

Thank You for voting

Many thanks to the one-in-six of you who voted Liberal Democrat in the latest Stowe ward by-election in September.

Before the election, it was clear that many people felt that the existing councillors were not doing enough to help them. This is certainly true of local transport. Roads are becoming more congested and full of potholes and, while more houses are being built around the city, bus services are being reduced. The Conservative-led district council has made no effort to encourage the railway companies to improve our local stations. The City station still has no toilets and there are still no lifts at Trent Valley station despite many promises over the last year that construction will start soon.



Meanwhile at Penrith railway station in Cumbria, on the same railway line as Trent Valley, lifts were fitted three years ago by Network Rail as a result of pressure from the Penrith District Council and their local M.P. Penrith's passenger numbers are only about half those who use Trent Valley station, so if Penrith can have its lifts, why has it taken so long to provide this essential facility at Trent Valley? You can be sure that local Liberal Democrats will continue to press for improvements in our local transport facilities even if Conservative councillors can't be bothered.

Friarsgate: Picking up the pieces after the Tories



The failed Friarsgate project has so far cost £7 million. Although the Conservative councillors who have steered this project to its current disastrous stage say that £4.5 million is recoverable through land sales, this still leaves Lichfield and Burntwood communities on the hook for some £2.5 million, paid as non-recoverable legal and consultancy fees.

Given the understandable outrage at this waste of public money and lack of planning, the Conservative leader of Lichfield District Council, Mike Wilcox, has agreed to a cross party working group to determine the future of the project.

The Liberal Democrats have clear ideas for the site, including partnering with housing associations to bring family housing back to the centre of the city, creating a leisure centre there to replace some of the facilities at the ageing Friary centre, as well as providing entertainment facilities (in particular a cinema) and a heritage project to welcome visitors arriving to the "City of Festivals" by bus, coach, or train. However, we also need to know what YOU feel should be done here. Let us know.

Lichfield local hospital funds and services suffering

The NHS and social care services are in a state of crisis. The Conservatives have left them underfunded, staff embattled and undervalued, while need continues to grow and patient care suffers.

This has also impacted on our local Samuel Johnson Community Hospital with shortages of staff in more than one area of care - repeatedly. Not only has this impacted on those available staff trying to cover for absent colleagues, but when the hospital managers have been unable to fill any vacancies, they have to pay over the odds for agency staff - and if these agency staff live some distance away, then the hospital has to pay for their accommodation in local hotels/B&Bs as well! Guess who gets the blame when our hospitals find themselves going over budget in trying to care for our needs?

An early act of the Conservatives in Government was to cut nursing training places. Now they have started charging trainee nurses and radiographers graduate tuition fees, Add to that the uncertainty discouraging staff who are EU Nationals from staying ... What are the Conservatives up to?

Hello austerity, goodbye lollipops

Cash-starved (£35m shortfall) and Conservative dominated Staffordshire County Council proposes “defunding” school crossing patrols (“lollipop men and women”) and passing the running costs on to “community funding” (public working together with schools) - stealth tax?

A public consultation by Staffordshire County Council (web-link:

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/schoolsandcolleges/SchoolCrossing/SchoolCrossingPatrols.aspx is open until the end of this year, with the final decision to be taken in early 2019.

Liberal Democrats believe we need urgent action to prevent the deterioration and decay of essential public services: NHS, Social Care, Schools, roads, police and all the rest which make this country good for ordinary folk to live in.

Lib Dems stand for serious increases in investment in these services acknowledging that higher earners will likely pay more in tax.



Only recently the Conservatives nationally announced an ‘end to austerity’. Do YOU think austerity is over? What *can* you believe from the Conservatives?

Lichfield Conservatives fail to deliver on local housing

As a local party we are strong supporters of new housing and especially affordable housing in Lichfield district. The Conservative led Council’s target for 2017/18 was planning permission for 1300 homes. In fact, permission was granted for only 416 homes, and only 120 affordable homes were built. We simply must do better.



However, it is equally important that new development occurs in an appropriate and sustainable way. Lichfield Lib Dems are concerned about the over-development of certain sites in the city. Lichfield Lib Dems view such decisions as harmful for our community and will continue to speak out in favour of sensible and sustainable planning decisions.

Brexit: Internal Divisions deepen for Tories and Labour

Brexit continues to threaten us with national catastrophe. The Prime Minister’s plan would leave us complying with EU rules, but without our current ability to influence or veto them. Extremism within the Conservatives grows, polls show that a majority of pro-Brexit Tory voters in England would prefer to break-up the UK and jeopardise peace in Northern Ireland than stay in the EU. No wonder major businesses are concerned for the future; Toyota has warned of the impact on production if supplies dry up following a no-deal Brexit.

Labour meanwhile try to cope with divisions within their party by failing to take any firm stand over Brexit. Jeremy Corbyn and other Labour figures send out contradictory messages. The Lib Dems are the only national party that unequivocally supports a People’s Vote on Brexit – so that British voters have the same say on the final deal as they did on the initial decision to leave the EU.

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

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Can you help your Lib Dem Focus Team?

Deliver Focus leaflets in your own local area?
Please phone or email to discuss how you could help.

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