



# Cambridgeshire County Council Election

Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 2017

The '*Alconbury and Kimbolton*' division, comprising:

Alconbury, Alconbury Weston, Barham and Woolley, Brington, Molesworth, Buckworth, Bythorn, Keyston, Catworth, Covington, Easton, Ellington, Great Gidding, Little Gidding, Great Staughton, Hail Weston, Hamerton and Steeple Gidding, Kimbolton, Leighton, Old Weston, Perry, Spaldwick, Stow Longa, Tilbrook, Upton and Coppingford, Winwick

## Liberal Democrats choose experienced former councillor **Mike Baker** to stand as candidate for May election

*Dear Residents,*

I am pleased to have been given the chance to stand as a County Council candidate for this new and very large rural division called 'Alconbury and Kimbolton'. Many of you will know that I represented a large section of the area as your District Councillor for many years, and most of the rest of the division has had my colleague Peter Downes as its councillor.

So, clearly, many of you have got used to voting Liberal Democrat and I hope you will do so again on May 4th.

You scarcely need me to tell you that we live in strange times. Life is more uncertain than many of us can remember in our life-time. The other main political parties seem to be drifting to the Right or to the Left. Simple populist slogans, hate crimes, sheer selfishness seem to be the order of the day.

That is why I think the Liberal Democrats are more needed than ever before. We recognise that there are no simple solutions to the complex problems we face but we work calmly through the options, giving priority to those who have the greatest need: the most vulnerable youngsters and the elderly and disabled.

You will find a summary of our priorities on side 2. If you wish to read our manifesto in full, please look at our web-site: [www.huntingdonlibdems.org.uk](http://www.huntingdonlibdems.org.uk)

I will try to meet as many people as I can over the coming weeks but I am sure that you will understand that, with over 4,000 houses spread across this wide area, I may not get to see everybody!

If there are any specific issues you want me to be aware of, please give me a ring on 07885 585 950.

*With kind regards,*

*Mike Baker*



## The Liberal Democrats in action on the County Council: constructive challenge, hard work

For the last four years, no one political party has had outright control. The Conservatives are the largest group and the Lib Dems are the second largest. All the detailed work has been done in politically balanced committees. The Lib Dems have worked conscientiously and thoroughly to try to find the best solutions to the many challenges faced by the County Council.



## The Liberal Democrat priorities in difficult times

Cambridgeshire County Council is facing serious financial challenges. Central government has been cutting financial support and capping council tax increases.

At the same time we have a fast-growing population, more people living longer and needing more care, more children needing school places. We do not intend to make glib promises but these are our main priorities:

Helping children from deprived backgrounds to get a good start in life and supporting their families

Supporting the elderly to live safely and happily in their own homes for as long as possible

Investing in public transport to reduce isolation in rural areas

Making local government more cost-effective by reducing the number of councils

Keeping our roads and pavements safe - well maintained, properly lit and gritted

The Cambridgeshire Tories have irresponsibly failed to take up the option (permitted by government) to raise council tax by 2% for general services. Our feedback suggests people are prepared to pay a little more (about 45p per week for an average household) to provide these essential services that we will all need even more in future.

### County Councillor Peter Downes says:

I am delighted that Mike Baker is willing to stand. He has much to offer as a County Councillor:

- \* his knowledge of the area where he has lived for over 40 years;
- \* his 16 years' experience as a District Councillor;
- \* his specific expertise in care for the elderly;
- \* his commitment to the voluntary sector;
- \* his interest in education as a former teacher at Hinchingsbrooke School;
- \* his track record of social service as a prominent local Rotarian and his wide-ranging involvement in civic life round here.

### Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> is the election date this year

Will you be here to vote? If you think that you may be away on business, or on holiday, or at university or college, or if getting to the polling station is physically difficult, you can register to vote by post. Forms can be obtained from the Electoral Services Officer at Pathfinder House, St. Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN.

You can make contact by phone on 388388 or via the web-site:

[www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/More/Councils and Democracy/Elections/How to vote/postal vote.](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/More/Councils%20and%20Democracy/Elections/How%20to%20vote/postal%20vote)



## Rod Cantrill for Mayor

The new 'Combined Authority' of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough needs a competent and experienced Leader. You will be hearing from Rod separately. He is determined to make the best of this new development, for the good of the many, not just the few. [www.rod.org.uk](http://www.rod.org.uk)