



FOCUS

www.lichfieldlibdems.org.uk

ON CHADSMEAD - #78

Working all the year round...
Not just at election times

Pothole Pandemonium

In previous editions of Focus we have reported on the dreadful state of Lichfield's roads. This issue gets raised time and again by residents, who rightly complain that the state of our roads is just not good enough. Potholes continue to plague the streets and more are expected across the city during the winter months.

Councillor Paul Ray says: "Lib Dem Councillors continue to fight for positive action on essential services like road repairs. Our pressure on Conservative Staffs County Council has resulted in many dangerous potholes being fixed, but repairs are often poor in quality and potholes reappear". Years of Conservative cuts at a national and local level have led to Tory-run councils trying to run essential public services on a shoestring, and the poor state of our roads is just one of the visible impacts.

Polling Stations moved from local schools

During the May 2019 local elections a number of residents raised their frustrations with us regarding local schools closing at election time to be polling stations. School closures mean many working parents have to obtain additional leave from work to cover childcare. It is particularly difficult when schools close at short notice, as with by-elections and snap General Elections.

Cllr Miles Trent, reports: "I have been in touch with Lichfield District Council since June 2019, arguing for change on this issue. In November I sent detailed submissions to LDC's Polling Places Review raising residents' concerns and suggesting sensible alternatives. I also encouraged local residents and schools to have their say directly with LDC. I am pleased that, in December 2019, LDC approved changes to Lichfield's polling stations. In Chadsmead Ward LDC decided that neither St Peter's and St Paul's School nor The Willows school would be polling stations in future, meaning they will no longer close on election day - great news for parents."

Cllr Trent adds: "Society is changing. Local Government must change with it and do more to support working parents. This Council decision is definitely a step in the right direction."



Councillor Miles Trent

Lichfield Council consultations - Lib Dem councillors are saying

District Local Plan

- The council must make sure that there are sufficient school places and GP facilities when granting planning permission for needed housing developments
- Needs to be much more focus on the green agenda, targets for energy conservation etc
- We want to see the creation of more local employment given a higher priority
- Lichfield District Council made a commitment in October (re Friary Grange) that a new publicly funded leisure centre would be built within 5 years. But this is just not referred to!

More details on <http://ltb.lib.dm/a51brq>

Future of Lichfield City Centre

Overall we think the proposals are an exciting and positive plan for the centre of Lichfield with a cinema, re-designed access from Lichfield City station into the heart of the city, new bus station and multi storey car park and our key points are:

- **Bird Street** car park development - we appreciate that there are strong views about this. We support the proposals **BUT ONLY** if new parking is built before this work starts.
- A large percentage of the housing on the **Friarsgate** site must be affordable
- There must be improved connectivity between **Lichfield Trent Valley** and **Lichfield City stations**

More details on <http://ltb.lib.dm/a41brq>

What do you think about the future of our area? Contact us on website (above), email chadsmead@lichfieldlibdems.org.uk or by letter to one of our addresses overleaf

Lichfield City Council recognises climate change emergency

A motion proposed and seconded by Lib Dem councillors **Hugh Ashton** (Garrick Road) and **Christine Rapley** (Chadsmead) was passed unanimously at an October meeting: "Lichfield City Council declares that a climate change emergency exists and in consequence resolves to take this into account in all future spending decisions of the Council and to carry out environmental impact assessments when appropriate". **Cllr Hugh Ashton** comments, "I am very pleased that the City Council has adopted this motion, joining over 250 county, unitary and district authorities from all over the UK. Local parties came together on this Lib Dem-led issue, Lichfield City Council can now ensure that it can make positive efforts to mitigate and reduce the effects of climate change.

Lichfield City Markets

Cllr Paul McDermott, as Deputy Chair of the cross-party Markets' Working Group on Lichfield City Council, has been actively involved in efforts to regenerate the city's markets. The group have been especially concerned about the decline in the monthly Farmers Market and he believes that the change of emphasis, along with its re-siting within the calendar, due to take effect from March, will draw in a lot more visitors to the city centre.

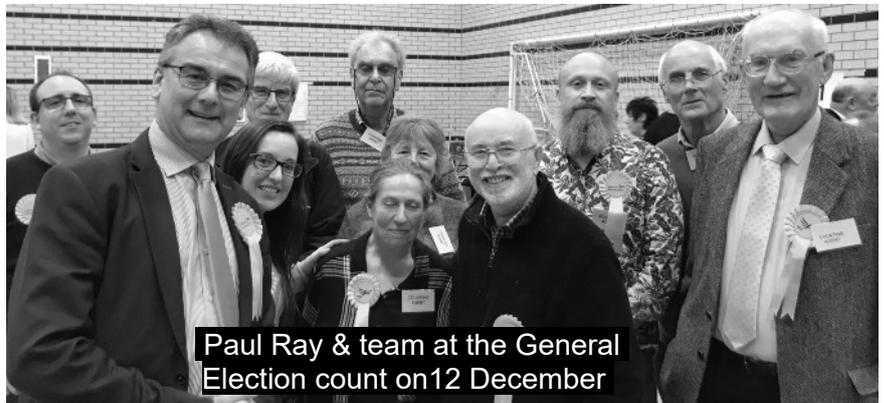
We were pleased to support the retention of the rubbish skip for the Friday and Saturday markets which helps keep the city centre tidy and the contents are sorted for recycling.

Our Country going forward..

12 December was obviously a difficult night for the Lib Dems and Brexit is now set to happen. We accept that but will continue to fight for an outward-looking role for our country.

Your local Liberal Democrats enjoy growing support through working with residents and campaigning on important issues locally and nationally:

1. We more than doubled our vote in the Lichfield & Burntwood constituency
2. 7 new Lib Dem councillors were elected in the local elections in Lichfield & Burntwood in May
3. We have clear and well-thought through policies for the domestic agenda (eg 1p on income tax for the NHS and care services) - all based on responsible spending plans
4. We will continue to press the Conservatives to use their power responsibly and in a way that keeps us close to Europe and brings our country together. BUT recent announcements show that they will NOT. They have said that they will move away from EU standards on workers' rights and food and environmental standards. That is just not good enough for you or our country.



Your Lib Dem Focus Team - We're Here to Help

GET IN TOUCH

The local Lib Dem team work all year round for local people. If you would like their help or to comment on a local or national problem please do contact them by email, phone, or post.

The Liberal Democrats, locally and nationally, may use information you provide, including your political views, to further our objectives, share it with our elected representatives and/or contact you in future using any of the means provided. Some contacts may be automated. You may opt out of some or all contacts or exercise your other legal rights by contacting us. Further details are in our Privacy Policy at ltlibdems.org.uk/en/privacy.

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Cllr Miles Trent, 26 The Charters, WS13 7LX - 07789 954875

Cllr Hugh Ashton 26 Lombard St WS13 6DR - 07957 584658

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Can you help your Lib Dem Focus Team?

chadsmead@lichfieldlibdems.org.uk

Deliver Focus leaflets in your own local area for up to an hour for each Focus issue? Please phone or email to discuss how you could help.

Working for you all the year round