

Labour Rose

CHURCH WARD

Vote Ruth McEwan & Ashley Pearce in Church Ward!



Use your **TWO VOTES** on May 3rd to elect Labour's Ashley Pearce & Ruth McEwan.

On **Thursday May 3rd** you can send a message to this Government to end their reckless Austerity regime. Due to one of our Councillors standing down, you have **TWO VOTES** in May's local elections. **Cllr Ashley Pearce** will be seeking re-election as well as candidate **Ruth McEwan**. Ashley says "I have had the privilege of serving this community for four years, I have met hundreds and hundreds of residents, all with different stories to tell and issues to help solve. I was born in Whitley and being able to give something back over the last few years has brought me great joy. If re-elected on May 3rd, I

will continue to work hard on behalf of residents." Ruth is looking forward to the challenge ahead, she says "Reading has been my home for twenty eight years. My four children were born here and went to local schools. I previously worked for a local charity setting up activities in the community and now I work as a sheltered housing officer supporting adults living in an extra care scheme. I look forward to working with all residents in Church Ward, getting to know people in the area and listening to concerns local people may have". Use **both votes** on **May 3rd** to vote **Ruth McEwan & Ashley Pearce**.

You have **TWO** votes on **Thursday May 3rd**, use both to **Vote for Labour's Ruth McEwan & Ashley Pearce**

News and events from Church Ward

Councillors have continued to work hard to improve the Ward this year. Improvements were made to Academy Sport on Northumberland Avenue as part of the Council's major investment programme to modernise pools and leisure facilities. Also, improvement work on the South Reading Community Centre on Northumberland Avenue is underway to transform it into a community hub including a library, children's centre and meeting spaces alongside the existing Whitley Social Club and Café. New trees were planted on Hartland Road thanks to the Council and Trees for Cities that we hope help improve the area. Ashley also attended Ridgeway Primary's parents' evening to meet local parents in his role as Chair of Governors. If you wish to speak to your Councillors they are available from 10.30am-12pm at the Whitley Cafe on the first Saturday of every month.



Matt Rodda MP & Ashley Pearce at the Whitley Community hub development.

Council faces more severe Government cuts



The Council's revenue support grant from Government has been cut by 90%

Reading Borough Council's revenue support grant has been cut from the equivalent of £20 to £1 in the last 8 years. For a household this would be crippling and Councils are having to make increasingly unpalatable decisions. Savings of nearly £58 million have already been made since 2010 and no new funding will be available to Reading in order to achieve a balanced budget for 2018/19. At a time of rising demand for services for our elderly, most vulnerable and children, the Government should be helping.

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Reading Borough Council has a strong track record of maintaining frontline services wherever possible, to ensure vulnerable children, families and older people are protected, and to maintain services that all residents need, such as bin collections and street lighting. Government cuts in our neighbouring Conservative Councils in West Berkshire and Wokingham are lower than in Reading, which seems unnecessarily cruel. The local elections are a chance to send a message to the Government that we want this to change.

Council listens to residents on St.Pats hall

Reading University's application to demolish and rebuild St.Patrick's Court with a potential increase of 650 students was turned down by Cllr Ashley Pearce and other Councillors at a recent planning meeting. Councillors and MP Matt Rodda have engaged with local residents and the University over a long period of time to listen to the desires and concerns of each. Whilst it is understood that the University needs to expand, and Reading wants a thriving University, this should not be at the expense of local residents. The St.Patrick's Hall site is primarily a residential area.

The proposed increase in student numbers would have been an over development that would have increased traffic and parking problems. Added to this was the potential for anti social behaviour and negative impacts on the locally listed Pearsons Court. The University should continue to engage with local residents regarding the impacts the University is having on the local community, notably parking and noise. If a further proposal for the St.Patrick's hall site were to come forward, I hope that the number of students and the issue of parking are seriously addressed before any submission.



Any development on St. Pat's hall needs to be resident friendly

KEEP IN TOUCH



Ruth McEwan

Labour Candidate for Church Ward

I look forward to working with all residents in Church Ward, getting to know people in the area and listening to their concerns. I will use my experience from my community and charity work to build links and relationships across the community.

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Ashley Pearce

Labour Councillor & candidate for Church Ward

I have been a Councillor for 4 years & it has been a privilege to serve this community. I have engaged with residents, helped residents & spoken up for residents. If re-elected I will continue to be the residents voice on the Council.

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