



Liberal Democrat

FOCUS

STOUR AND THE VALE COUNTY COUNCIL DIVISION

October 2021

From your local Liberal Democrat team

Stour and the Vale County Council division comprises the parishes of: Admington, Alderminster, Ettington, Halford, Ilmington, Loxley, Pillerton Hersey, Pillerton Priors, Preston on Stour, Quinton, Tredington, Whitchurch.

THANK YOU!

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Thank you to everyone who voted in the County Council elections in May. In Stour and the Vale we achieved the highest turnout of any Division in Stratford District. Liberal Democrats did not win but they restored their vote to the levels they regularly used to achieve. Since then we hope that you have stayed safe and had a good summer.

A particular thank you to the 1181 of you who voted for our candidate George Cowcher. It was not a winning total but he quadrupled the Liberal Democrat vote and gave the Tories a few anxious moments. The 342 voters who wasted their votes on the Green Party or Labour unfortunately gave comfort to the Tories and helped build their majority.

At the count it was clear George won the majority of the votes in the boxes from Ettington, Quinton and Meon Vale, but was outvoted in the other villages.

George said after the election, 'It was a pleasure being a candidate again and to fly the flag for the Liberal Democrats in our area where they used to be so strong. It was lovely to meet so many old friends and acquaintances and receive so many messages of support and such a warm welcome on the doorstep.

ISSUES NEED ATTENTION

Much has changed since I stood down from the County Council in 2005: so many new houses, more traffic, a greater sense of prosperity. However there are plenty of issues needing attention - speed of traffic on our roads, a planning system out of control, a general feeling of being taken for granted and a lack of representation. There is still much to be done'.

A number of electors told George how much they appreciated what he was saying and wished him well but they always voted Conservative, regardless of their competence or what they do! Many appreciated being spoken to on the doorstep, with several people saying this is the first time we have seen a candidate since we met you last time! The result shows that the Liberal Democrats are still a strong force in the area and will win again.



| | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|------|
| RESULT | Conservative | 1687 |
| | Liberal Democrat | 1181 |
| | Green Party | 189 |
| | Labour | 153 |

PLANNING FIASCOS

Fiasco 1 National Policy

Thank goodness for Liberal Democrat pressure in opposing the Government's proposals to reform planning.

Chesham and Amersham has many similarities to Stratford and the big Liberal Democrat win in the recent by-election there has made the Conservatives think again. A Minister has been sacked and the new Minister has ordered a review of the policy which would have given developers a green light to build in an unrestricted way on green field sites.

Developers would have been able to ignore local views but we believe that planning controls must not be taken away from local people.

Fiasco 2 Stratford: major local setback

The building of large new housing estates on the former army camp and airfield at Long Marston depended on the building of a new road around Stratford to provide connectivity and avoid congestion.

With hundreds of houses already built and traffic levels on the B4632 causing congestion there is now doubt whether Tory led Warwickshire County Council and Stratford District Council can find the huge sums of money needed to build the road. Without this, rat-running through villages and longer traffic queues on the B4632 will be the order of the day.

Fiasco 3 Enforcement cuts

What is the point of having planning laws if they are not going to be enforced? Stratford District Council regularly gets complaints from residents that development without permission is occurring or that developers are not complying with planning conditions.

The Council's Enforcement Department is charged with handling such complaints, but the Conservatives have cut the department's budget by £75,000 so capacity is limited and the Council is seen as being weak.

Liberal Democrats believe that without effective enforcement, confidence in the Council's ability to protect public amenity and the environment is quickly undermined. They will fight locally and nationally to ensure that the ability to enforce against breaches of the planning rules is given a higher priority.

Working for Stour and the Vale

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ...

Politics is about choices. Liberal Democrats want to know what you think.

- | | YES | NO |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The Conservatives have decided to increase National Insurance contributions for working people, to pay for care for the elderly and disabled. They have chosen to raise National Insurance to put the burden on younger people and protect the elderly. Do you think it is fair to raise National Insurance? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Do you think raising income tax would be fairer? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The Conservatives have said that the money raised from increased National Insurance will be used first to benefit the NHS. Do you think there will be enough money to fund care? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Do you think that it is fair that care staff are being forced to have COVID vaccinations in order to keep their jobs but NHS staff are not? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Universal Credit was raised by £20 per week to help people in difficulty due to the pandemic. This has now been withdrawn. Do you think that this is fair? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. With labour shortages, food supplies under threat and costs rising steeply and Brexit contributing to all of them, do you think Brexit has caused more problems than it solved? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. De-regulation of the energy market and poor regulatory control which has allowed under-funded companies to enter the market has caused great instability. Are you worried about price rises and threats to the supply of gas and electricity? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Is the government, in promoting HS2, road building and the possibility of opening a new coal mine, doing enough to combat climate change? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Do you know enough about what the Liberal Democrats are doing? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Would you like to know more? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Thinking about the last County Council election

What inspired you about the Liberal Democrat campaign?

What put you off?

Which party do you normally support?

Which party did you support at the election in May?

The Liberal Democrat team is looking for new helpers. Would you like to:

- Become a Liberal Democrat member?
- Help the Liberal Democrats?
- Deliver a few leaflets?
- Discuss an issue?



ABOUT YOU ...

Your answers to this survey will remain confidential and results will only be quoted in aggregate.

Name
Address
Postcode
Email
Telephone

HOW TO CONTACT US ...

Phone: 01789 295970 Email: stratforduponavonlibdems@gmail.com

Mail: Liberal Democrats, 55 Ely Street, Stratford, CV37 6LN

Please return this survey by:

- filling it in online at: www.stratfordlibdems.org.uk/stour
- Posting it to the Liberal Democrat office marked - Freepost Stratford Liberal Democrats or post it directly (with a stamp) to: George Cowcher, Liberal Democrats, 55 Ely Street, Stratford, CV37 6LN
- Scan and email to: stratforduponavonlibdems@gmail.com

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HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD