

John Hutchinson & George Watkinson



John Hutchinson in our valued Petersfield Market



George Watkinson at the land off Sussex Road which PTC recently bought as a green gap and open space.

John Hutchinson

Candidate for East Hampshire District Council

My wife and I have had the pleasure of living in Petersfield for 2 years now having moved out of the "Big Smoke" to bring up our two children better connected to nature and the outdoors. We live in one of the new estates off the Causeway.

My career is in engineering industry and recently I left corporate life to start a consultancy focused on new product development. I strongly support the value that manufacturing creates.

I believe passionately in community and that all the residents of Petersfield deserve the freedom and opportunity to thrive, while scarce resources should be aimed at those who need help.

I am no more than an ordinary dad, struggling like any parent with the concerns of ever-increasing monthly outgoings and doing the best job for my children, conscious of the modern-day threats posed by technology, drugs and anti-social behaviour.

I feel really privileged to live in a market town in the heart of the South Downs, however I understand that Petersfield can't be stuck in time and will have to evolve - this will bring pressures on green spaces, infrastructure and services. My priority is for a Petersfield striking the right balance between business, recreation and services to make for a happy and fulfilled community!

George Watkinson

Candidate for Petersfield Town Council

I served in the Royal navy for 35 years followed by the civil service, moving with my wife to Petersfield in 1979 and now have two children and two grand children.

I have played an active part in Petersfield life being involved in local organisations, including being a governor at Petersfield Infant School for 14 years and a trustee of the open air swimming pool.

I have been a very active town councillor now for 24 years, including as chairman of the finance, halls and planning committees as well as the honour of being Mayor three times.

I am keen that the town council achieves the best possible outcomes for the residents of Petersfield, always bearing in mind the cost to council tax payers. We have benefited from the sale of Penns Field, but must spend wisely for the benefit of our residents.

It is important, that we have Petersfield as a successful market town for its residents, visitors and to take an active part in the South Downs National Park, which I am keen to support.

Going local - residents get more say

The existing local community forums have no powers, and are therefore poorly attended and frequently cancelled.

Most councillors aren't on the planning committee for their ward's applications. This means that many decisions are made by council officers or councillors who don't know the area.

We believe that Local Area Committees with real powers should be reinstated. These worked well here until the Tories abandoned them, and are still successful elsewhere.

LACs should have responsibilities covering any item which can be devolved from Penns Place. Planning and licensing should be decided by local councillors.

Our aim is **real decisions with real budgets**, allowing a high level of meaningful public participation.

Councillors will be both responsible and accountable to their local electors.

Protecting affordable housing targets



John Hutchinson at Beaumont Place

Conservatives have claimed 40% new affordable homes in the Petersfield area, but planning for those developments has been handled by the National Park. Elsewhere in East Hampshire it's been as low as 15%, and has struggled to reach an average of 25%.

Nationally, house building companies are making huge profits, while claiming they cannot afford to build affordable and sustainable homes.

Unlike Conservative East Hampshire District Council, **Liberal Democrat Eastleigh Borough Council builds houses for affordable rent.**

We need to follow their example.

EHDC Investment Concerns



The empty hotel at Liphook

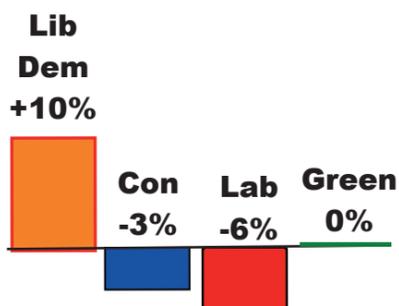
Last year EHDC wrote down assets by £970,000, a mixture of fees and loss of value. One of its properties has been empty for four years, and another in Winchester which was rented by HCC is now less than half occupied.

Making large investments in property, £100 million planned this coming year, in competition with other investors seems high risk.

Not only that, but most of the money is not being invested locally, or in the affordable housing which is desperately needed.

We need to invest wisely, and nearer to home.

Lib Dems gaining ground



Local Election results 2019

English local elections results this year involving Lib Dems, Conservatives, Labour and Greens showing change in vote share.

Average change in share of the vote from Jan 2019 to Mar 2019

TOWN ISSUES

Town Visitor Centre

Thanks for all your comments. The general feeling seems to be that it needs to be in the centre of town. Some have suggested the Museum. Your comments have been passed to our councillors.

Festival Hall Costs

Once elected, the new council is due to meet and consult with members of the public



One part definitely needing improvement

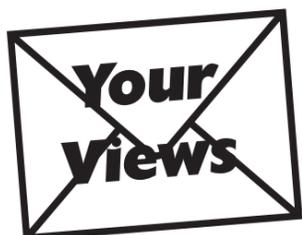
about plans for the Festival Hall and council offices. There have been concerns raised and the council plan to both explain and listen.

Pedestrians Suffering

We've been busy calling on hundreds of residents, and it's been interesting hearing your concerns. These include dodgy footpaths, hidden traffic and difficult crossing points. College Street, Pulens Lane, Swan Street near the hospital and North Road were examples given.



George at the Swan St and Charles St problem junction



Contact us about any local or national issues affecting you. You can contact the Lib Dem Focus team

by internet: <http://easthampshirelibdems.org.uk/contact/>

or email: petersfield.libdems@btinternet.com or text or phone: 07786 806029

or post: Woodbine Cottage, Hawkley Road, Liss, GU33 6JP

Join the Lib Dems here → <http://www.libdems.org.uk/join-local>

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