

# HEIDI ALLEN IN CONVERSATION

Heidi Allen was selected in October to be the candidate for the South Cambridgeshire parliamentary seat for the May 2015 election. If we elect Heidi, she will succeed Andrew Lansley as the Member of Parliament for South Cambridgeshire – which includes the Queen Edith’s ward of Cambridge.

Andy Bower, Conservative candidate at the City Council by-election interviewed Heidi for *In Touch*.

**Andy Bower:** Heidi, can you tell us something about yourself?

**Heidi Allen:** I think the most important thing people should know about me is that I’m not a career politician. I’ve worked in industry for 19 years – the last 6 of which running my own manufacturing business. I’m so proud to have run a business that manufactures British made goods and exports them all over the world. I’m originally from a small village in Yorkshire and studied Astrophysics at University College London.

**AB:** Why did you become a Conservative?

**HA:** I’ve voted Conservative all my life. I think it’s a symptom of growing up with self-employed parents and watching them strive to do better and them teaching me that it’s important to work hard to provide for your family. However I only actually joined the Conservative party in 2011 when I was so struck by the Tottenham riots that I felt I had to do something to help our country. That inspired me to seek to become an MP. The first step on that road was to nail my colours to the mast and become a Conservative member.

**AB:** When canvassed, people occasionally say “I would vote for anyone but a Conservative”, what do you say to them?

**HA:** I have heard people say that the Conservatives are the party of the rich. But if a girl from Yorkshire with working class parents who has worked in industry all her adult life can be made to feel so welcome, then it really is the party for everyone. We are not about where you have come from – it’s about where you want to go.

**AB:** How were you selected to be the candidate?

**HA:** After vetting by the Conservative central office, members of the South Cambridgeshire Conservative Association selected me at a Hustings last October. I was one of four people – all ladies, but definitely not chosen by our sex – who presented to the members and



answered questions: an experience to remember.

**AB:** Why is Queen Edith’s in South Cambridgeshire? Surely it should be in the Cambridge Constituency?

**HA:** There are many arguments why QE should be part of the city given that it falls within city council control. It is ultimately down to population size as Cambridge is too big to be one single constituency. However, from my point of view it means that I have one foot in the city and one foot in South Cambs. Given the tremendous growth agenda and pressures on transport and housing, the two areas have to work together, not separately. The City Deal is a prime example of how the authorities are working together

– I’m lucky enough to have a role to play in both.

**AB:** Do you live in South Cambridgeshire?

**HA:** Yes, my husband and I live in Steeple Morden in the South of the constituency

**AB:** What do you think of Queen Edith’s?

**HA:** Frankly, it’s amazing! My grey cells are constantly given a run for their money as I meet the people working in its world leading scientific and educational institutions. The fact that they rub shoulders with residents struggling with gridlocked roads and expensive housing means that there are two sides of the equation to be solved. Growth and prosperity has to be for all.

**AB:** What would be your priorities for QE, if you were elected?

**HA:** Unlocking the transport nightmare for residents by working with all the local authorities and politicians and ensuring that when new businesses like Astra Zeneca move to the area, residents do not bear the brunt of increased congestion and rising house prices.

**AB:** If elected, how much time do you expect to spend in QE?

**HA:** It’s important that I spread my time around the whole constituency, making sure I hold surgeries in different areas. Queen Edith’s benefits from a really active resident and business community so there are plenty of committees, schools and organisations that I will be keeping in touch with. This is probably the part of the job that appeals the most – being the face and voice of the wider community.

# intouch

News from your local Conservatives in Queen Edith’s

March 2015

## HILLS ROAD PLANS HALF-BAKED

Plans to install segregated cycle paths both sides of Hills Road at the expense of grass verges have caused much concern. While there are some benefits to the expensive plans they are an odd use of scarce money and the novel ‘floating bus stops’

are unfriendly for pedestrians.

Local campaigner Andy Bower spoke at the South Area Committee asking councillors to take



responsibility and ‘pause’ half-baked cycle schemes.

which already has relatively good cycle-ways.



Heidi Allen and Andy Bower spoke at a council meeting to get the right result for Hills Road

As a keen regular cyclist, Andy wants to see well thought-out schemes to tackle the most difficult areas, such as Mill Road and Cherry Hinton Road. Splashing huge sums on Hills Road is not good value for money for cyclists,

In practice the scheme is going ahead, so local Conservatives are keen for it work as well as possible. Parliamentary candidate Heidi Allen spoke about how she was keen we all work together to deal with problems such as the impact on hedges in people’s properties.

## THANK YOU QUEEN EDITH’S!

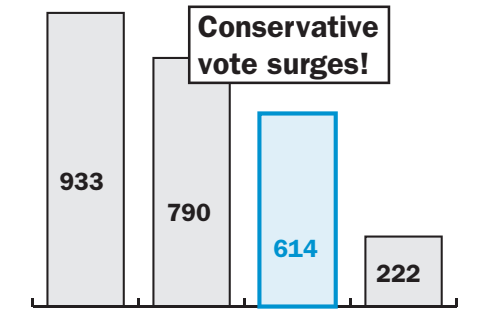
Andy Bower would like to say a big thank you to everyone in Queen Edith’s who voted in last November’s City Council by-election, and to congratulate the winning Liberal Democrat candidate.

The Conservatives narrowly missed out on winning, despite a 50% increase in their share of the vote from the previous council election in May. Commentators from across the political spectrum recognised the strong campaign and

much improved result for the Conservatives.

Andy told *In Touch*: “I am delighted to announce that I have been re-selected to stand in the City Council elections this May (we have 4 local Councillors, and one is elected every year). It was really close last November – I know that many people were persuaded to vote for another party because they thought we couldn’t win – the result showed this wasn’t correct. There was no

reason to vote tactically – the Conservatives would win here if every supporter turned out and voted Conservative.”



City council by-election, November 2014: huge increase in Conservative vote share

## LOCAL CONSERVATIVES WORKING FOR YOU

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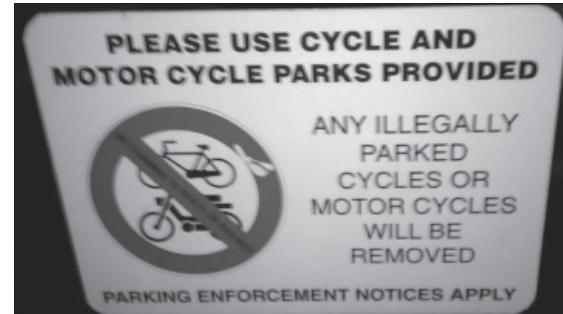
# CYCLE AND CAR PARKING CHAOS AT ADDENBROOKE'S

Conservatives say step change needed on Addenbrooke's transport facilities

Queen Edith's Conservatives are calling on Addenbrooke's to get serious about promoting access to the hospital site by bike and public transport, or risk a traffic nightmare in our local area as they expand. The call comes as cycle parking spaces were lost at the Frank Lee Centre, without adequate alternative arrangements being made to allow development of 'The Forum' – a large new private

hospital, conference centre and hotel to be built on the site.

Conservative Campaigner Andy Bower told *In Touch*: "Parking from Addenbrooke's has always been a big issue for Queen Edith's – it can only get worse as more land is developed. Yet we seem to be losing cycle parking spaces.



Trust to improve sustainable transport to the site."

Local Conservatives, working with Heidi Allen, who is standing to replace Andrew Lansley as our local Member of Parliament in May are calling for a package of measures to improve transport in the area, including a new station at Addenbrookes, and opening the route through the site during roadworks in Trumpington.

We know from when the cycle route was opened to Shelford that if you get the alternatives right, some people will shift from using cars. If elected in May, I will make it a priority to work with the Hospital



## A GREAT TEAM FOR QUEEN EDITH'S

Andy Bower, who has been selected to be the Conservative city council candidate on May 7th has a track record of campaigning on local issues.

A regular attendee at City Council meetings to hold our Councils to account it could be said that Andy had a better attendance record than some of our councillors! Andy cycles regularly and his top priority is making Cambridge transport work effectively for everyone.

Conservatives are very under-represented on the city council,

and a stronger voice there will help put taxpayers first.

Heidi Allen has hit the ground running since being selected as Conservative parliamentary candidate for South Cambridgeshire and has taken a keen interest in Queen Edith's issues, such as the new cycle lanes on Hills Road. Her campaigns include working to ensure growth in our area is appropriate and sustainable, and promoting skills for young school leavers. She is showing that she will be a very hard working MP if elected.



Andy Bower and parliamentary candidate Heidi Allen on Cavendish Avenue

LOCAL CONSERVATIVES WORKING FOR YOU

# GREEN BELT UPDATE

Residents will remember that Cambridge City Council – and your local councillors – voted to designate land at Worts Causeway for development under the Local Plan. The sole Conservative councillor, from Trumpington, voted against this unpopular move by our elected representatives.



inspector's report, which will determine the fate of the area, is expected later this year.

Meanwhile the Local Plan is being examined by a government appointed inspector at hearings in Cambourne. The Worts causeway developments were considered in February. Unsurprisingly, developers supported the release of the land from the Green Belt, **and argued that it would be better to release a much larger area!** They may yet get their way. The

The Inspector turned down proposals to develop the same land on the last occasion that the Local Plan was revised. Even if she turns it down again – our councillors seem determined to bring it back until they succeed. **And the developers are meanwhile lobbying to urbanise the slopes of the Gog Magog Hills.**

## FENDON ROAD ROUNDABOUTS

Two separate plans hang over roundabouts on Fendon Road.

Expansion plans at the Addenbrooke's site require roundabout capacity to be extended, but Andy Bower has written to the planning officer calling for the cycle lane at the Hills Road roundabout to be retained contrary to the new plans. Andy also believes the traffic lights should remain part-time so as not unnecessarily to impede progress off peak.

The other roundabout at Mowbray Road is also due to be modified to enhance traffic flow.

In separate plans some councillors are pushing to modify the Mowbray Road roundabout for cyclists. Andy Bower urges caution so that we don't repeat the expensive mistakes of the Perne Road/Radegund Road roundabout, supposedly to help cyclists but in practice useless.

Andy says, "too often councillors see £ signs in their eyes when grants are available for cycling but it does no one any favours to chase poor schemes just to spend money. We need to take more care about getting these things right."

## SOUTH AREA COMMITTEE

### VIOLENT CRIME & POLICE PRIORITIES

Crime statistics presented to councillors at the area committee again showed a huge increase (almost 50%) in violent crime in this area on the previous year.

Once again local Conservative campaigners attending as members of the public urged councillors to demand better statistics from the police breaking down the figure so they can decide their priorities for local police more effectively.



### 20 MPH LIMITS

Councillors voted to recommend that all roads in the recent consultation be given 20mph limits. The only roads in Queen Edith's ward not covered were Hills Road, Long Road, Fendon Road, Mowbray Road and a small part of Queen Edith's Way.

Councillors seemed shy of nailing their colours to the mast: Queen Edith's Way was voted into the 20mph plan by 2 votes to none.

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