



Focus - The Hemingfords, Fenstanton, Hilton, Houghton and Wyton

Reporting back

- The whole area has felt the impact of budget cuts imposed by the government or by the Tory-dominated Council in Cambridgeshire and Tory-controlled Huntingdonshire. Whilst some of these cuts may not be immediately obvious, most people realise that cuts in social services budgets have had a knock-on effect on “bed-blocking” in hospitals.
- Cuts in funding for children's services could lead to the closure of some Children's Centres and a reduction in the help needed by some of the most vulnerable and deprived youngsters. Early support to young children in need gives them a better life and saves money for the 'public purse' in the longer term.
- Here in Huntingdonshire, Lib Dem councillors have been taking the lead in improving car-parking arrangements in Huntingdon and tackling road safety issues. Pedestrian safety and encouragement of more cycling are high priorities for us.
- In the County Council we joined forces with others to force the Conservatives to back down on reductions to the winter gritting programme.
- As spending pressures increase, we have been working hard to encourage local parish and town councils, to take more responsibility for their own environment. Last year, there was the “grass-cutting fiasco” with Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Councils reducing the number of times grass was to be cut - and then rapidly back-tracking. This year, we helped to get the streets lights switched back on after many complaints that lighting reductions had been too severe and had been causing accidents, as well as increasing the fear of crime.

Lib Dem Focus Team Leader, David Priestman says “we need more Lib Dem Councillors on the County Council to make sure that our money is spent wisely.”



David Priestman at roadworks in Fenstanton

Traffic problems in Fenstanton set to continue!

David Priestman said, “Local residents were very pleased to see that the temporary traffic lights on Cambridge Road have finally been removed.

However, we now have to face the prospect of major bridge works to replace Turnpike Bridge on Huntingdon Road and the Low Road culvert, which are expected to take around 26 weeks to complete.”

For further details of the works and the proposed road closures, telephone the Highways Contact Centre on 0345 045 5212.

Brexit - more food for thought

- 1  In a recent newspaper interview* after the parliamentary debate about triggering Article 50 for Brexit, the Conservative former cabinet minister, Kenneth Clarke MP, said, “ I've seen some fair old crises in my time [although] I've never seen anything as mad or chaotic as this. Things are out of control... I have never seen a situation like it”. (* Guardian G2 Feb 6th. 2017)

- 2 The government white paper, “The United Kingdom’s exit from and new partnership with the European Union” acknowledges that “Parliament has remained sovereign throughout our membership of the EU” (paragraph 2.1). So, what does “taking back control” actually mean?

- 3 International Trade Secretary Liam Fox’s new department has 2,841 staff. David Davis’s Brexit Department has 300 staff. This means that more than £100 million a year is being spent on Brexit civil servants already. Lib Dem. MP, Tom Brake, said “they told us Brexit would mean more money for hospitals and schools. It has meant more for Whitehall mandarins.”

Want to get in touch?

If there are any matters you would like to raise with David, phone 01480 530939 or e-mail david@logisticsbusiness.com

Crime

The Hemingfords and Hilton have been hit by a wave of burglaries in the last 18 months. The police admit that there is little more they can do, given their constrained resources and they can only recommend “target hardening” - in other words, we all need to make sure that we lock up our property better and invest in burglar alarms or CCTV.

Surge in Lib Dem Membership



Liberal Democrat membership has surged past 82,000 - the highest level for two decades - as more and more people feel inspired by the party as the real opposition to the Conservatives.

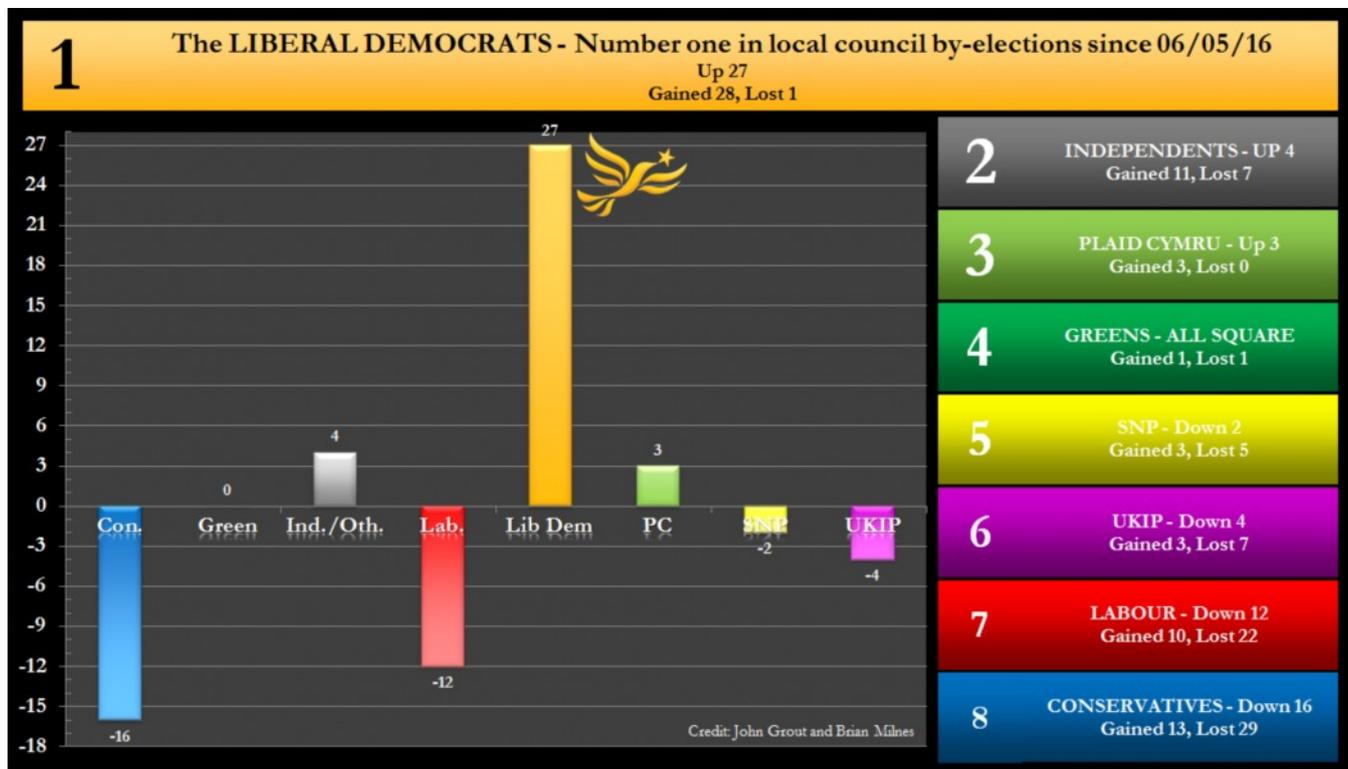
More than 4,000 people have joined the party in January, turned off by Theresa May's plans to take Britain out of the Single Market and attracted by the Liberal Democrats' opposition to "the politics of fear, division and hatred".

In Huntingdonshire, our membership has also increased dramatically - and is still rising. If you would like to join the Liberal Democrats, visit our website www.huntingdonlibdems.org.uk and click "join".

Lib Dems dominate in local Council By-Election results

Not only did the Lib Dems win the Richmond Park parliamentary by-election in December, the party has performed consistently well in local council by-elections since last May, as shown in the graphic below.

One of the most dramatic results was in Sunderland in January, where the party came from fourth place to win, gaining more votes than the second-placed Labour and third-placed UKIP candidates combined. Even more dramatic was the result in Rotherham in February, where the party gained 66% of the vote and took the seat from Labour.



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keeping you informed, all year round**