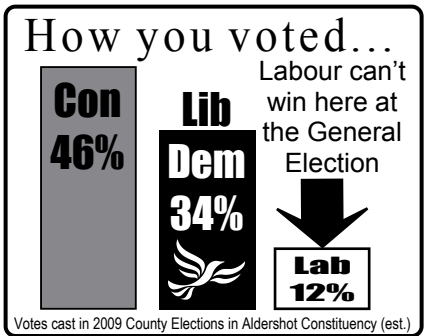


St Mark's FOCUS



News and action from your local Liberal Democrats



ANGER AT HOWARTH EXPENSES

Local residents have been stunned and angered by the arrogant reaction of Farnborough's MP Gerald Howarth following revelations about his expenses.

He has refused to apologise or repay a single penny of the £531,290 he claimed over the last four years, saying he could be earning more money in his previous job as a city banker!

Although London is only a 40 minute train journey away, our MP lives in Chiswick and keeps a second home in Farnborough, funded by taxpayers' money.

Local residents who have to commute to London each day by train are asking why Mr Howarth should not do the same.



MORTGAGE



FOOD



BARBECUE & GARDEN CHAIRS



PHONE AND CABLE TV

Squire of the manor

Not content with his MP's salary of £64,766, Howarth splits his time between 3 jobs, including a £30,000 a year directorship of a company registered offshore in the Isle of Man (a well known tax haven).

The former banker was unrepentant, adding that people expected him to act as "squire of the manor" by paying for charity raffle gifts and attending events.

Online reaction

Local residents have been showing their disgust at our MP's milking of the expenses system, posting a record number of comments on the *News & Mail's* website www.gethampshire.co.uk

Action blocked

The Liberal Democrats have been calling for a complete overhaul of the expenses system for many years. In contrast, many Labour and Conservative MPs have done everything they could to hang on to their extravagant allowances.

Last year, Lib Dem MPs backed a radical set of changes to the system but were thwarted by an unholy alliance of Tory and Labour MPs. Howarth voted to block some of the most radical changes.

MP meets expenses row with defiance

Farnborough News, 15/5/09

"Mr Howarth said he could be earning more money...in his previous job as a city banker."

Farnborough News, 15/5/09

"your expenses are disgusting"

Resident's comment, www.gethampshire.co.uk 19/6/09

"you should hang your head in shame"

Resident's comment, www.gethampshire.co.uk 18/6/09

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/mympsexpenses> for details

End the Airfield blight injustice

Adrian Collett, prospective Lib Dem MP for Farnborough, is calling for residents to be supported in their fight for compensation from Farnborough Airfield operator TAG.

Thousands of people live under the flightpath and there is increasing evidence of property blight, with reported losses of up to 15%.

Adrian commented, "The law should entitle residents to recompense. But TAG has refused to pay up - hiding behind a series of complex arrangements between TAG, the MoD and Rushmoor Borough Council."

In response to an open letter from Adrian challenging Gerald Howarth to help, the Tory MP agreed to "make some enquiries".



Local Liberal Democrats led by **Adrian Collett** (left) recently met Simon Hughes MP to discuss the issue of Airfield blight.

Craig Card says 'thank you'



Lib Dem campaigner Craig Card would like to thank residents for their support in the County elections on June 4th.

The Lib Dems increased their share of the vote in the Farnborough South division although the seat remained in Conservative hands.

Craig said, "I would like to thank everyone who supported me. Our increased share of the vote shows people are responding to our message and like the principled stand we take on issues."

Action needed to renew benches



Cllr Alistair Mackie has identified a number of seats across St Mark's in need of attention and is pressing the Council to take action to improve their appearance.

Lib Dem Councillors refuse pay increase

Last year, Rushmoor's Conservative Councillors voted to give themselves an inflation-busting pay increase of up to 12% for some allowances.

In view of the economic difficulties facing many local families at the time, Lib Dem Councillors voted against the increase and refused to accept the extra allowance.

As the recession is now biting and inflation has fallen further, Lib Dem Councillors have again refused to take the increase this year unlike the Conservatives who seem out of touch with the difficulties being faced by many families at present.

Published & promoted by South Farnborough Liberal Democrats, 56 Park Road, Farnborough GU14 6LG. Printed by O&R Printing, Workshop, 24 Cheyne Way, Farnborough GU14 8RX

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 £ _____

(A donation of £10 or more entitles you to party membership. If you do not wish to join tick here)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Are there any issues you would like us to take up? Please let us know...

RETURN TO:
St Mark's
Lib Dems
FREEPOST
Farnborough
GU14 8BR

Your St Mark's Lib Dem team

Adrian Collett

Parliamentary Spokesperson

01252 873786

acollett@cix.co.uk



Crispin Allard

Borough Councillor

01252 404677

crispin.allard@ntlworld.com

Alistair Mackie

Borough Councillor

01252 513396

alistair_mackie@ntlworld.com



Standing up for YOU

Published & promoted by South Farnborough Liberal Democrats, 56 Park Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 6LG.
 Printed by O&R Printing, The Workshop, 24 Cheyne Way, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 8RX. The Liberal Democrats
 would like to contact you about matters we think may be of interest to you. If you would rather we did not contact you please let us know.

