

# FOCUS



## VOTE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT ON 6TH MAY 2021:

- ✓ **Local Lib Dems work hard for residents all year round in Lichfield and Burntwood**
- ✓ **Lib Dem Councillors have a strong record of local action across this district**
- ✓ **More important than ever to hold the controlling Tory group to account for its decisions**

### Lib Dem Priorities for Lichfield, Burntwood and villages:

Lichfield and Burntwood and the surrounding villages are great places to live but we face important challenges. The key issues we campaign for locally are:

✓ **Better leisure facilities for all.**



The campaign to overturn the Conservatives' terrible decision to close the Friary Grange Leisure Centre was won. But leisure facilities

are still inadequate, especially for the younger generation.

✓ **The climate change emergency** is a major threat and we need specific policies from our local councils to tackle it. For example, we say that Lichfield District Council should bring in a policy to require all taxis operating in our area to be hybrid or electric. That will have a real impact on reducing emissions.



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✓ **More affordable housing.** The district needs more houses for its current residents, and for their children and grandchildren. Housing is just too expensive, especially for young people and their families. There are currently over 1000 people on the local housing waiting list but last year only 206 affordable homes were built. The new local plan sets the affordable housing target at the level that is currently being achieved. That is just not ambitious enough.



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✓ **Start developing the abandoned Friarsgate site** by building affordable housing on it.

✓ **Any new housing development must also include enough infrastructure** to support our community, such as GP surgeries, roads and schools. These services are currently stretched to breaking point.

### LICHFIELD LIB DEMS: A RECORD OF LOCAL ACTION

#### Liberal Democrat Councillors working hard for residents on Lichfield City Council

Eight Liberal Democrat councillors were elected to Lichfield City Council in 2019, effectively becoming the major opposition to the controlling Tory group. Since then they have worked actively on behalf of all Lichfield residents:

✓ **Lobbied Staffs County Council** to get Weston Road resurfaced and potholes fixed.



✓ **Introduced and passed a motion** to ensure that the climate emergency is considered in all City Council spending decisions.

✓ **Took action** with regard to the Windmill pub, leading to a Compulsory Purchase Order with construction now looking to start later in 2021.

✓ **Continued pressure** to ensure the transfer of public open space at Darwin Park to the District Council, to ensure regular ongoing maintenance (Scheduled for completion by end March 2021).

✓ **Worked to support and improve Lichfield City markets.** Lib Dem Cllr. Paul McDermott, as Deputy Chair of the cross-party Markets Working Group, has been heavily involved in ensuring the continued viability of the City's markets during what has been an exceptionally difficult time.



✓ **Played a key role** in the successful campaign to save the Friary Grange Leisure Centre - for the benefit of Lichfield citizens, and to alleviate pressure on Burntwood Leisure Centre.

### Your Lib Dem County Candidates for Lichfield City & Burntwood



**Miles Trent:**  
**Lichfield City North**

Miles has been an active and dedicated Councillor on Lichfield City Council for the last two years, working hard on local issues, and ensuring that the controlling Tory group is held to account for its decisions. Miles would be an articulate and persuasive voice for local people at County Council level, making sure that residents' views are taken seriously and acted upon. Miles lives in North Lichfield, is a criminal lawyer working in the civil service, and is passionate about preserving a strong, effective and efficient public sector.



**Hugh Ashton:**  
**Lichfield City South**

Hugh spent much of his early life in Stafford, and moved to Japan in 1988, where he lived and worked until 2016 when he returned to live in Lichfield near his family. Hugh has represented Garrick Road ward on Lichfield City Council since 2019. He works as a freelance writer and novelist, and has taken part in volunteer activities throughout the city, including helping with the Lichfield Emergency Night Shelter (LENS), and the Covid vaccination centre in Lichfield Cathedral.



**Paul Taylor:**  
**Burntwood South**

Paul has lived in Burntwood for 40 years, growing up and raising a family there. He's an ardent supporter of the town, its people and businesses. He has a strong understanding of business, charity and governments from his time as a VAT consultant and small business owner. Paul has taken a close interest in Burntwood's local politics over the last two years and believes he can bring a fresh, different approach to proudly represent the town at the County Council.

# THANK YOU TO ALL THE KEY WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED DURING THE PANDEMIC

## Lib Dem Election Candidates in full:

**Lichfield City North:** Miles Trent  
**Lichfield City South:** Hugh Ashton  
**Burntwood North:** Jamie Christie  
**Burntwood South:** Paul Taylor (also Summerfield & All Saints by-election for Lichfield District Council)  
**Lichfield Rural North:** Paul McDermott  
**Lichfield Rural South:** John Smith  
**Lichfield Rural East:** Phil Bennion  
**Lichfield Rural West:** Fiona Robertson  
**Needwood Forest:** Alasdair Brooks  
**Stowe Lichfield City Council by-election:** Richard Henshaw



Find out more at:

<https://ltblibdems.org.uk/en/page/may-2021-county-and-by-elections>

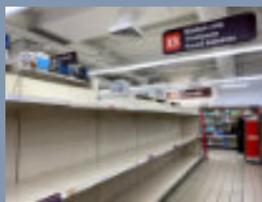


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### Bungling Boris has botched it

Brexit is NOT "done". Johnson's disastrous last-minute deal, rushed through without Parliamentary scrutiny after four and a half years of dithering, has brought:

- ✓ British fisheries and seafood industry to the brink of destruction



- ✓ A massive drop in exports, thanks to the massive amount of paperwork and associated fees

- ✓ Empty supermarket shelves in Northern Ireland and higher food prices

- ✓ The replacement of London by European centres as the financial hub of Europe (billions, if not trillions, of pounds have moved out of the UK)

- ✓ Musicians and other performers forced to cancel European tours, as a result of extra paperwork and visa requirements.

- ✓ Professionals no longer have their UK qualifications automatically recognised in the EU

- ✓ A customs border in the Irish Sea, threatening to break up the United Kingdom.

Rather than us having our cake and eating it, as PM Johnson claimed, he has dropped the cake on the floor, leaving us with an inedible mess. Once again, Brexit is NOT done.

The LibDems seek to build bridges, and to restore closer links with our European friends, with renegotiated membership of the customs union and single market at the earliest opportunity.

### Burntwood needs stronger representation at the County Council

The Conservatives have let Burntwood down repeatedly at the District Council and especially the County Council over the last four years.

With both of these councils being run by the Conservatives, the representation of Burntwood seems, at times, to be forgotten by our councillors in favour of "toeing the party line".

The LibDem candidates for County Council seats, Paul Taylor and Jamie Christie, would be free to argue and vote for what is best for the town, rather than being concerned with the politics of governing or opposition for the County.

#### Burntwood needs:

- ✓ **An improved road and bus-route layout** at Sankey's Corner
- ✓ **Road surface improvements** and pedestrian safety on the A5190 / Lichfield Road
- ✓ **Improved Health Centre facilities** for Chase Terrace and Chase-town.
- ✓ **Better funding from Lichfield District Council** and similar levels of support for planning and events to Lichfield City Council

If elected, we will work hard to give Burntwood an effective voice to be heard at County level.

## Covid-19 and beyond: Lib Dem vision for the UK

### After a devastating year it is time to learn the lessons from the pandemic and to build a fairer, more caring and greener country for all UK citizens

After a truly devastating year, we now hope that there is light at the end of the tunnel, with NHS staff doing fantastic work delivering the vaccination programme.



However, the Tory Government has mismanaged crucial aspects of its Covid-19 response, sadly leading to far more deaths than would otherwise have been the case.

The country was too slow to enter lockdown a number of times; tragic mistakes were made in relation to care homes; the test and trace system was found inadequate, and serious questions remain over Government awarded contracts.

The pandemic has also highlighted serious inequalities across our country, particularly in our social care system, and in the health of

citizens in different areas and from different socio-economic backgrounds. As we start to look beyond the pandemic, we must take stock of where we want to go as a society. The Lib Dems have clear ideas of how we can build a brighter future for the UK:

- ✓ A greener future - clean public transport, and energy efficiency at all levels. This will help mitigate the effects of climate change, and a green revolution will create thousands of new jobs.
- ✓ Proper funding for social services and those who work in them; the carers, and all others who have become properly appreciated during the pandemic. Closer integration between social services and healthcare at a local level.
- ✓ NHS funding - and unlike other parties, the Lib Dems are not afraid to say that proper funding will cost the taxpayer - a ring-fenced increase on income tax would help fund social services and the NHS.

Lib Dem County Councillors will make a difference, promoting positive ideas of fairness and equal opportunity, alongside a greener more sustainable future for the UK. The pandemic has taught us some valuable lessons. Now is the time to put them into practice, and give the ideas of the Liberal Democrats a voice at County level.

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# WORKING HARD ALL YEAR ROUND