

BLACKWATER & HAWLEY MARCH 2007

FOCUS

News and Action from your local Liberal Democrats

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Recovery has started!

What a difference a year makes! Just a year ago Hart Council was on its knees after 8 long years of Conservative misrule.

- ✗ Bins were not emptied on time
- ✗ Our grassed areas were a disgrace
- ✗ Council finances were in crisis
- ✗ Council tax had gone up 63% in 8 years under the Conservatives
- ✗ And they even tried to close the Citizens Advice Bureaux!



Conservative-run Hart was roundly criticised by the independent Audit Commission which slammed Hart's financial performance as "inadequate" and gave it the lowest grading possible!

At the council elections last May voters threw the Conservatives out. A Lib Dem-led administration of all non-Conservative councillors was formed to sort out this chaos.

Sorting out such severe problems will not be quick, but good progress is already being made.



Praised by the Audit Commission

After criticising Tory Hart last year, the independent Audit Commission has been back to review progress. They said: "*Stronger leadership has resulted in significant progress over the past six months*" and "*There are clear plans for further and more rapid improvement*". Achievements so far include:

- ✓ Nearly all bins are now being emptied regularly, on the right days
- ✓ The £1.5m hole in the Council's budget has been balanced
- ✓ Recycling is up from 26% to 37% of all our waste, and still rising
- ✓ 29% more grass cutting and litter picking will happen this summer
- ✓ And the CABs have been saved!

There's lots more to come yet, but that's not a bad start!

The Winning Team - Working for Hawley and Blackwater!

David Neighbour

Local councillor David Neighbour was chosen last summer as the new Leader of Hart Council.



He has led the recovery from the chaos and financial crisis left after eight years of Tory misrule.

Adrian Collett

Local Hampshire councillor Adrian Collett has led the Lib Dems on the county since 1997.



He was also chosen to chair the Police Authority Finance Ctte, where he's fighting for more Bobbies and PCSOs on the beat!

Brian Blewett

Last summer local councillor Brian Blewett was honoured by being chosen as Chairman of Hart



- the local equivalent of Mayor.

Brian also has a fine reputation for getting things done locally.

Town Council

When the Tories ran Hart they cut all the financial support previously given to our Town Council.

Despite this lack of support the Lib Dem team on the Town Council has carefully managed the finances and kept this year's council tax increase to just 0.3%.

All-Year-Round Service and Action Not just at election time!



Local News

Buses home from Frimley Park

Frimley Park Hospital has tightened up visiting hours. Evening visiting is now limited to 6.30-8.30 pm.

Several residents have pointed out that the last no. 3 bus back leaves the hospital at 6.28 pm. Not a lot of use!

However, don't despair! If you catch the no. 2 bus at 7.31 or 8.31 pm out on Portsmouth Road, this changes to no. 3 at Camberley Station and will bring you all the way to Blackwater. We're pressing for no. 2 to go into hospital grounds, like the no. 3, but at least you can get home on one bus!



We can still get the bus home

Muddy Grass Verges

When many local estates were built there weren't so many cars around. Now, parking is often difficult and verges are sometimes the victim. Verges are not designed for parking and vehicles can often damage water or gas pipes underneath.

A solution is needed and Dave Neighbour is taking this up with Adrian Collett to see what the County Council can do. We'll keep you posted.



Damaged verges are an eyesore! says Dave Neighbour

YOUR BLACKWATER AND HAWLEY LIBERAL DEMOCRAT FOCUS TEAM

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Contact any member of the Focus Team with any local problem or to find out more about the Liberal Democrats

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You can't trust the Conservatives!

You never hear from the Tories around here until there's an election!

It would help if they then told the truth, but their recent leaflets contained much that was designed to mislead you.

There isn't room to answer it all, but here are a few examples:

The Tories said: Hart's Lib Dems are cutting staff monitoring CCTV.

***The Truth:* CCTV staff are NOT being cut.**

The Tories said: The Liberals are planning to cease travel tokens for older people.

***The Truth:* Tokens are NOT being stopped.**

The Tories said: The council plans to end its careline emergency alarm service for the frail and elderly.

***The Truth:* Careline is NOT being ended. It's just been transferred to Sentinel Housing to run.**

There are plenty more examples, but our space is limited. All we can suggest is that you be careful about what they say. You just can't trust the Conservatives!

Got a Problem?

If you've got a local problem or issue you'd like us to look into, why not drop us a line, or contact one of the Focus Team listed above?



Use this space to tell us your views...

Write to:
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