

Southampton Itchen FOCUS

Woolston, Peartree, Bitterne Park, Harefield, Sholing, Bitterne & Bargate



Your free newsletter from David Goodall and the Liberal Democrat Focus Team

After the 10p tax fiasco & 2.5p VAT cut what the economic situation actually demands is a:

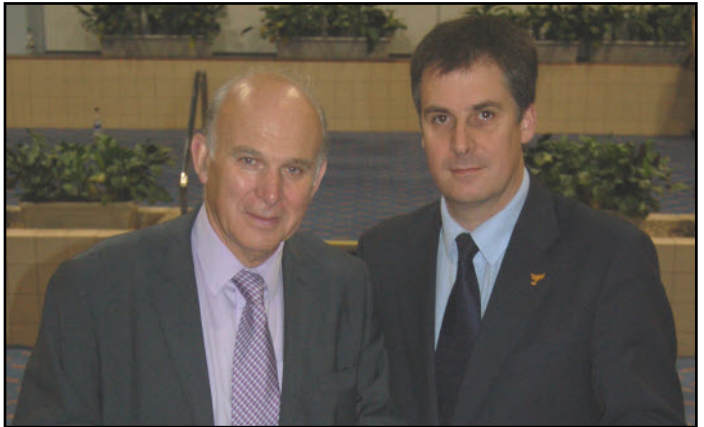
Fairer Economic Future

David Goodall reports: People today are struggling with spiralling debts, rising food and energy bills and unaffordable mortgages. A decade of complacency by Gordon Brown has meant that with plummeting house prices, falling growth, inflation problems and rising unemployment, the UK economic outlook has not looked so bleak since the 1990's Tory recession.

Liberal Democrats would:-

- **Cut taxes from the bottom up** - to help millions of families make ends meet and boost the economy
- **Cut wasteful government spending** - things like ID cards, industrial subsidies & wasteful IT projects
- **Effectively regulate the banking system** - to prevent irresponsible lending & business practices
- **Invest to make a real difference** - with programs to improve the long and short term, for example:-
 - insulate schools, hospitals and homes;
 - boost the railways with new carriages, tracks and stations;
 - build 40,000 new zero carbon social houses
- **Close tax loopholes** - to make big business and the super rich pay their fair share
- **Stop the boom/bust housing market** - by requiring the Bank of England to take house prices into account when setting interest rates

The governments ineffective answer - a 2.5p VAT cut that benefits the haves more than the have nots.



• **David Goodall with Liberal Democrat Shadow Chancellor Vince Cable MP**



• **Local Party Chair Cllr Gerry Drake congratulates David Goodall on his selection**

David wins nomination

Liberal Democrats in Southampton Itchen have selected David Goodall to fight the Southampton Itchen seat at the General Election. At the packed selection meeting, David said :-

"Over ten years of Labour government have created a more unequal society with the 10% of the poorest people in the country paying a higher percentage of their income in tax than the richest 10%. And this under Labour, the working man's party."

David Goodall, 46, is a charter engineer, a Southampton School Governor and a Councillor in West End, Southampton, where he lives with his wife and their two children. The children go to Bitterne Park Secondary and as a family they regular attend Thornhill Baptist Church.

Liberal Democrats for a Fairer and Greener Britain

Liberal Democrats working for you all year round

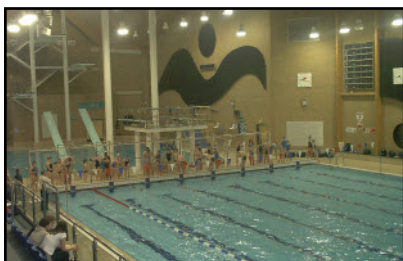
Local News Roundup



• **Southampton PCT have regrettably reduced their out-of-hours service from the Bitterne walk in centre.**



• **Lib Dem European Candidate Catherine Bearder visits Bitterne Market during her recent Southampton trip.**



• **Tory run Southampton City council are to cut free swimming for the under-16. In contrast Lib Dem run Eastleigh council are not.**

Dogma wins over commonsense and care of the elderly

Tory axe for care homes



• **David Goodall outside Birch Lawn care home**

News of the closure of two care homes, Birch Lawn and Whitehaven Lodge, by the ruling Conservative administration came as a great shock to the staff and residents in the homes.

Lib Dem spokesperson for Adult Social Care, Cllr Gerry Drake has visited the homes and met with the staff and residents, and he commented that:

"Some of the other homes appear to be in worse state of repair yet they are not being closed. I can't understand why the Tories felt the need to close these homes or is it another money making scheme? They certainly don't come across as a caring council."

The shock of the staff and residents was all the greater after an official report of the homes published only in September 2008 stated that Birch Lawn was ranked as "good" and according to the report the inspector could not find any area in which it needed to improve. Commenting on the closure decision David Goodall said:

"It appears that the Council's main concern is to find money in the budget for pet projects they consider important. I for one believe there can be little of greater importance than care of the most elderly and vulnerable in our society. These homes should not close."

Can we help you ?

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