

**Your LibDem Councillors** always work hard. They attend council meetings regularly and take a full part in the unseen aspects – reading reports, being active members of scrutiny panels, keeping a careful watch on the finances.

On Town Council Jean Lord and John Clark have continued this tradition, since being elected in 2011. All LibDems elected this year are committed to do the same. Since the last election, two Tory Councillors have forfeited their seat for non-attendance, and a third has resigned after months of absence.

**WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO ACHIEVE ON NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL**

**OUR KEY AIMS:**

- TO BUILD A FAIRER AND MORE PROSPEROUS NORTH SOMERSET
- TO KEEP COUNCIL TAX AS LOW AS POSSIBLE, by delivering value for money in all services and providing FAIRNESS FOR ALL IN THE COMMUNITY.
- TO GET NORTH SOMERSET MOVING with a re-opened Portishead rail line, better bus services and easier access for all residents to essential services.
- TO IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF ROADS AND PAVEMENTS by prioritising expenditure on repairs/upgrades that last.
- TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT by encouraging high recycling rates, zero tolerance of litter, fly-tipping and dog mess.
- ABOVE ALL, TO BE A LISTENING COUNCIL which consults residents and makes decisions at the lowest practical level. We would introduce democratic committees of local councillors instead of the expensive and dictatorial Executive Members.

*We will work to reverse the historic low level of Government Grants to South West local authorities. If we are all in it together, then that should mean comparable Government grants and responsibilities for everyone.*

**CONSIDER WHETHER YOUR MONEY HAS BEEN SPENT WISELY:**

- Selling the Winter Gardens for £1. Was this really the best deal that could have been achieved?
- £10 million for refurbishing the Town Hall, and now another £165 000 for parking spaces at Castlewood. Could this money have been better spent on essential services – for example, the Youth Service?
- Creating Assistant Executive Member posts, with a new allowance of over £6000 per year per post.

**The NEW WEST WARD in Portishead  
Sue Mason and Clive Hall  
Want to hear from you:**

Let us know your views!  
Let us know if there are any local problems that need solving or if you have ideas about our local area:

**Can you help?**

Name(s):

House number:                      Postcode:

Email:

Phone:

- I can deliver **Focus** in my Street/area
- I can put up a poster at election time
- I'd like to join the local Lib Dems and get more involved.

**Return to:**

**Sue Mason, 15 Monmouth Close, Portishead BS20 8BZ.**

If you return this survey the Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you've given to contact you. By providing your data to us, you are consenting to the dataholders making contact with you in the future by telephone, text or other means, even though you may be registered with the Telephone Preference Service. You can always opt out of communications at any time by contacting us.

Printed by Flying Colours Units 9+10, Badgeworth Barns, Notting Hill Way, Weare BS26 2JU. Published & promoted by Mike Newson on behalf of the Liberal Democrats all at 223 Down Rd Portishead BS20 8DG.

**Thursday May 7th 2015  
ELECTION DAY**

**Polling Stations open 7am to 10pm.**

**HALL:       MASON:**

**Vote at  
REDCLIFFE BAY HALL (NQA) or  
St BARNABAS CENTRE (NQB).  
Need help going to Vote? Tel. 842920.**



**Thursday May 7th 2015  
is ELECTION DAY.**

Boundaries have changed.  
There are now only FOUR wards in Portishead.  
You live in the new

**WEST WARD**  
**For North Somerset Council**  
**Vote Liberal Democrat:**

**Clive Hall**

**Sue Mason**



**HALL:**

**MASON:**

**and for Portishead Town Council**  
**Vote Liberal Democrat:**

**HALL:**

**MASON:**

**Vote at REDCLIFFE BAY HALL (NQA)  
or St BARNABAS CENTRE (NQB)**

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## WEST WARD Liberal Democrat Candidates



**Clive Hall and Sue Mason are concerned about speeding on Down Road.**

### **Sue Mason writes:**

Having lived here since 1976 I have seen Portishead grow and adapt but its caring heart has not changed. My own contribution has been as a Governor at High Down Infant School, Chairman for 5 years, and now a Core Governor on the new High Down Schools Federated Governing Body. I was a Town Councillor from 2001–2011 and Chairman from 2007–2008. I am active in Redcliffe Bay Methodist Church, being on the Church Council and running the Little Stars Toddler Group. I also belong to the Portishead Railway Group and am a Trustee of the Bristol Trust for the Deaf.

I want children to be able to go to school in Portishead, for there to be more local employment opportunities, accessible public transport and pothole free roads. We all want the best for our community.

### **Clive Hall says:**

For the last 34 years, I have lived in North Somerset, 16 years in Clevedon and 18 years in Portishead, where my social life has revolved around Yatton RFC as a player and latterly as a committee member.

I have recently retired as an Independent Financial Adviser having worked for 38 years in financial services. Professionally, my role has been to LISTEN to clients, ESTABLISH their priorities, MANAGE expectations and ADVISE the optimum solution and I believe these skills can be used to advantage as a local councillor.

If you believe, “we are all in this together”, and the Liberal Democrat principles of FAIRNESS and OPPORTUNITY for all, then please support me, and I will endeavour to work towards enhancing the quality of life for ALL the people of Portishead.

## WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO ACHIEVE ON PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

### OUR KEY AIMS

- TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL RESIDENTS.
- YOUNG PEOPLE We will fight for the young people in the town. We would continue to support Portishead Youth Centre. We would push for a Skatepark in a central location in the town: despite lots of meetings, no progress has been made on the project for several years. What message does that send to our young citizens?
- COMMUNITY We would continue to give strong support to voluntary groups, such as Portishead in Bloom, Christmas Lights, and Portishead Open Air Pool.
- AMENITIES More housing implies a need for more facilities. Yet the Tory led council is prouder of reducing the Precept (the Town’s part of the Council Tax) than it is of providing increased facilities.
- ROAD SAFETY We would continue the pressure on North Somerset Council for improvements to road safety particularly where speeding vehicles are causing problems. The hard evidence of speeding within the town is finally being collected after many months of delay, but only because the Town Council has contributed to the funding.
- SENIOR CITIZENS We would continue financial support for the Nailsea & District Community Transport scheme, which provides independent transport for those unable to use buses. We recognise the importance of having appropriate leisure facilities e.g. a replacement site for Indoor bowls.
- TRANSPORT We will continue to press for bus services across the whole town to include a link to Harbourside Medical Centre and the rail station in 2019.

### WHAT WE WOULD LIKE North Somerset Council TO DO FOR PORTISHEAD:

- Ensure there are enough primary and secondary school places for Portishead young people in Portishead. Gordano School will be full by 2018.
- Continue free parking in the town centre and Lake Grounds.
- Ensure a fair proportion of the district’s resources are spent in Portishead.

## LIBERAL DEMOCRAT POLICIES IMPLEMENTED BECAUSE WE WERE IN GOVERNMENT:

- Since 2010, more than £5.5bn has been paid to schools to benefit the most disadvantaged children and young people, via the Pupil Premium.
- The tax threshold will increase again to £10,500 in April 2015 – ensuring all basic rate tax payers keep more of their earnings. This may help you – it will certainly help lower paid workers.
- From April 2015, there will be a genuine choice to be made about how you can use your pension pot. No longer will an annuity have to be bought at age 75, however low the rates of return.
- The link between pensions and earnings (scrapped by Margaret Thatcher’s government) has been restored. More than 11 million pensioners now receive £800 more than they did in 2010.
- Only Higher Rate taxpayers will pay the increased rate of Capital Gains Tax.
- We have ensured that there has been no replacement of the nuclear weapons system in this Parliament.
- We have introduced the Green Investment Bank, ensuring investments of £15 billion have gone into green infrastructure; introduced the Green Deal; mapped out the path of renewable energy to 2050.
- 3200 children in Years R, 1 and 2 are now eligible for free school meals in North Somerset.
- Success – we have lobbied in government for more apprentices – and there are now 4200 in North Somerset – an investment in young people’s futures.

### NATIONAL POLICIES:

- To balance the books – but do it fairly without penalising the most vulnerable. At the same time, to invest for a high-skill, low carbon economy.
- NHS – the Lib Dem manifesto pledges an extra £8 billion a year. **Consider this against the call by the current MP for North Somerset to remove the protection for the NHS budget in the next Parliament.**
- Education spending will be protected from the cradle to college, to the advantage of all children and young people.
- We have opposed regional pay for the public sector, and will continue to do so.