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**Serving the people of Abbeydale and Abbeymead**

**Mar/Apr 2017**

# RE-ELECT ANDREW GRAVELLS ON THURSDAY MAY 4TH

**Let's re-elect Andrew Gravells: An approachable, hardworking and caring local councillor.**

On Thursday May 4th all of Gloucestershire goes to the Polls to elect their County Councillor. There are 53 county councillors, and our area will vote for, and return one of them. Andrew Gravells has been our area's County Councillor for a few years, and now the local Abbey branch of Gloucester Conservatives has asked him to stand again for re-election.

Andrew was born in Gloucester, where he went to St James' Junior school and then on to the Crypt school. Now he's retired from full time work as a Customs Officer, he has the time and energy to go on representing our area at Shire Hall.

Andrew has served the wider city as both Mayor and Sheriff, and held Cabinet posts on both the City and County Councils. Across the city Andrew is widely recognised as one of Gloucester's most experienced councillors. Andrew, here in Abbey, has delivered on many important schemes, which have made a difference to people's quality of life, and provided some of the best local facilities in Gloucester. He has held regular advice sessions at the Abbeydale Sports and Community Centre, and helped hundreds of

local people with their individual problems and issues. Andrew says, "I live in this area and I know it well. I also know many of the local people here too. Whether it's taking up issues with the City and County Councils, or talking to Government Ministers, I enjoy the challenge of being a county councillor!"

**"I live in this area and I know it well. I also know many of the local people here too."**



Andrew's experience is hard to beat, please support him on Thursday May 4th

## MESSAGE FROM ANDREW GRAVELLS

Dear Neighbour ,

I'm pleased to have this opportunity to write to you before you cast your vote on May 4th. I live in our area, and know it well, and I have the energy to continue representing our area at Shire Hall.

I won't be running down or rubbishing the other parties in this election here in Abbey. Nor will I be making any wild promises in order to secure your vote. I simply place before you my proven track record of service to our area. I can't always deliver what people ask me to, but when I don't, it's not through lack of trying.

This is a great part of our historic city, and with your help and vote I can continue with my work to make it an even more attractive place in which to live. I've achieved a fair bit, but there's always scope for more! Please consider me as a serious choice when thinking about who to vote for on May 4th. Thank you.

*Andrew*



Andrew with Abbeydale & Abbeymead City Councillors

**GET IN TOUCH**

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# EMILY'S CODE – A GLOUCESTER FAMILY LAUNCHES A NATIONAL SAFETY CODE

Clive and Debbie Gardner had the worst experience any parents can imagine when their daughter Emily, then 14, died in a ghastly boating accident in 2015. A multitude of safety issues contributed to the accident, including an over-sized buoyancy aid.

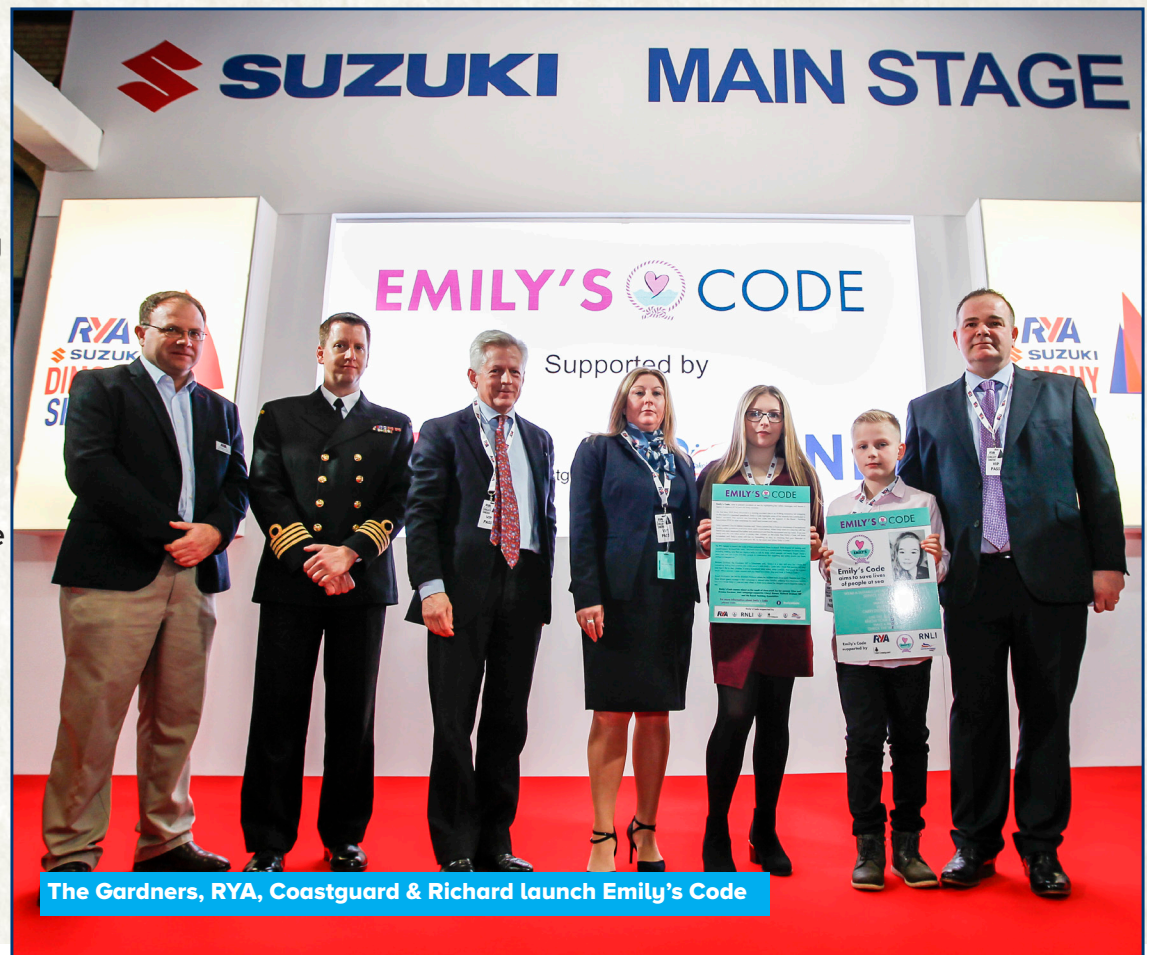
"From this tragedy", said MP Richard Graham, "the Gardners have now created a legacy that honours their daughter, and may save lives across Britain. The backing they've had from family, friends and the community is amazing."

Richard worked with Clive and Debbie, the Royal Yacht Association (RYA) and HM Coastguard on Emily's Code. He then held a debate in Parliament to get the support of parliamentarians and the government, with 3 generations of the Gardner family present. Several other MPs spoke about the value of the new Code and Transport Minister John Hayes warmly congratulated the Gardners on this new national partnership.

Emily's Code was launched at the huge RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show in London.

"Like the Gazzards, the Powells and the Evans's - other families who've lost children recently - the Gardners have had to dig very deep", said Richard: "and it's been an honour working with them."

Barnwood and Hucclecote Candidate Cllr Lise Noakes added. "Let's spread the word by inviting Clive and Debbie to talk at schools or clubs and encouraging anyone who goes on a boat to look at [emilyscode.org](http://emilyscode.org)."



The Gardners, RYA, Coastguard & Richard launch Emily's Code



Richard welcoming the police back to Gloucester City Centre



Opening the George Whitfield Centre

## Focus on knives, drugs & homeless

■ Police recorded crime in Gloucestershire is down 17% over the last five years, but possession of a knife, from a low base, is up nearly 25%. "The blow to people's perception of a safe city from the death of a young person is huge even if other cities are envious of our crime rates" said our MP.

HMIC, the Police Ofsted, has noted our force needs to improve their handling of serious crime, and a report by Cityforum criticised the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) for spending a million pounds supporting many projects without measurable outcomes.

Richard said, "Overall spending on police in our county is at the same levels but some costs will rise, so focusing on the main priorities is vital. We also need more communication after serious incidents so that residents are re-assured that our Parks are fundamentally safe."

He added that the city centre police were doing a good job to identify rough sleepers who need help. Kingsholm Candidate Justin Hudson welcomed an extra £900,000 from the government to help the homeless in Gloucestershire.

"In the longer term", said Richard, "we need more social housing for rent as well as sale, and I'm working with GCH, the City Council and government on an Estate Regeneration plan to provide this."

# MOR SOC



Richard opening Park View



# NEW SCHOOL FUNDING PROPOSALS

The Government's consultation on proposals for a new funding formula closed in March. The core schools budget has been protected since 2010, but the system for distributing the money is biased to metropolitan areas. The new formula allocates equal money per child based on criteria including deprivation, low prior attainment and English as an additional language, on top of basic

funding.

Richard said: "The current system isn't fair. Under the new proposals Gloucester sees an overall 0.4% increase, so it's not a cut, and some schools like Beaufort will benefit significantly: but others will see a reduction at the moment. So I've met with schools reps, the other Gloucestershire MPs, Education Secretary and Schools Minister to discuss ways of improving

the final proposals."

Coney Hill and Matson Candidate Clouncillor Jennie Watkins said, "It's important we make sure the schools that face the greatest challenges get the greatest amount of money."

Meanwhile the proposal by the Crypt School to create the first primary school in Podsmead has been welcomed by local candidates and the MP.



Richard and Andrew discuss the primary school in Podsmead with Crypt pupils

# THE FUNDING FOR SOCIAL CARE



New Care Home: 'a great addition to care in Gloucester'

City MP Richard welcomed Budget confirmation of a rise in tax free allowances to £11,500 (up from £6,500 in 2010) and reductions in Business Rates for most small businesses in Gloucester.

But Richard believes the additional £2 billion for social care was the most important aspect of the Budget. This is on top of additional cash raised locally by council tax increases.

"We know how important it is that our elderly get the right care", said Richard, "and this should make a real difference over the next couple of years." He also highlighted the Chancellor's promise to look again at the earlier Dilnot Commission's report for a longer term structure for social care. "No government yet has been able to solve this issue", said Richard, "but we have to try".

Abbey Candidate Councillor Andrew Gravells said he welcomed both the short term extra funding and the longer term commitment to resolve social care funding.

## Local News inbrief

### NHS FUNDING & APPRENTICES

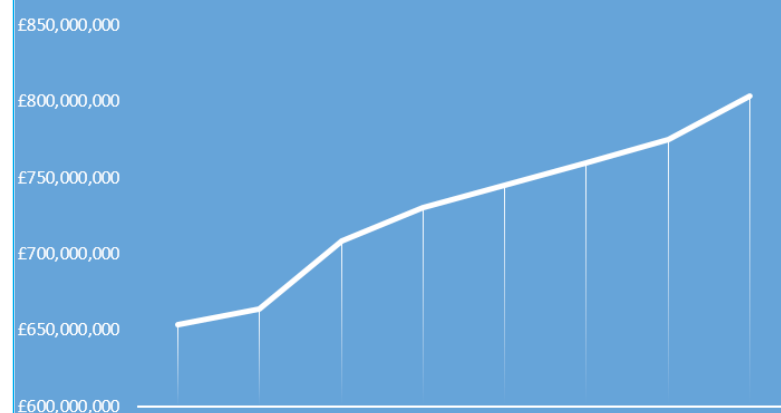
The government will invest an additional £10 billion into the NHS by 2020/21. This includes nearly £4 billion more this year, which the NHS Chief Executive said will 'kick-start' the NHS.

Richard said, "My constituents should be reassured that a strong economy continues to increase funding to the NHS, despite all sorts of scaremongering by parties who campaigned in the

General Election on NO extra funding for the NHS."

Also good news is that the NHS Gloucestershire Hospitals Trust has taken on over 170 apprentices since 2010, and NHS Care Services now have 46. "With the Apprenticeship Levy coming in there will be many opportunities for more apprenticeships both for existing and new employees", said Richard, "just check their websites for details."

#### FUNDING FOR THE NHS IN GLOS



Funding for NHS Gloucestershire has gone up every year since 2010



### RESULTS FOR BHS

Former Boss Philip Green has reached an agreement with The Pensions Regulator to stump up £363 million for the BHS pension scheme.

Richard was the lead MP for pension issues on the joint Parliamentary Select Committee set up to investigate BHS. He said: "My aim was for Philip Green to recognise his responsibilities and confirm that he would 'sort' the pension

scheme. So this was a good result for 19,000 BHS pensioners, the Pensions Regulator, parliamentary process and for all who care about fair play."

Tuffley candidate Andrew Miller said it was "good that democratic process has shown it can hold the big businessmen to account."



Andrew at the motorway to see the works progressing



## ANDREW'S CAMPAIGN LEADS TO THE M5 BEING RESURFACED

**£3.85million scheme to resurface the motorway through Abbeydale and Abbeymead is nearing completion.**

At a meeting held at Shire Hall, which Andrew Gravells attended with Highways England engineers, he was able to impress on them just how bad the surface noise from the M5 had become. The engineers listened and accepted his invitation to visit various sites along the motorway to hear for themselves just how bad the noise was.

At another meeting with them at their Head Offices in Avonmouth, they showed him their tentative plans for the resurfacing work. Later, thanks to the intervention of city MP, Richard Graham, a meeting was held in the

House of Commons so that Andrew, along with other Gloucestershire MPs, could meet the Transport Minister. There the Transport Minister announced that the work was being brought forward 12 months, and it should be almost finished by the time you receive this copy of Abbey Views. Andrew said, "Motorway noise has been an issue here for some time, and I'm pleased that my campaigning has led to this major project being carried out here. It should bring relief to those people who live close to the M5. I was pleased to be invited to visit the site when the motorway was closed to traffic at night."



Andrew at the Turf cutting ceremony

## £5MILLION UPDATE TO DOCTORS SURGERY BY MORRISONS UNDERWAY

Andrew has been working very closely with staff at both the City and County Councils to help smooth the way for the major redevelopment of the Hadwen Medical Practice.

The surgery is undergoing a £5 million refurbishment and extension programme to bring facilities up-to-date, as well as meet the growing capacity of the local area.

The new building will offer a mixture of consulting and treatment rooms, and general offices. Externally, a new car park is being built at the back of the building that will triple the current capacity and be accessed via a pedestrian bridge.

Andrew said, "Having worked closely with the Practice Manager I know that a lot of hard work has gone in behind the scenes to get us to this point, and the new extension is going to make this one of the most up-to-date and best equipped medical centres in Gloucestershire. Both as the areas' local County Councillor and a patient at this centre, this is a great addition to health facilities in both Abbeydale and Abbeymead."

## ANDREW HOLDS REGULAR ADVICE SURGERIES DURING THE YEAR

In addition to dealing with hundreds of emails and phone calls, Andrew holds regular advice sessions at the Abbeydale Sports and Community Centre. Some people prefer to meet him face to face, rather than contacting him via email or phone. Andrew works very closely with the city councillors for our area, and they make a great team.

Andrew says, "Team work is key in getting the right decisions made at the right time by the right council, and that's why my working relationship with Collette Finnegan, Laura Pearsall and Gordon Taylor is so important. We're a team who

deliver here."

Collette said, "I've only been a councillor for a year now, but I've been so impressed by how hard and quickly Andrew works for our area. He cuts out all the flannel and cuts to the chase to secure good results for our area. I hope people will be eager to support him on May 4th."



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## CAN YOU HELP YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATIVES?

**If you can help Gloucester Conservatives, please contact us using the details above or fill out and return this form to the address opposite.**

Name

Address

Home/Mobile no

Email

### How can you help?

- ☐ Window poster ☐ Garden poster  
☐ Larger poster ☐ Deliver leaflets

**Please return to:**

**Freepost RRHC-EJHT-SYYX  
GL3 4AD**

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