

Fighting cuts to public services



Trevor Maroney at the Bordon Recycling Centre

Funding for rural bus services cut, mobile library service closed and now children's centres shut, what next?

The Conservative-led County Council now plan to close recycling centres, charge for DIY waste disposal, under fund adult social care, and **increase the cost of meals on wheels by 15%**.

How will the most vulnerable in our communities cope? How will these drastic changes affect you and your family?

The Liberal Democrats intend to fight these cuts in public services to protect the most vulnerable in our society. This will be undertaken following a thorough review of the county's finances.

Trevor Maroney believes that the only way to stop these closures and unfair increased charges, particularly on those who can least afford it, is to vote for a LIBERAL DEMOCRAT County Council in this May's election.

123 Years to fix Hampshire's Roads!

Nationally a total of £12 million has been paid out over the last four years to compensate motorists for damage caused by potholes: an average payment of £650 per person. The figures were uncovered by Freedom of Information requests to 500 councils.

Hampshire County Council has spent £565,235.54 compensating motorists since 2012. Liberal Democrats have also revealed that it would take over 123 years for the County Council to resurface all of Hampshire roads and pavements at the current rate.

Liberal Democrats' Transport spokesman said: "This is a lose-lose situation for everyone, whether they are motorists, councils or taxpayers. People already have to pay out hundreds if not thousands of pounds to drive a car, the least they should expect

is that their vehicle doesn't get ruined by a pot-holed road."

"Thousands of pounds in compensation could have been invested instead in fixing our roads. This is a symptom of the short-term approach being taken to infrastructure investment. We need to keep pushing the Council to act. Roads should be fixed quickly to avoid such compensation payments in the first place."

Conservatives: PAY MORE – GET LESS

Democracy: One Person:One Vote = Single-Councillor Wards!

This County seat is split into 3 district wards. In Bramshott & Liphook the electorate are each entitled to 3 votes, in Headley 2 and Grayshott one. This is undemocratic as it favours larger parties over smaller ones and it's virtually impossible for a working, independent candidate to stand. As a result it has produced apathy amongst many voters who firmly believe their vote is wasted as, in their words: "the Conservative's always win!"

Liberal Democrats believe that this is unfair and, as we did in 2000, will campaign for single-councillor wards. The Local Government Boundary Commission is about to review all ward boundaries within the district and will be asking for your views.

The Commission last reviewed these boundaries in 2000. At that time Alton, Petersfield & Whitehill (Whitehill & Bordon) Councils' strongly objected to the Commission's initial recommendation of "no change." They successfully fought against their multi-member wards and won. Despite our strong objections, Bramshott & Liphook was left with 3-members and Headley with 2. In the former case our Conservative MP, James Arbuthnot also objected to the "concept of a three-member ward" which he considered unfortunate, arguing that "there is a closer link between single-member than triple-member wards."

Trevor Maroney and the Liberal Democrats will ask the Commission for single-councillor wards to improve democracy, increase voter turnout and achieve better representation of the wide range of views held by residents.

If you agree with our views on single-member wards please let us know by visiting the campaign section on our website at: www.easthampshirelibdems.org.uk. Thank you.

Lib Dems Winning

Nationwide the Lib Dems have gained 52 council* seats since June, more than any other party.

In addition they have successfully retained a further 23 seats*. (* Includes towns)

In last year's county by-election **Trevor Maroney** increased the Liberal Democrats' share of the vote **by 21%**.

Nationally our vote share has continued to grow:

In Witney up by 23%, and in Richmond Park we won.

With your help the Lib Dems can win here too.

(As of 8th February 2017)

Your thoughts (so far)

In last Autumn's edition we asked for your thoughts on the concerns raised by all three parishes prior to last May's by-election. So far I have managed to visit 700 households and have learnt a great deal.

I am, therefore, very grateful to those of you whom I met on the doorstep for the helpful comments. These are just a few of the latest concerns:

- Potholes and blocked gullies - a severe risk to cyclists as well as motorists.
- Better disabled access (circular route) in Radford Park for wheelchairs and motability scooters.
- Impact on families following closure of children's centres.
- Need for disabled lifts at Liphook Station. (Network Rail have been asked to include lifts when replacing the corroded bridge)
- Urgent need for 20 and 30 mph speed limit signs in Arford and Liphook. (HCC have agreed to install them in Arford)
- Traffic congestion in Liphook Square and need for a relief road.
- More and improved public transport.
- Overgrown verges hiding road signs.

I now plan to continue seeking your views by visiting the most of the 7,000 households in this divisional seat. If you have concerns and would like a chat please email me at: tmaroney17@gmail.com



More potholes and blocked gullies.

Liphook's Elusive Traffic Study

Planning permission on the Lowsley Farm Development, Phase 2 was finally granted based upon a feasibility study of traffic congestion. This considered 5 different routes through the village to by-pass the Square. Unfortunately, the study didn't separate local and through traffic, making its finding doubtful; what is really needed is an **Origin to Destination survey** as recommended in the Parish Plan. Planning approval was, therefore, subject to a further full traffic study being conducted on the 5 options:

1. Haslemere Road to London Road - a new short road link through the recreation ground that would allow a circular, one-way, system to operate within the centre of Liphook.
2. Meadow Way or Malthouse Meadows to London Road - a new road through Radford Park without crossing the River Wey.
3. New Eastern Developments Link Road - a route running south, east of Bramshott Place, bridging the River Wey and arriving on the Haslemere Road east of Stonehouse Road.
4. Lowsley Farm Western Ring Road - linking Headley Road and Longmoor Road.
5. 'The Northcott Trust' Western Ring Road - linking Longmoor to Portsmouth Road at the junction with Station Road.



Liphook Square in rush hour

Although EHDC is responsible for conducting this study **no formal terms of reference or timescale** have been made available to the public. If Option 4 is selected the approved Lowsley Farm Phases 1 & 2 layout will need to be redesigned for this link road.

Meanwhile work on the Lowsley Farm Phase 1 continues using the approved plans. As a result there is unlikely to be a link between Headley and Longmoor Roads. Consequently traffic congestion in the Square will continue. **Is this acceptable? What do you think?**

Meals on Wheels Price Hike

The Conservative County Council looks set to push through price rises for the meals on wheels service by **an inflation busting 15%, adding over £200 to the annual cost for those in need!**

Hampshire Liberal Democrats Health spokesman says **"We oppose these increases.** It will impact thousands who currently use the service, many have said they cannot afford the increases.



The service is highly valued, not just for the hot meals but also the regular contact for some people who are, and often feel, quite isolated.

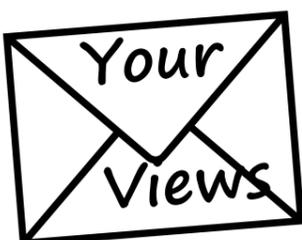
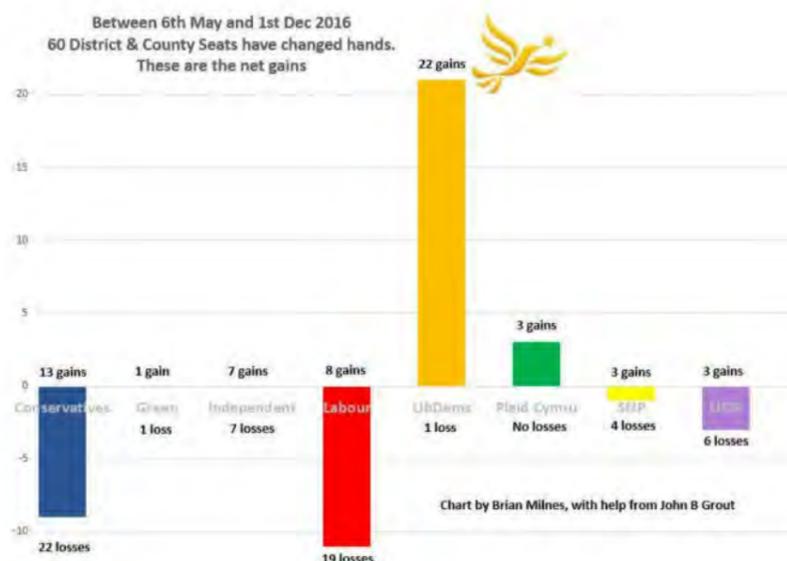
Any savings claimed by the Conservatives will be easily outweighed by the human misery and costs involved to the NHS and Social Services, treating malnourished older people".

Liberal Democrats Winning Streak Continues:

Nationally, the Liberal Democrats are winning by-elections across the country from all parties. Our vote in Witney went up by 23%.

In Richmond Park we saw the biggest ever swing in a parliamentary by-election with Liberal Democrat Sarah Olney winning the seat from the Conservative backed Zac Goldsmith

As the chart shows we are the only party fighting and winning - **to put people first.**



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

or email: ehld@btinternet.com

or www.easthampshirelibdems.org.uk/contact_form

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LOCAL NEWS



Flying threat to tranquillity

A copy of the TAG Farnborough Airport's Airspace Consultation, completed last November, is now on the Bramshott & Liphook website. The feedback and analysis come under four broad headings:

1. Environmental impact (primarily noise).
2. Access by recreational aircraft to the proposed airspace.
3. Safety.
4. Justification for the proposed change.

This feedback and analysis has now been submitted to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). It is expected that the CAA's evaluation and decision will be announced on www.caa.co.uk this Spring.

Tory Tip Tax 'U' Turn BY PUBLIC DEMAND

In the light of public concern it is understood that the Conservative's have decided to postpone the planned closures of recycling centres and the introduction of charges for DIY waste disposal until this October. It would seem that public opinion and the pending May county election may have influenced this decision.

Liphook's Church Centre Nursery

Ark, a new pre-school nursery, is to open in the Church Centre, Liphook this September for children aged 3 to 4.

Editor's Aim

Welcome to our Campaign Edition of Focus covering Liphook, Headley & Grayshott.

Our aim is to identify and address the key concerns that you feel are affecting your daily lives, and to keep you informed. We will highlight failings within the system and, with your help, try to find practical solutions. We will then call for their implementation.



Trevor Maroney

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

I will vote Liberal Democrat next time

I can help deliver FOCUS occasionally in my area for 1-2 hours

