

St Mark's FOCUS



News and action from your local Liberal Democrats

Make Your Vote Count

Lib
Dem
54%



Con
41%

Labour are
third in
St Mark's



Lab 5%

% of votes cast in St Mark's 2008

SNOW JOKE!

Penny-pinching Tories let our roads fall apart

For years, Hampshire Liberal Democrats have been warning about the Tory policy of underfunding the roads budget.

Now the melting snow and ice has revealed a road network pock-marked with potholes.

Lib Dem Councillor Alistair Mackie puts it plainly, "It's down to years of skimping on road maintenance by the Conservative-run County Council.

"As the road surface is allowed to decline, water gets into the cracks. Then every time it freezes it expands, opening the cracks even more, until eventually the road breaks up, leaving these huge potholes everywhere."

Quick-fix road to ruin

Adrian Collett, a Lib Dem County Councillor and prospective MP for Farnborough, adds, "Last year the Liberal Democrats proposed an alternative budget with an extra £5 million for road upkeep paid for out of the bloated reserves.

"The Tories rejected our carefully costed budget out of hand. Instead they went for quick-fix 'pothole-busting'. This is exactly what the Institution of Civil Engineers has told councils not to do, because it can make the problem worse and increase the cost of repairs.

"We warned them what would happen. I'm sorry to say we've been proven right."



Alistair Mackie and Adrian Collett inspect one of many new potholes. "The Tories just don't understand the age-old principle that a stitch in time saves nine!"



Crispin Allard and Alistair Mackie are still fighting to get the Tories to keep their promise to review the charges.

North Camp parking charges: the battle goes on...

Your Lib Dem councillors Alistair Mackie and Crispin Allard are continuing to argue for a return to free parking in North Camp.

The parking charges were brought in by the Tories two years ago without adequate consultation and in the face of strong local opposition from the Lib Dems and many others.

Since then, the Tory-run Council has dragged its heels, but after some serious lobbying from your Lib Dem councillors, it finally looks as though the promised review will happen. We'll keep you posted.

MPs' expenses: Howarth hit hard by latest revelations

MP Gerald Howarth continues to come under fire for taking advantage of the expenses system and for refusing to admit he's done anything wrong.

Further revelations have only added to his woes. Recently it came out that Mr Howarth uses taxpayers' money to employ his wife as a "research and secretarial assistant".

Now his attempt to claim for Sky Sports on expenses has been exposed. Mr Howarth said "People don't realise that MPs have a lot of community engagements and very little time to yourself."

This news follows earlier scandal over Gerald Howarth's second home. He had always claimed to live in the constituency.

But last year he was forced to admit his principal residence is really in the up-market

London suburb of Chiswick.

Meanwhile, he keeps a second home in Farnborough at taxpayers' expense, which he uses when he visits our constituency.

He will be entitled to keep that home when he retires as an MP or loses his seat.

The comparison with Adrian Collett, the Liberal Democrat challenger, could not be more stark. Adrian has issued a ten-point pledge. If he is elected as the next MP:

- ✓ Adrian Collett will continue to live in the constituency, as he always has, and commute to London.
- ✓ Adrian Collett will only claim costs genuinely incurred representing his constituents.
- ✓ Adrian Collett will not employ members of his family at taxpayers' expense.



If elected, Adrian Collett will not claim a penny for a second home. He'll travel daily like many people.

For full details of Adrian's 10 point pledge see: www.farnboroughlibdems.org.uk

Lib Dems - working hard for St Mark's

20 is plenty!

Liberal Democrats back proposal to reduce speeds in residential areas



Lib Dems in St Mark's are backing calls to reduce traffic speeds along residential streets.

Complaints about speeding traffic have been on the increase, with local people citing annoyance and safety concerns. Matters came to a head at a recent meeting of the St Mark's Forum.

Alistair Mackie explains, "The police monitored speeds along several streets in our area. They

told us the average speeds were not far enough above the 30mph limit to justify extra measures.

"But people still thought the traffic was too fast in many of our residential streets. So we used some common sense. If the traffic is too fast with the limit at 30, why not reduce it to 20?"

Crispin Allard adds, "Cutting traffic speed in residential areas improves quality of life as well as the safety benefits. Lib Dem run Portsmouth did it with great success, so why not here?"

"Of course, it will take work to develop a suitable scheme, get the funding and consult people. Some Conservatives don't think it can be done, but we don't give up that easily."

Did you know? St Mark's Forum is a group of local people organised by the ward councillors to discuss and resolve local problems. If you want to find out more, please get in touch with us.



Geoff Marks of FARA with Adrian Collett and Crispin Allard experiencing flights coming in to the Airfield!

Victory for Airfield campaigners - but the fight goes on

Local campaigners won a victory when Rushmoor's planning committee threw out TAG's proposal to increase the number of flights at Farnborough by 80%.

Geoff Marks, the chairman of Farnborough Aerodrome Residents' Association, welcomed the decision, saying he felt vindicated in his opposition.

Lib Dem Cllr Crispin Allard joined him, commenting that the impact on people's quality of life was definitely not a price worth paying to allow more rich business executives to fly into and out of Farnborough.

The Liberal Democrats are the only local political party campaigning against TAG's massive expansion plans.

TAG have since appealed against the decision, so it will be down to an inspector and eventually a Government Minister to make the final decision.

Lower taxes for local families

Lib Dem Leader Nick Clegg has announced new tax plans to help local families.

The Lib Dem plans mean no-one will pay tax on the first £10,000 they earn. This will save workers £700 each in income tax.

Many low paid and part time workers will pay no tax at all.

These tax cuts will be paid for by closing tax loopholes used by the very rich, tax on pollution and a 'mansion tax' on houses worth more than £2million.

Local Lib Dem campaigner Adrian Collett said, "Labour has failed local families. People are paying more and getting less in return.

"Meanwhile the very rich can dodge the taxes they are

supposed to pay with little fear.

"Our plan will put money back in the pockets of local people who need it. In homes with two workers, they could be up to £1400 a year better off."

The Lib Dem plan to help local families couldn't be more different to the Conservative plan to cut taxes for millionaires.

Adrian Collett said, "It shows how little the Conservatives have changed.



Adrian Collett and Shadow Chancellor Vince Cable want to cut taxes for ordinary working people, not millionaires.

"They only want to help their very rich chums, while everyone else gets nothing.

"Only Nick Clegg's Liberal Democrats will deliver lower taxes and real change for Farnborough residents."

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Help us to campaign for St Mark's

I want to support the Lib Dem campaign for St Mark's...

- I can display a poster at elections
 - I can help with clerical work
 - I can deliver FOCUS in my area
 - I can make a donation of £_____
- Please make cheques payable to 'Liberal Democrats'.
(A donation of £12 or more entitles you to party membership. If you do not wish to join tick here)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

How do you think St Mark's could be improved? We want your ideas.

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For a better quality of life

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The Liberal Democrats would like to contact you from time to time about matters we think may be of interest to you. If you would rather we did not contact you please let us know.

Standing Up For YOU