

Sunday

~ Lynne Doherty [REDACTED]



As you can imagine this me cross 🙄

09:39

Jake

Note that the image has "only" cropped out in your tweet. 09:40

I was confused when you shared it! 09:40

~ Lynne Doherty [REDACTED]

Ah!

09:40

Sorted! 09:42

Ross Mackinnon

~ Lynne D... [REDACTED]

As you can imagine this me

SPEA
WORDS

~ Sarah

~ Amanda

For when these WhatsApps get leaked 😊 we clearly mean violence on social media and not actual violence... these...



13:35

~ Sarah

~ Lynne Doherty

Welcome Sarah, lovely to have you on board. Looking forward to seeing you soon and if you are available will be lov...

Yes I'll be on the zoom meeting on Thursday x

13:36

Dennis Benneyworth

HUNGERFORD & KINTBURY
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

THE TEAM WORKING ALL YEAR ROUND FOR HUNGERFORD & KINTBURY



Denise Gaines

Denise is a former councillor for Hungerford, having lived in the town for 26 years. Denise is passionate about education and has previously been a governor at John O'Keefe school. She has served several terms as a Hungerford Town Councillor, and is interested in tackling climate change and ensuring housing meets local need.

Julian Swift-Hook

~ Amanda

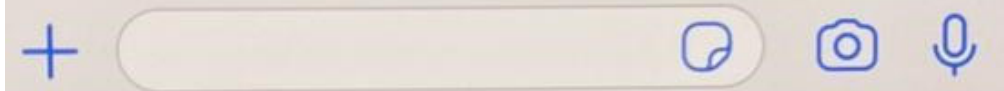
For when these WhatsApps get leaked 😏 we clearly mean violence on social media and not actual violence... these guys are all pussy cats really, even the Glaswegian! 😂

12:42



especially the glaswegian

12:43



ConservativeCandi...
Biyi, Dennis, Dominic, Jak...

~ Sarah

~ Amanda

For when these WhatsApps get leaked 😏 we clearly mean violence on social media and not actual violence... these...



13:35

~ Lynne Doherty

~ Sarah

New to the group so I need to be more



vodafone UK 4G

20:27



ConservativeCandi...

Biyi, Dennis, Dominic, Jak...



~ Sarah

New to the group so I need to be more violent do !!!! 😂

Welcome Sarah, lovely to have you on board. Looking forward to seeing you soon and if you are available will be lovely for you to meet this lot on Thursday at Group Meeting where you will see for yourself they are not violent!

12:39



~ Amanda

For when these WhatsApps get

~ Amanda

~ Sarah

New to the group so I need to be more violent do i!!! 🤪

Hi Sarah 🙌 fellow Newbie here, but Ross is my husband so I've had the pleasure to meet many of the wonderful people on this chat already.

We don't all choose violence here but if you ever need back up we've got a few characters ready to go... ~~my husband for~~

one

12:23

Ross Mackinnon

I see we're choosing violence today. Love to see it

11:49

~ Sarah

Ross Mackinnon

I see we're choosing violence today.
Love to see it

New to the group so I need to be more violent do i!!! 😂

12:09

Ross Mackinnon

Come for the leader, you best not miss 😊

12:20

Dominic Boeck

Some of them will have done a lot more bids than many of ours.

11:12

~David

Understood, but some hard fact evidence to call out the lie would be useful.

★11:17

Jake

Lynne and Ross' points about how much time he has spent in jail or up a tree probably best for that!

11:18

And also about Parish Council attendance etc

11:19

~Hazel PB

Enthusiasm of Parish Councillors plays a big part as well as their willingness do put their ideas on paper. A lot of Clerks in West Berks are getting fed up with lack of motivation from

~ Tom Parkhill

~ David

Do we have any stats on how many members bids have been put forward by both Lynne and SM over the past 4 ye...

That would be good for all wards, would love to know how many Macro has done.

11:10

Jake

Remember not to share their achievements, and their retort is usually that the bid panels are conservative so biased (even though there have been times when they have had more than the party proportional share of the funding)

11:11

I'm not sure comparing will be particularly useful, best to stick to sharing accomplishments of Con Cllrs

11:12

~ Hazel PB

We were lucky if the LD candidate here made one in 3 Parish Council mtgs over her time on the council

11:04

~ David

Do we have any stats on how many members bids have been put forward by both Lynne and SM over the past 4 years and what they were/value?

11:07

Jake

I have the four years worth of spreadsheets, yes

11:08

~ David

Oh please send me - I'd love to get it out there to show the difference!

11:08

Jake

Will sort tomorrow

11:08



Jeanette Clifford

A Speen parish councillor here. How many times has my ward Cllr Lynne Doherty attended our council meetings? I'd have to be as good as ROSS at sums to answer, because the number is so ENORMOUS. How many times have I seen my ward Cllr Steve Masters? Not once. Never. On no single occasion. Really Lynne - outrageous.

11:01

~David

Jeanette Clifford

A Speen parish councillor here. How many times has my ward Cllr Lynne Doherty attended our council meeting...

Just tweeted similar sentiment

11:02

~Hazel PB

We were lucky if the LD candidate here made one in 3 Parish Council mtgs over her



Ross Mackinnon

~ Amanda [REDACTED]

Do you by any chance have an opinion on this "person", Ross?

On the fence babes

09:49



~ Lynne Doherty [REDACTED]

Ross Mackinnon

Did the poisonous little toad actually deliver that to your house?

Yes 🙄

09:59

~ Amanda [REDACTED]

Hopefully anyone with half a brain knows it's a load of lies and suggesting you do nothing damages his character to people who actually might have "considered" voting Green?

10:03

Jeanette Clifford

A Green parish councillor here

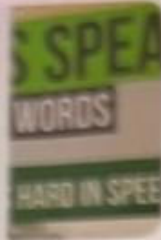
< Inbox

Message

Ross Mackinnon

~ Lynne D... [REDACTED]

📷 As you can imagine this me
cross 🤔



Did the poisonous little toad
actually deliver that to your
house?



09:47

~ Amanda [REDACTED]

Ross Mackinnon

Did the poisonous little toad actually
deliver that to your house?

Do you by any chance have an
opinion on this "person", Ross?



vodafone UK 4G

20:25



ConservativeCandi...

Biyi, Dennis, Dominic, Jak...



Ross Mackinnon

~ Amanda [REDACTED]

Do you by any chance...

Ross Mackinnon

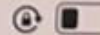
~ Lynne D... [REDACTED]

As you can imagine this me



vodafone UK 4G

20:24



ConservativeCandi...

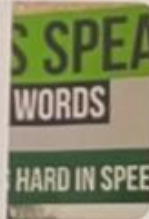
Biyi, Dennis, Dominic, Jak...



Ross Mackinnon

~ Lynne D... [REDACTED]

As you can imagine this me
cross 🤔



**except when living up a tree in Buckinghamshire for months on end or when banged up in the cells again

09:46

Ross Mackinnon

~ Lynne D... [REDACTED]

As you can imagine this me
cross 🤔



Did the poisonous little toad actually deliver that to your

Words turning ugly as WhatsApp row erupts

Green Party candidate called a 'poisonous little toad' in Tory group chat

CAMPAIGNING in the West Berkshire local council elections has turned ugly.

A string of internal WhatsApp messages sent to the Conservative group call a Green Party councillor and candidate standing against the Tory leader "a poisonous little toad".

The string of messages then jokes about violence.

The current executive member for finance, councillor Ross MacKinnon (Con, Bradfield) sent the message referring to Steve Masters (Green, Speen).

It is in reply to a post from the council leader Lynne Doherty (Con, Speen), who says she is "cross" at Green Party claims that Mr Masters works harder than she does in the ward, in a campaign leaflet.

"Did the poisonous little toad actually deliver that to your house?" Mr MacKinnon asks in the same conversation which debates how best to retort to claims from opposition parties.

Further messages then allude to violence, with another message from Mr MacKinnon saying: "I see we're choosing violence today. Love to see it."

Followed by another from

By NIKI HINMAN
Local Democracy Reporter
niki.hinman@newburynews.co.uk
@newburytoday

"Sarah", who says: "New to the group so I need to be more violent do I?" It is followed by a laughing emoji.

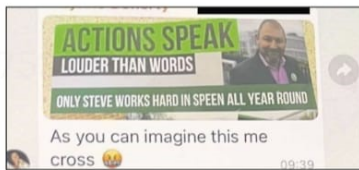
This message is then followed by: "Hi Sarah, - fellow newbie here, but Ross is my husband so I've had the pleasure to meet many of the wonderful people on this chat already. We don't all choose violence here but if you ever need back up we've got a few characters ready to do ... my husband for one."

When approached for comment Mrs Doherty told the *Newbury Weekly News*: "Let me be absolutely clear, we do not, and never will, condone violence."

"The Conservatives I lead are conducting a fair and honest campaign. Our hope is that the other parties will act in the same way, and not resort to baseless political smears."

"I shan't say more as I never comment on group business; like every other member of the group, I am bound by group rules on confidentiality."

The Green Party leader in West Berkshire, Carolyne Cullver (Green, Ridgeway), said: "I feel compelled to call this



One of the WhatsApp messages

out publicly, in the interests of safeguarding and because I have no confidence in the leader of the council and no confidence in the ability of this council to deal with bullying and harassment.

"Last year the leader of the council proposed a motion about civility in public life. I urge her to act in the spirit of this motion."

She said that in recent months the chairman of West Berkshire Green Party had a complaint partially upheld regarding the behaviour of a Conservative councillor.

"This councillor was subsequently required to offer an apology to the same member of my group who has been targeted in the WhatsApp chat," she said.

"I urge Conservative coun-

cillors and candidates in the WhatsApp group who participated in this discussion, or did not call people out when they made references to violence, to reflect upon this.

"I comment and thank those individuals who had the courage to come forward and speak out."

The Conservatives have also sent a cease and desist letter to the Greens to stop them using a photo of Mrs Doherty on their campaigning leaflets in the Speen ward. They ask for the leaflet to be removed from distribution, saying the Green Party does not have the right to use the image, which is from West Berkshire Council's website, for political purposes.

The Greens said they are ignoring the letter.

ists

8 3AN

V

ES, :S!



Roadworks close retail park road

AN exit road from the Sainsbury's retail park in Calcot is to close for five nights at the end of the month.

The left turn slip lane out of the retail park at Pincent's Kiln - which also houses McDonald's, Boots, B&M, Sports Direct and PureGym - will be shut from 10pm until 5am each night from March 27 until March 31.

The closure is to allow Thames Water to carry out maintenance and investigative works.

The alternative route for all vehicles is to turn right on to Bath Road and go up to, and around, the M4 Junction 12 roundabout.

Schools closed by strike action today

A NUMBER of West Berkshire and North Hampshire schools will be closed again today (Thursday) due to nationwide teacher strikes.

Teachers from the National Education Union (NEU) were also striking yesterday (Wednesday) over pay and funding.

A number of schools are partially open - mainly for secondary pupils in exam years.

Today also sees the start of four 24-hour strikes on the railways.

The RMT union has announced the industrial action will take place today and on Saturday, as well as on Thursday, March 30, and Saturday, April 1.

Great Western Railway said many parts of its network "will have no service at all" during the strike days.

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