

# Herald



**Stop assault on social housing, urges Farron**

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# STOP STREETLIGHTS SWITCH OFF NOW, URGE LIB DEMS



**C**AMBRIDGE Liberal Democrats are fighting County Council plans to turn off street lights in a large number of streets between midnight and 6am.

Residents have accused the Council of putting peoples' safety at risk for the sake of cutting costs.

## RESIDENTS' SAFETY AT RISK IF LIGHTS ARE SWITCHED OFF

Local Lib Dems favour either keeping the lights on altogether, or opting to dim them in order to maintain enough light to

keep late-night travellers safe.

Lucy Nethsingha, Lib Dem County Group Leader, said: "We are very clear in our position.

"Turning the lights off during the early hours is dangerous and highly irresponsible.

"With such a high number of students and late-night commuters in Cambridge, I'm amazed anyone thinks this is a viable option."

Over 80% of respondents to an online email survey were against the switch off.



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## COMMENT

### Residents oppose lights switch off

The overwhelming majority of local residents are in favour of keeping street lights switched on between midnight and 6am, according to a recent survey.

#### FIERCE LOCAL OPPOSITION

Of nearly 400 responses, 81% of people preferred to either dim or keep on lights, with just 19% in favour of switching them off completely.

With such fierce opposition to the switch off, surely the County Council cannot ignore residents' views on such a huge issue?

Thankfully, the Lib Dems are continuing to lobby the Council to keep street lights on to ensure residents' safety during the early hours.

## With millions of British jobs on the line

# The fight is on for Europe



3 million British jobs are at risk if Britain votes to leave the European Union.

**A number of respected business leaders are urging Britain to remain in Europe and stay 'a part of the largest market in the world'.**

Over 3 million British jobs are directly linked to our positive relationship within Europe, and many of these would be at risk were Britain to vote to leave.

#### EUROPEAN VOTE EXPECTED BY END OF 2017

The EU referendum is expected before the end of 2017, with many predicting the vote will take place as early as next year.

With both the Conservatives and Labour torn and divided over Europe, the Lib Dems are the only major party calling for Britain to remain relevant at the heart of Europe.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg told us: "Let's be clear, withdrawing from Europe will leave Britain isolated and weak.

"I support a thriving Britain with real influence across the globe; be it fighting climate change, tackling cross-border crime or protecting jobs."

Join the fight at: [www.libdems.org.uk/europe-petition](http://www.libdems.org.uk/europe-petition)



Council-owned commercial properties will be subject to energy efficiency upgrades.

## City Council forced to upgrade buildings

**Local Lib Dems have successfully focused the Labour-run Council on its contribution to climate change.**

The Council's £100m commercial property portfolio will now be subject to a review, with the aim of providing significant energy efficiency upgrades.

Lib Dem City Councillor Markus Gehring said: "Labour haven't been taking climate change seriously enough. Their new green strategy didn't even include specific targets!

"Labour are all about telling others what to do and were caught ignoring their own backyard."

# Labour shame over tax credits



Labour's position leaves millions of families facing devastating cuts.

## Labour fail to support Lib Dem move to block tax credit cuts

**C**AMBRIDGE RESIDENTS have expressed anger over Labour's decision not to support a Lib Dem move aimed at blocking controversial tax credit cuts.

The motion, tabled in the House of Lords, had the potential to completely stop the devastating cuts, which will see lower-paid

households lose an average of £1,350 a year.

But Labour's refusal to back the Lib Dems has left many hard-working families baffled.

Lib Dem Leader Tim Farron said: "Quite rightly, millions of lower-paid families are feeling let down by Labour at this moment.

"Their decision not to support our motion has left millions of families struggling to keep their homes heated and children fed.

"Kicking these cuts further down the line is not the outcome we were hoping for, but it's the best we could manage given Labour's stubborn position."

## Lib Dems widen debate on tackling city congestion

# CONGESTION CRISIS NEEDS 'BIG SOLUTIONS'

## And evidence must guide approach says Bick



City Deal funding projects look to move residents away from private car use.

**A 'CALL FOR EVIDENCE' IS BEING undertaken for measures to combat congestion in Cambridge, thanks to an initiative by leading local Liberal Democrat Tim Bick.**

Peak-time traffic across the city is set to increase by over 30%, leaving many residents fearing the worse.

Under the £1 billion Greater Cambridge City Deal, which Tim helped secure through negotiations with the last government, congestion is being tackled on two fronts.

### IMPROVING NON-CAR OPTIONS

The first aim is to improve means of transport which use road space more efficiently - such as buses, cycling and walking.

To assist this, some infrastructure projects are already out for consultation, including the Chisholm Trail, a cross-city cycle route.

It is then hoped to encourage people away from private car use wherever possible.

"If we are serious about preventing Cambridge from gridlock, I believe we may need both carrot and stick," said Tim, who chairs the City Deal Assembly.

He added: "Infrastructure projects stir up plenty of controversy, but deterrence of car use is particularly sensitive for politicians to grapple with.

"For a durable solution, the approach must be guided by evidence and transparency and not limited by lack of boldness."

During November Tim is co-chairing a series of public examinations of views from experts, cities elsewhere and local people before leaders decide how they want to proceed.

**Farron blasts Tory stance on social housing**

# Housing stock assault hitting the vulnerable

Lib Dem plans for 14,000 new homes gain support



▲ New review vindicates Lib Dem housing approach.

A new review of housing need in Cambridge and South Cambs has backed Lib Dem proposals to build thousands of new homes.

The additional scrutiny has led to endorsement of almost exactly the same 14,000 figure originally proposed when the Lib Dems ran the Council.

The review came following a government intervention.

Lib Dem Planning spokesperson Catherine Smart said: “When we ran the Council we consistently implemented ambitious but sensible housing policies.

“I’m glad this new review has vindicated our approach.

“We will continue to support measures to address Cambridge’s housing crisis, and ensure future generations are not driven out.”

▲ Lib Dems claim Tory housing plans will lead to a housing disaster that will hit future generations hard.

**Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron has vowed to fight the Conservative’s proposed housing revolution and block their Right to Buy plans.**

## MILLIONS LIVING IN FEAR

Farron has placed housing as his number one priority since being elected leader early this year, and claims that Right to Buy benefits a tiny minority, while hitting vulnerable people the hardest.

Lib Dems have expressed concern over Tory proposals to sell off council houses to pay for an extension of Right to Buy to housing associations.

Tim said: “Millions of people are living in fear and desperation because they have no secure place to call home.

“Yet Cameron is choosing to turn a blind eye to this and ignore the most vulnerable people in Britain.

“I’ll speak up for those who will be tossed aside under these plans. Everyone deserves a decent home and the security to know that no one can take it away from them.

Local Lib Dem Planning spokesperson Catherine Smart added: “We have a vast shortage of affordable homes, and yet the government is seeking to make quick financial gains by disposing of properties which could provide much needed homes.”

# Lib Dems launch Equality for Mental Health



When in Government, the Lib Dems pushed for improved mental health services.

**Former Lib Dem Health Minister Norman Lamb has launched a cross-party campaign for improved mental health funding.**

The campaign is calling on the Government to invest much-needed extra money into mental health services.

Mental health funding still isn’t on a par with that of physical health.

Norman said: “Sustained investment in mental health services has multiple benefits.

“It reduces the burden on the NHS through improved wellbeing of people, and by helping people stay in or get back to work.

“There’s also the moral argument. It’s high time we gave mental health the attention it deserves.”