



Dear Members,

This is the first newsletter of 2017 and it has been a busy year already. We have more members than ever and more people are letting us know that they support what we are doing both locally and nationally. We have big ambitions for this year and need your help to achieve them.

County Council Elections in May

On May 4th we have two important elections and we need your help. Our team is small and to win seats we need more people to join us in our campaigning efforts.

- Could you represent us as a councillor or at least stand as a candidate so that we have a Lib Dem presence in every area?
- Could you help with deliveries of local Focus leaflets? This is the biggest challenge and every little helps
- Could you help by putting up a poster or board at your property in April?
- Would you help by door knocking with us?

If you can then please get in touch with Mike Shellens 01480 456555 or (shellens@waitrose.com)

Devolution – Rod Cantrill is standing as our Lib Dem Mayoral candidate

Many of you will know Rod from when he stood as our parliamentary candidate. He's a great candidate and would do a good job representing us as Mayor. Now, I know some of you will say "but the Lib Dems opposed having a mayor so why have a candidate?" We think we have the best person to take on this role and think we'd do a better job than the other parties / other candidates. We also feel that given that the majority of those who will represent the constituent councils will be Conservative then we should have a mayor from the opposition. Please support Rod.

Budgets – County Council and District Council

You will have heard that the County Council has now set its budget. The Lib Dem group argued that, in difficult times for local government caused by increased demands on services and reducing support from central government, it would be better prioritise services for the most vulnerable rather than keep council taxes as

low as possible. We argued the case for a 4% increase (2% for Adult Social Care and 2% for other services). but we were unable to convince others. We will have a 2% increase for 2017-18. Huntingdonshire District Council must now set its budget and is proposing a 2% increase now the Conservative led Council has finally conceded that its financial strategy isn't working. Last year your councillors made that point and were told our assessment was "misguided" and that the strategy of no increase year on year until 2020 was sound....what a difference a year makes!

FREE Social Event – film night – To Kill A Mockingbird

We are once again organising a free film night at Hemingford Pavilion, Hemingford Grey on Friday 24th March. You will need to book your seat and can bring along family members or supporters: no under 18's please. There will be raffle and the bar will be open for you to purchase refreshments if you wish. The venue does have two short flights of steps up to the first floor and no lift: we apologise if this is an issue. For tickets lease email Sarah Conboy , sarahjconboy@mac.com , 01480 414900.

Hope to see you there.

Best wishes,

Sarah Conboy

Chair of Hunts Lib Dems