



Liberal Democrat

# FOCUS

Feldon County  
Council division

From your local Liberal Democrat team

County Council election May 6th

# NICK SOLMAN CHOSEN TO STAND FOR COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION

Nick Solman has been chosen by the local Liberal Democrats to stand for election to the County Council at the elections on May 6th.

COVID has dealt an enormous blow to local villages, with its impact on residents, jobs and businesses. However, it has also had the effect of bringing out the best in our communities, with people working together in a variety of ways to support those with problems. 'This community spirit is something we must build on in the future', said Nick, 'and our councils have a major role to play in making sure this happens'.

Nick also believes that it is time to raise awareness of our area. 'Government money is available to help with the recovery from COVID but we also face huge disruption from HS2. I want to make sure that our area benefits fully from government support'.

#### IT'S THE RESIDENTS WHO SHOULD COUNT

'It's important for councillors to recognise that they are elected to represent the views of residents and that means listening to what you say. I'm always available on the phone or email and I hope residents will continue to contact me with their thoughts'.



**Nick Solman**  
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#### About Nick ...

Nick is a Parish Councillor in Long Itchington where he lives with his wife and daughter. He works part-time at Warwick Business School as a researcher, specialising in the future of UK Energy Policy - focussing on Net Zero and sustainability.

His family have a long association with this area. During WWII his grandfather was evacuated to Wormleighton, near to where his Aunt and Uncle managed the reservoir at Boddington. Nick's Great-Uncle also worked at Jaguar for several decades after he left the Army. Nick's wife completed her teacher training at Fenny Compton School.

Nick is a keen sportsman having played hockey locally for the last 20 years and has been chairman of Leamington Hockey Club. Nick says 'It's not just about local government services, local communities are full of clubs and organisations that are at the heart of the community. As a local councillor it's vital to work closely with these organisations and give them support. During the pandemic - and before - I've seen first-hand how these groups have been vital in mobilising local people to help each other in times of need.'

## My top three priorities:

### ● Fair

Our rural communities deserve to be treated fairly. Local services like schools and the NHS have come under more pressure as the number of houses has increased. People need to know they can get a school place or that there are enough doctors. Whilst the government talks about ultra fast broadband some places cannot get basic broadband and mobile coverage.

### ● Caring

The County Council need to recognise that care should be provided here as well as in the towns, taking into account rural isolation, with flexible coverage whether it is care services or mental health. We must ensure more joined up working between the NHS and the County Council's care services, to provide effective and affordable solutions.

### ● Greener

There is no Planet B. Liberal Democrat councillors have been at the forefront in promoting the green agenda on county, district and town councils. We will promote 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle', to cut waste and increase our recycling. We will work to restore and generate biodiversity, expanding and safeguarding our green spaces.

**Lib Dems Working for our Villages**

# HS2 - THREAT OF MORE DISRUPTION FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Despite what the signs are showing, HS2 are now saying they might not be able to open the A425 at the Polo Ground this summer. The closure is actually in Long Itchington Parish, where Nick Solman is a Parish Councillor. Nick says 'This closure should not have had to happen in the first place. To delay for many more months is something local communities should not have to put up with'.

Lib Dem District Councillors, Louis Adam and Nigel Rock, have been working with other Councillors to challenge the extension of the closure period. Nick Solman says Lib Dems have researched the traffic to find that about 2 million vehicles use the main road every year and after lock down more diverted traffic will be pushed into local villages and side roads - as well as the closure inconveniencing local people. We are waiting for an explanation for the reasons for the delay, which at the moment are quite unclear.



# CAN WE STOP DAMAGE TO OUR VERGES & GREENS?

Across our area there have been many verges and greens damaged over the winter. Narrow roads, wet weather and many more deliveries have combined to make this problem worse this year. Most are going unrepaired by the County Council, either leaving an unsightly mess, or in some cases dangerous ruts at the edge of the road.



## HOTLINE

Lib Dem Councillors and candidates are calling for the County Council to discuss this with big delivery operators to prevent damage where possible and set up a hot-line for the public to report those vehicles doing the damage.

# ELECTIONS AND POSTAL VOTES

Because of the pandemic we expect that more and more people will be wanting to vote by post at the election on May 6th. Application forms can be downloaded from the Stratford District Council web site or you can call the elections office 01789 260208.

The government has now given permission for political parties to deliver leaflets through volunteers - this was banned until March 8th. All our volunteer deliverers are offered PPE. However, we fully understand that some residents may still have concerns over receiving leaflets through the letter box. If that applies to you please do let us know.

# POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER



At the same time as the county council election on May 6th there will also be an election for Warwickshire's Police and Crime Commissioner. The Liberal Democrat candidate is Louis Adam.

Louis lives in Long Itchington with his wife Courtney. Louis grew up in Stockton, lived in Leamington whilst studying Civil Engineering at Coventry University, and works as a Structural Engineer. Louis is a district councillor on Stratford District Council.

## HOW TO GET EFFECTIVE POLICING

With the ending of the merger between West Mercia and Warwickshire Police Louis is concerned about the impact this will have on policing in our county. Warwickshire is one of the smallest police forces in the country and size is important when it comes to running specialist departments. Already the press have run reports of back office civilian staff being made redundant and being replaced by uniformed officers. 'Uniformed officers should be in the front line, not hidden away in offices', said Louis. 'Working with other forces to achieve economies of scale and specialisation must be the way ahead for effective policing in our area'.

# OUR HEALTH AND CARE SERVICES

The way our care services have been treated is nothing less than a national scandal. Despite government promises care homes were not protected in the early days of the pandemic.

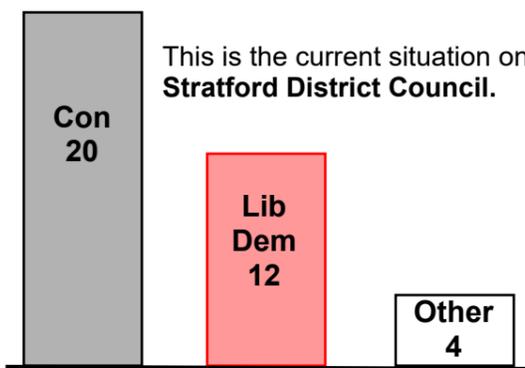
The Liberal Democrats have made improvement and reform of care a top priority. There is now a widespread belief that there needs to be much better integration between care services and the National Health Service. The discharge of patients from hospitals to care homes early in the pandemic without all the proper checks shows what can go wrong when the two areas are so separate.

With the stress brought on by issues around the pandemic, mental health services are becoming increasingly important. At the county council, Liberal Democrat budget proposals to put aside £4 million to support local mental health provision were voted down by the Conservatives.

# CLIMATE CHANGE

Lib Dems are always pushing for sensible and useful moves to protect the environment. Lib Dem County Councillors have proposed motions at the County Council on adapting to and mitigation of climate change. These were accepted and now require every county council department to look at the impact of climate change on all aspects of the Council's work. Nick Solman says 'If elected I will use my knowledge from my research in the environmental field to benefit the work of the County Council.'

# MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT



This is the current situation on Stratford District Council.

At the **county council** there are 9 Conservative county councillors and 4 Liberal Democrats in the Stratford district.

There are no Labour councillors at either county or district level in our district.

## How to contact us:

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# NICK SOLMAN

# WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES