

SPRING 2020

Compassion, fairness, equality and internationalism

# FOCUS

WORKING HARD FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF WEST BERKSHIRE

**Liberal Democrats**  
West Berkshire and Newbury  
  
 [www.wbld.org.uk](http://www.wbld.org.uk)  
 @WBerksLibDems  
 @WestBerksLibDems



**Thank you to the 18,384 people who voted for Lee Dillon in the General Election and to each and every campaigner, activist and volunteer for their commitment to the communities of West Berkshire.**



**Lee DILLON**  
Your Parliamentary Spokesperson for Newbury and West Berkshire

Dear West Berkshire Residents,  
I am incredibly proud of the General Election campaign we mounted here in Newbury. It was so important to us that we got out to our towns and villages to speak to as many of you as possible over the 5 week campaign so I could hear your views. From Brexit and funding our NHS, to the climate emergency, what was clear is that the challenges we face affects each and every one of us. I want to thank the thousands of you that spoke to me during the campaign, whether on the doorstep, at hustings or through letters and emails, and the 18,384 voters that backed our vision for a more open and tolerant country.

*Lee Dillon*

## Liberal values last longer than election results

The start of a new year is usually a time for reflection; this year was no different and for the Liberal Democrats this is especially true.

The 2019 General Election – in West Berkshire and Newbury – was positive for the party. Increasing our share of the vote (the only party to do so) built on solid local election results earlier in the year and the local party goes from strength to strength. Nationally, 3.7 million people voted for the Liberal Democrats – an increase of 1.3 million from 2017, taking our vote share from 7.4% to 11.5%.

Whatever the result of our election review, a belief in Liberal Values will remain at the heart of the party and drive our policies and behaviour

in local government as well as nationally. The opening of the Liberal Democrats constitution reads as follows:

*The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community, and in which no one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity.*

*We champion the freedom, dignity and well-being of individuals, we acknowledge and respect their right to freedom of conscience and their right to develop their talents to the full.*

*We aim to disperse power, to foster diversity and to nurture creativity. We believe that the role of the state is to enable all citizens to attain these*

*ideals, to contribute fully to their communities and to take part in the decisions which affect their lives.*

At the start of this new decade those beliefs are still as relevant as ever, if not even more so!

**Tell us your priorities for West Berkshire...**



**Take our online survey:**  
[www.wbld.org.uk/haveyoursay](http://www.wbld.org.uk/haveyoursay)

**GET THE FULL PICTURE - FOLLOW THE MAIN OPPOSITION PARTY IN WEST BERKSHIRE AND NEWBURY**

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**@WestBerksLibDems**



# FOCUS ON NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL

*A message from Councillor Martin Colston, Leader of Newbury Town Council*

Thank you to everyone who voted Liberal Democrat in the local elections last year and made the Liberal Democrats the ruling party on Newbury Town Council. With 19 out of 23 councillors, all with enthusiasm and drive to make a positive contribution, we will work constructively with the other parties to serve the whole community of Newbury.

Here are some of the things we've already delivered with the support of our full-time officers and hundreds of residents:

## **Addressing the climate emergency**

- We declared a climate emergency and committed that the council will be carbon neutral by 2030.
- Plans for the new café in Victoria Park have been redesigned, to make it sustainable and carbon neutral.

- We set up a cross-party Climate Emergency Working Group, independently measured our carbon footprint and set an annual target to reduce it; we are investing in modern technology for the Town Hall to reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> and save money.

- We held our first Community Climate Change Workshop in September to share our plans and invite input. We'll hold two workshops a year going forward.

## **Making Newbury a unique, safe, welcoming and well cared-for town**

- Victoria Park was recognised as being an outstanding facility for our community and awarded the prestigious Green Flag
- We have put funds in place to replace the play equipment in Skyllings. The original equipment will be given a new lease of life in City Recreation Ground.

## **Fostering a sense of community**

- Led by the Council, the horticultural community of Newbury won the Britain in Bloom Silver Gilt Award, and the Inspiring Everyone to Grow Award.

- We organised the Family Fun Day in Victoria Park, Newbury in Bloom, the Remembrance Sunday Parade, and contributed to the Christmas lights.

## **Providing focused support for young people, the elderly and vulnerable**

- The Council has committed to increasing the level of youth support in Newbury, and to backing West Berkshire Citizens Advice, for the next four years.

**Councillor Martin Colston**  
**Leader, Newbury Town Council**  
[www.newbury.gov.uk](http://www.newbury.gov.uk)

## THATCHAM FOCUS

The last few months have been busy for Liberal Democrat-led Thatcham Town Council. Thatcham Festival in October was our most successful ever with most events fully booked. We improved the Christmas Festival with new lighting, increased entertainment events on stage on Friday and Saturday, including free parking, to provide entertainment for all the family. As usual, the Remembrance Day Parade was exceptionally well attended, and benefited from our improvements to the audio system. Preparations are already being made for the Thatcham Family Fun Day in June which will have a special VE Day Theme.

After declaring a Climate Emergency, the Town Council has developed a Climate Action Plan which supports the decisions that the Council must take to help the community to become more sustainable and transition towards zero carbon.

Funds have been reserved for projects that have the greatest impact on carbon reduction for the Thatcham community and the Council stands ready to support West Berkshire in ensuring the town transitions towards zero carbon.

The day-to-day business of the Council is serving the local Thatcham community. We are going to refurbish the toilets in the Broadway, resurface the play parks, addressing a legacy of under investment in maintenance of Town Council properties, provide financial support to our local Library, and distribute funds to several local good causes, all with the Community and value for money at the heart of our decision making.

**Councillor David Lister,**  
**Leader, Thatcham Town Council**  
[www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk)



# Viewpoint: First-time activist felt compelled to get involved

The recent election was a bit of a whirlwind for me. Called at short notice, and with very little time to prepare, it was testament to the dedication and hard work of the party that we managed to make huge inroads into the Tory majority.

I've always been interested in politics, and how decisions taken by our elected representatives can change lives. Brexit, and the constitutional crisis which it unleashed, continues to fascinate me. But it was Parliament's decision to call the General Election in December which led me to conclude I had to get involved and so I volunteered to help.

I met some truly amazing people during the election campaign. From hitting the phones at West Berkshire HQ, to knocking on doors all over the constituency, it was clear that many of our constituents supported the party's policy offering. Whether that was real-terms spending increases for the NHS; fairer business costs; better transport connections; more teachers; more comprehensive childcare provisions; and measures to

combat climate change, most of the people I spoke to agreed there is a desire to do things differently. Yes – Brexit continues to polarise public opinion, but we also saw support from areas which surpassed expectations, and that we can continue to build on as we hold the Tories to account.

Much of what we achieved was only possible due to the hard work and dedication of the campaign team and volunteers. So we should all be very proud of ourselves. As we leave the EU and reflect on the last few years of British politics, we'd do well to remember that there is more which unites than divides us.

Going forward, the future for our party is bright and there is so much to play for, both at local and national level. Along with everybody else, I want to be at the forefront of that movement – listening to people, finding out what's important to them, improving our public services and driving forward the changes and reforms that our communities so desperately need.

***Justin Pemberton, Volunteer Activist***



## The Liberal Democrats are working hard to tackle the big issues that people are facing across the UK.

- ✓ Ensuring a properly resourced NHS, to provide the highest quality care for our loved ones.
- ✓ Fighting to reverse police cuts, to protect our communities from violent crime.
- ✓ Protecting our environment. We've already done more to fight the climate emergency than any other party.
- ✓ Building high-quality, reliable public transport links across the UK.
- ✓ Investing in world-class education, to give our children the best start possible in life.
- ✓ Promoting diversity and internationalism, making sure everybody living here feels welcome and valued.

**We want to see an open, inclusive, outward-looking and optimistic United Kingdom.**

**That's who we are.  
That is what we will be.  
And that is the future  
we will build.**

**JOIN THE FIGHT - VISIT**

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**AND GET INVOLVED**



Aldermaston • Bucklebury • Chieveley • Compton • Hampstead Norreys



Hermitage • Hungerford • Kintbury • Newbury • Thatcham • Streatley





# Meet your local Liberal Democrat Councillors

**Newbury Town Councillors • [www.wbld.org.uk/newbury\\_town\\_council](http://www.wbld.org.uk/newbury_town_council)**



**Clay Hill**

Phil Barnett  
Sue Farrant  
Pam Lusby Taylor



**Eastfields**

Billy Drummond  
Olivia Lewis (*Deputy Leader*)  
Jon Gage  
Vaughan Miller  
Erik Pattenden



**Newbury Central**

Martin Colston (*Leader*)  
Nigel Foot  
Andy Moore  
Elizabeth O'Keeffe  
Martha Vickers



**Speenhamland**

Jo Day



**Wash Common**

Chris Foster  
Roger Hunneman  
Gary Norman  
Sara Slack  
Tony Vickers

**Thatcham Town Councillors • [www.wbld.org.uk/thatcham\\_town\\_council](http://www.wbld.org.uk/thatcham_town_council)**



**Thatcham Central**

Owen Jeffery  
Jen Walker (*Deputy Leader*)



**Thatcham Crookham**

John Boyd  
Richard Foster



**Thatcham North East**

Mike Cole  
Lourdes Cottam  
Jeremy Cottam  
Lee Dillon  
Christine Rice



**Thatcham West**

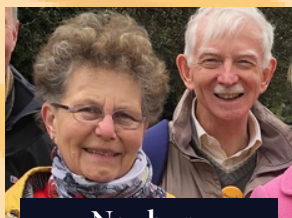
Jeff Brooks  
Mark Lillycrop  
David Lister (*Leader*)  
Simon Pike  
Keith Woodhams

**West Berkshire District Councillors • [www.wbld.org.uk/west\\_berkshire\\_council](http://www.wbld.org.uk/west_berkshire_council)**



**Burghfield & Mortimer**

Royce Longton  
Geoff Mayes



**Newbury Central**

Andy Moore  
Martha Vickers



**Newbury Greenham**

Phil Barnett  
Billy Drummond  
Erik Pattenden (*Shadow Portfolio Holder: Children, Education & Culture*)



**Thatcham Central**

Owen Jeffery (*Shadow Portfolio Holder: Health & Adult Social Care*)  
Nassar Kessell



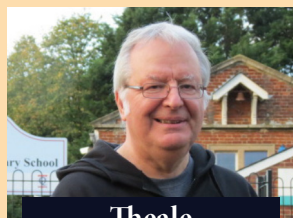
**Thatcham North East**

Jeremy Cottam  
Lee Dillon (*Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Portfolio Holder: Performance, Corporate Services & Partnerships*)



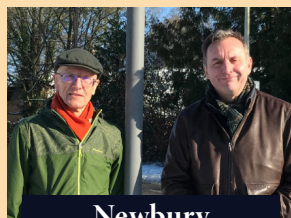
**Thatcham West**

Jeff Brooks (*Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Portfolio Holder: Finance and Economic Development*)  
Keith Woodhams



**Theale**

Alan Macro (*Shadow Portfolio Holder: Transport, Planning & Housing*)



**Newbury Wash Common**

Adrian Abbs (*Shadow Portfolio Holder: Climate Change and Public Protection*)  
Tony Vickers

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