

Frank O'Kelly,
Lib Dem Councillor
for Cippenham
Village, says: "this
edition of Focus
shows what can be
achieved by Cllrs &
residents together"

FOCUS on Cippenham 43

Cippenham Village edition

Some successes for residents & Lib Dem Cllr Frank O'Kelly:

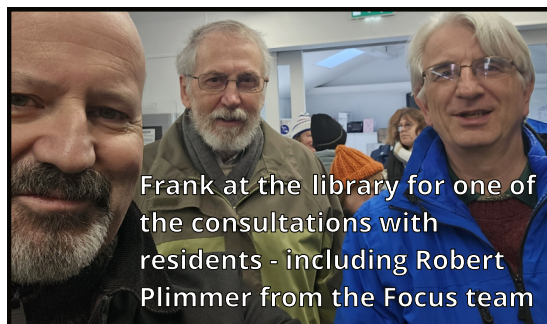
- . *Cippenham library saved, for now - see below*
- . *Cllr Frank O'Kelly re-elected Chair of Audit - see below*
- . *Ivy Crescent mast removed - see back*
- . *Gurdwara access road progress - see back*
- . *"Streamteam's" clean-up in Deerwood Park - see back*

Residents' action saved Slough libraries



How Frank O'Kelly helped the consultation

1. On 5 Jan Frank started delivering Focus 42 despite the rain (below) to help spread the messages about how residents could **join in the consultation** announced by the Council on its plan to close Cippenham & Langley libraries.
2. **Frank joined in the consultations**, eg at Cippenham library (see below), & he also encouraged a local resident to launch one of the successful petitions.
3. **Frank's tactics were vital to ensure the success.** Because the previous Labour leader of Slough had run up massive Council debts, Commissioners now oversee all expenditure. Therefore, Frank realised the consultation had to continue to show the Commissioners that the public supported the libraries. So, Frank helped block a Labour-backed motion in Council that might have stopped the consultation early.
4. **Cllr Frank O'Kelly will try to keep an eye on things:** although Cippenham library has been saved in the short-term, the longer term is less clear. There are exciting plans for the library to become part of a wider Family Hub, but a new building might be necessary.



Frank at the library for one of the consultations with residents - including Robert Plimmer from the Focus team



Frank O'Kelly
delivering news
about the library
campaign etc to
residents on 5 Jan
despite the rain!

Cllr Frank O'Kelly re-elected to chair the Council's all-party Audit Committee: progress made in clearing the mess left in 2023 by Labour's Leader

Frank O'Kelly was re-elected Chair of the Audit Committee at the Council's recent Annual Meeting. His fellow councillors recognise that he's doing such a good job at bringing to Slough Council his skills from his senior post in a Trading Estate business.



When the Labour Leader of Slough Council was kicked out by the voters of Slough he left behind at least four years of accounts that had not been fully audited. Under the Council's new Finance Officer, working with Frank & his Audit Committee colleagues, the backlog has almost been cleared.

Slough Council under the Labour leader up until 2023 had such large debts (up to £750 Million), do you know how much of every pound of your Council tax went on paying off the debt:.... 30p!

Cllr Frank O'Kelly's Action File

Cllr Frank O'Kelly helped achieve progress on lifting the closure of the access point outside the gurdwara - but more is needed



Several councillors went to a meeting called by the gurdwara after the Council blocked the access road between the gurdwara & the main lanes of **Bath Rd.** First, there were rows of cones, then it became kerb barriers and a road closed sign, as shown left in the two photos - from both directions

Cippenham Village Councillor Frank O'Kelly followed up by going back on Thurs 15th May with a Council officer who promised to unblock the road, at least while a proper consultation exercise was held. Frank hopes to continue helping to get a full solution.



Local community volunteer Jen Simpson said Frank's work for Cippenham was "role modelling what being a good Lib Dem Cllr is all about"

Ivy Crescent mast has gone: success for residents, helped by Frank



This enormous mast suddenly appeared at the end of Ivy Crescent in April 2024. Residents campaigned for it to be removed. They also told one of Cllr Frank O'Kelly's Focus deliverers - she passed the news on to Frank.

Frank liaised with the residents & the Council & checked out the smelly noisy generator. The residents & Frank convinced Slough Council Planning Dept to get the mast taken away, & continued working when the company appealed. The company lost & the mast removed (see left).



13 May 2025: MAST TAKEN AWAY - victory for the residents' campaign backed by Frank

Action by Cllr Frank O'Kelly & the "Streamteam"

Cllr Frank O'Kelly helped build a team of Cippenham volunteers, called the "Streamteam", who clear-up parts of Cippenham, especially waterways. On Sunday 18 May they cleaned up the stream in **Deerwood Park, off Earl's Lane** & removed a large pile of fly-tipping (see right - Frank third from left in the photo).



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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