

# St Mark's FOCUS



## The St Mark's Focus Team:

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*News, Views and Community Information from the Liberal Democrats*

## South Farnborough Conservation Area Threatened

Back in 1987, to preserve the historic nature of the community, former Lib Dem councillors Shelagh Stephenson and John Hounsham initiated the setting up of the South Farnborough Conservation Area.

This put a stop to unsightly developments, in contrast to other parts of Rushmoor. New construction since 1987 within the protected area has been sympathetic to the character of the Conservation Area, as shown by the "before and after" pictures.

However, the Council has failed to enforce the rules on minor features such as windows and guttering. They are now using this as an excuse to downgrade the Area, ignoring its major successes. Shelagh says, "That's typical. They just want to push more and more flats and ugly buildings into our area. By abolishing our Conservation Area there'll be nothing to stop them!"



**Before**                      **After**  
**Preserving the Character of the Area**

The Council's plan has temporarily been shelved following an outcry from local people, but you can bet they will re-introduce it after this year's elections. Local Liberal Democrats are determined to prevent this. We are fully behind the local residents, who want to preserve the special nature of this neighbourhood.

## Petition Delivered to Rushmoor Borough and Hampshire County Councils



Last September, St Mark's Liberal Democrats initiated a petition calling for a pedestrian crossing at the western end of Queens Road. This was signed by over 230 local residents and handed to Rushmoor Borough Council and Hampshire County Council in early November 2006.

The good news is the County Council has for once acted quickly and approved a series of pedestrian safety improvements in our area. The bad news is they turned down the call for a pedestrian crossing, opting instead for "crossing points" (a fancy name for building the pavements out). Work is due to start this month.

Local Lib Dem Chair Crispin Allard responded, "I'm pleased the Council has responded so quickly to our campaign. However, it's a shame they did not opt for the proper pedestrian crossing that local residents want. We will keep a close eye on the situation, and if necessary renew our campaign to get a full crossing."

# Liberal Democrats work all year round

## Lib Dems Launch Green Tax Switch

Liberal Democrats want to give the average family a £1,000 income tax cut to save the planet. By switching to green taxes, we can all help switch off climate chaos.

Lib Dems will radically change the way we pay tax. Taxing good things - like income - less, and bad things - like pollution - more. Therefore, the more you switch to greener living, the more of your Lib Dem income tax cut you will keep. It's your choice!

While other politicians just talk about the environment, Lib Dem leader, Menzies Campbell, has won praise for his green tax switch plan to actually do something to tackle growing climate chaos. "We want fair tax, not more tax," says Menzies Campbell, "but we do want to use tax to reward people who improve the way they live and do their bit to save our environment."

Like to know more? Click [www.greentaxswitch.com](http://www.greentaxswitch.com)

## Alistair Lends a Helping Hand

Alistair Mackie is known as a man of the people - always willing to help local residents. Now he's a councillor for St Mark's, the common touch has not deserted him.



When the heavy rains came down back in November, it was no surprise to see him helping people sort out problems caused by the floods. Morris Road, Maitland Road, Netley Street and Park Road were particularly badly affected.

On one day, Alistair had to call out the Emergency Services as water was within inches of the Alexandra Road shop doors!

The responsible agencies - Thames Water, South East Water, the Environmental Agency, Rushmoor Borough Council and Hampshire County Council - must improve their co-ordination, as these problems are likely to occur again.

## Listening to Local Residents

We in the Lib Dems don't pretend that we know **ALL** the answers, unlike some other parties. So we've been out talking to local residents and getting your views in our Survey.

Viewing the returns so far, we have observed some worrying comments, many expressing concerns at the public behaviour of some people. Good behaviour costs nothing - avoiding bad language would encourage more people to smile and acknowledge others in the street.

There are many concerns that our local roads have become dangerous, often because drivers are breaking speed limits or completely blocking footpaths. As is also clear from the survey, many of you are frustrated at the lack of space to park, but please be considerate and ensure enough room is left for pushchairs and wheelchairs to get by.



**Crispin Allard with Sharon Bowles MEP at the Green Tax Switch stall in Farnborough**

The Lib Dems are spot on. The range of measures proposed on green taxation are welcome – *World Wild Fund for Nature*

The Liberal Democrats have outflanked David Cameron with a promise to cut the income tax bills of millions of families by up to £1,000 a year – *The Times*

## What the Experts are saying

Ming Campbell has set the gold standard for green speeches. He was not only rich on vision, but rich on policy details too – *Greenpeace*

[Lib Dem tax plans will] leave low – and middle – income earners more than £1,000 a year better off – *The Guardian*

