



FOCUS

Councillors
Paul McDermott
Richard Rathbone

www.lichfieldlibdems.org.uk

ON STOWE = #6

Valley Lane Parking

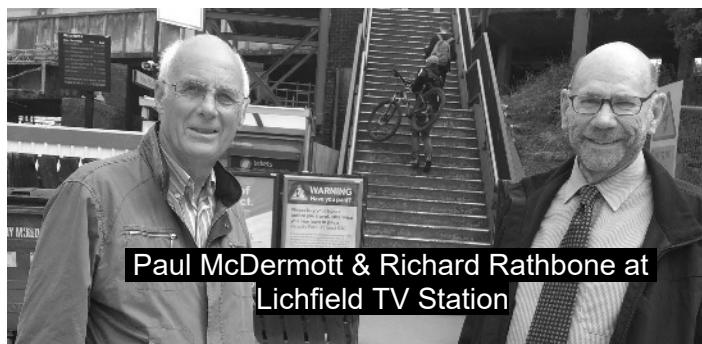
Residents will be aware of the unsatisfactory parking restrictions proposal issued by Staffs CC last summer. **Cllr Richard Rathbone** wrote and sent to Stafford a summary report based on people's criticisms of the county's proposals and including a list of our preferred options. We are still waiting for SCC revised proposals.

Trent Valley Train Station Parking

Cllr Rathbone has written a report arguing the case for a multi-storey carpark on the site of the disused GKN factory on Crossfield Road to provide much needed car parking space around Lichfield TV station. Report can be viewed in full on <http://ltb.lib.dm/a31brg>

Bus Services

Lib Dem councillors are committed to improving local bus services by providing covered bus stops, more signs to say when buses will arrive and more frequent 821/822 services which include Trent Valley train station and Curborough Hall Farm Countryside Centre on their route as well as a return of this service to Valley Lane. **Cllr Rathbone's** explanation is on <http://ltb.lib.dm/a71brk>



Paul McDermott & Richard Rathbone at Lichfield TV Station

City Markets - Cllr Paul McDermott

As Deputy Chair of the cross-party Markets Working Group on Lichfield City Council, Cllr McDermott 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.

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 stowe@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 resolve 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, and making positive contributions to the wording, Lichfield City Council can now ensure that it can make positive efforts to mitigate and reduce the effects of climate change."

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 libdems.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.

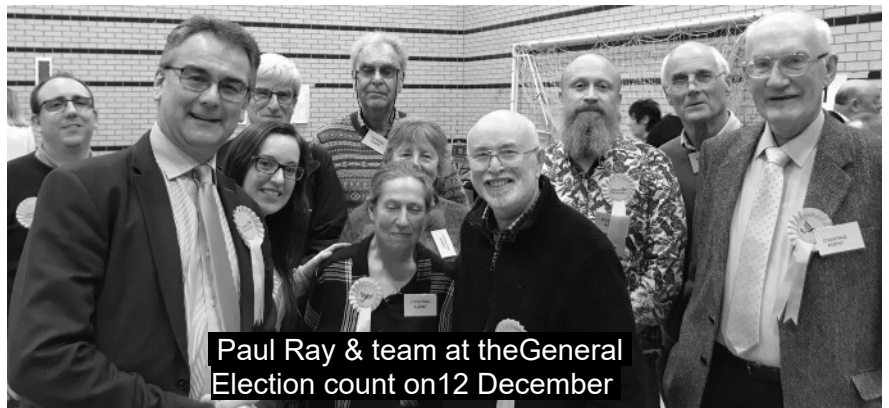
Working for you all the year round

Trent Valley Rd Pedestrian Crossing - Eastern Avenue/Cappers Lane end

There is a clear need for a new pedestrian crossing sited at the Eastern Avenue/Cappers Lane end of Trent Valley Road. This is a very busy main road which elderly people in particular cannot cross without endangering their safety.



Cllr Richard Rathbone raised this during a recent meeting he had with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Public Transport at Staffordshire County Council. We will report on any developments on this proposal in a future Focus.



Paul Ray & team at the General Election count on 12 December