leaflet. In contrast our MP can draw on up to £10,400 of taxpayers money each year to fund her communications.*

## Protecting countryside and providing housing for local people



*Parishes should be in the driving seat when agreeing housing such as this in Scarisbrick, says Adrian.*

**Under Labour government rules the local council is being forced by law to plan to build 5,000 new homes in the next 17 years. A Conservative Government, if elected, will scrap these plans as Adrian Owens, the Conservative General Election candidate explains.**

*Adrian said, "Conservatives will abolish the top-down regional planning system and the regional house building targets which go with it."*

### Conservatives will:

- **Allow local councils to rewrite their planning development frameworks, protecting green belt that otherwise might have had to be released for Labour's plans**
- **Drastically reduce the powers of distant planning inspectors to rewrite local planning policy.**

Adrian adds that in its place the Conservatives will establish a new locally-led framework for development. "There is a shortage of suitable housing for the next generation in our villages locally. Often young families have to move out of their home village to find a home, placing extra pressure on family relationships. It's local support for new development that is currently the crucial missing element."

### Therefore Conservatives will:

- **Ensure that more of the financial benefits from new housing building are retained locally**
- **Allowing any village, through its parish council, to essentially provide themselves with planning permission to expand housing for local people through a Local Housing Trust. Homes would need to match the local architectural style and plans would be subject to wide consultation and would require high support in a local referendum. There would also be limits on expansion numbers. Crucially though, the constitution of a Local Housing Trust will ensure that the benefits of development will remain within the community in perpetuity. So any affordable housing cannot be subsequently sold on the open market, but can only be sold back to the Trust and made available again to other local people.**

For fuller details on our plans for Local Housing Trusts please e-mail us at [office@westlancsconservatives.com](mailto:office@westlancsconservatives.com)

## Sustaining village post offices

Since 1997, 11 post offices have closed in West Lancashire leaving only 15 remaining. Our Labour MP voted in support of this closure programme in 2008 and two local post offices have closed since the last General Election.

Adrian Owens is a strong supporter of local post offices and joined the successful campaign to retain the post office in Newburgh Village where he lives. Conservatives will work to sustain village post offices by:

- **Allowing post offices to offer a wider range of services and products**
- **Bolstering the Post Office card account – for example by allowing people to pay their utility bills in this way**

Conservative-run West Lancashire borough council uses local post offices to collect cash payments on its behalf providing £47,000 of income to them annually for this service.



*Conservatives join campaign against closure of Newburgh Village post office.*

# Young people - our villages' future



**Adrian lives in Newburgh village with his wife and children.** He says "Villages need to provide facilities for all ages. Our village schools provide a quality education and I will work to see them flourish in the years ahead. The recent comments from our MP alleging possible school closures were inaccurate and deplorable in stoking concerns in our schools just at the time parents were choosing which school to apply to."

Activities for young people in villages can be somewhat limited too. That's why I was delighted to obtain a grant for Parbold Youth Club in December which will allow this long-awaited facility to finally open. I'll continue to work for a wider range of facilities in our villages."

Adrian with members of Parbold Youth Club celebrating their opening.

## News in brief ....

### Visit to farmers

James Paice, the Shadow Agriculture Minister has accepted Adrian's invitation to visit West Lancashire in February to listen to the concerns of local farmers.

### Road safety

Adrian is pleased that speed limit reductions will take place on thirteen rural roads in West Lancashire over the next 2 years or so. Following the petition he organised in 2008 the issue is receiving greater attention, but there is much still to do. It will remain a top priority for Adrian.

### Are you away from home this Spring?

Make sure you don't miss out on your vote at the General Election. The election must be held by June, and March 25th or May 6th are the likely dates commentators mention most often. If you are away, you could miss your vote. Apply for a postal vote (but remember postal votes often won't arrive until 8 or 9 days before the election) or alternatively apply so that a relative or friend can proxy vote on your behalf.

Please e-mail: [office@westlancsconservatives.com](mailto:office@westlancsconservatives.com) or telephone 01695 572306 and we will help you make sure that your vote counts this Spring.

## Honesty in food labelling

**On a recent visit to Taylor's Farm shop in Lathom, Adrian Owens, Conservative General Election candidate called for changes to food legislation. "Food labelled as "British" should be born and bred in Britain", he said.**



Adrian at Taylor's Farm Shop

"The rural business which Roger and Bernie Webster have built in recent years is based on high quality, locally-sourced produce. This is a growing market. People want to know more about the origin of the food they eat. The beef and most of the lamb come from animals reared on the farm, and other produce is sourced from local Lancashire producers, supporting other local rural businesses."

"Yet, especially with processed foods sold in supermarkets, consumers cannot be certain that food labelled as British contains meat from animals born and bred in Britain. Often the meat will come from Brazil or other countries and simply be processed in this country, yet still labelled as British. Consumers can be easily misled and the law needs changing so that food labelling clearly states the country of origin of the ingredients."



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Promoted by Martin Mayer on behalf of Adrian Owens, both of 72c New Court Way, Ormskirk, L39 2YT. Printed by Waring Collins, 12 Swordfish Business Park, Burscough, Lancashire L40 8JW. Printed on recycled paper.