



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
www.lichfieldlibdems.org.uk

FOCUS

ON LEOMANSLEY - #112

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Brexit Catastrophe Looms

As the government's messy struggles between pro-Brexit and pro-Remain Tory factions continue to damage our Brexit negotiations, the signs are growing that we face an economic catastrophe. The government's own analysis of the impact of Brexit forecasts a significant fall in economic growth. The West Midlands will be one of the worst-hit regions, with the government predicting an 8% fall in regional economic growth if we leave the EU with a free trade deal, and a 13% fall in economic growth if we leave with no deal; this is compared to only



a 2.5% fall if we stay – though it's worth stressing that this Tory government believes our economy will contract under their stewardship no matter what happens! This is having a very real impact locally, with the Conservative Council leader accepting that the recent collapse of the Friarsgate development was due to "the credit crunch and Brexit". It's no wonder that more and more people support the Lib Dems' call for a second referendum over the terms of any Brexit deal.

Eastern Avenue Parking - Lib Dem success!



In our last Focus we reported that Liberal Democrat councillor Paul Ray, representative for Chadsmead Ward, was at the forefront of opposition to recent proposals to introduce parking restrictions on Eastern Avenue by Friary School: "The Friary is a 1,000 student school and these proposals seem to me to cause danger for the students at the start and end of the school day when students are arriving and leaving in very large numbers". Happily, we can report back to say that these dangerous proposals have now been dropped thanks to Councillor Ray's intervention, following his work alongside local residents, the school, and the Council. Your local Liberal Democrats continue to have a real impact on important community issues.



Cllr Paul Ray

Dangerous junction: Pressure mounts on County Council

Your local Lib Dems continue to campaign for a long-term solution to the dangerous junction between Grange Lane and Eastern Avenue, which is the site of numerous traffic collisions each year. Following sustained Lib Dem pressure, Staffs County Council agreed to minor improvements to road markings and signage at the junction. However, we agree with concerned local residents that more needs to be done, and before there is a fatality. So far this year we have organised a petition which obtained over 100 signatures from local residents. This was used to apply further pressure to Staffs County Council Highways.



Cllr Ray organising petition with residents

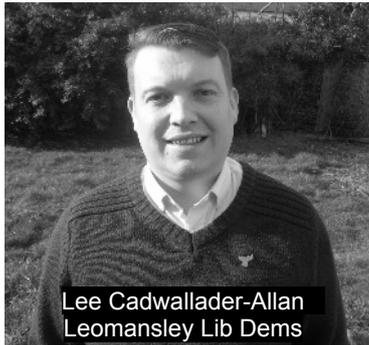
A recent report by Council contractor *Amey* has analysed the options for alterations to the layout of the junction. We favour the creation of a roundabout, and are investigating *Amey's* cost estimates for such a change. Since our petition the relevant Staffs County Councillor has indicated that she supports our proposal for a roundabout. We continue to liaise with her, and will keep you updated on developments.

Lib Dems and the future of the NHS

It's nice when your ideas are adopted by the opposition. Lib Dems proposed at the last election that a little more money be raised through our taxes, earmarked for the NHS and social care, and to be used for no other purpose. Lee Cadwallader-Allan of Leomansley Lib Dems says: "An increase of 1p in the pound would mean an extra £10 in tax for every taxable £1,000. Not a lot from each of us, but it all adds up in the end, and it could enable our national health service to provide the level of care we need from it."



And now such a move may be on the table, with Theresa May pledging more money for the NHS after years of morale-sapping austerity. However, unlike the Tory Government Lib Dems would use a 1% income tax rise to give essential help to social care services as well as the NHS. We support the implementation of the Dilnot Commission's recommendations; and would cap the amount the elderly pay for state residential care (i.e. lifetime individual contributions) at £72,000.



Lee Cadwallader-Allan
Leomansley Lib Dems

The Lib Dems would also like to see an end to, or at any rate a substantial reduction in, political interference in the operation of the NHS and social care, through the institution of an Office of Health Budgeting - a statutory independent budget monitoring agency for

Lib Dems take action on Mary Slater Road

Leomansley Liberal Democrats are working with Lichfield District Council and local developers to help residents on Mary Slater Road who are unhappy with current services, specifically bins not being emptied and grass not being mown often enough.

Jamie Christie of Leomansley Lib Dems explains:

"After an estate has been completed, the developers are responsible for these services for a time before handing over to the District Council. This handover has not happened yet and we have been pushing to get it done soon. In the meantime, we are taking steps to ensure that services are up to the standard that residents need."



Jamie Christie
Leomansley Lib Dems

We will keep you updated on this in future editions of Focus.

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 ltdlibdems.org.uk/en/privacy.

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Can you help your Lib Dem Focus Team?

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