



'Who are they trying to kid?'



Councillor Dave Beckett slams local Tory spending plans

SEE PAGE 2

Action on anti social behaviour

City Council wins praise from Government - p. 3

Street Scene clean-up success - see inside

LIB DEMS DELIVER



● Cllr Paul Russell

OFFICIAL

Watchdog praises improving services

IT'S OFFICIAL! A respected independent watchdog has put Southampton's Liberal Democrat-led Council among the best in the Country for the third year running. The national Audit Commission describes Southampton as 'a good Council improving well'.

Every one of Southampton's service areas has come through a rigorous assessment as either 'excellent' or 'good'.

Senior Liberal Democrat councillor, Paul Russell has welcomed the news. 'Social Services and Leisure are

particular successes - they score the maximum stars,' said Cllr Russell. Environment and Transport are up from a shocking 'poor' rating under Labour.

The Audit Commission also praised the city's Lib Dem Council for its efforts to tackle

anti-social behaviour. An independent inspection has declared the City's Safety team one of the best in the country.

There is more good news for our schools, which this year achieved their best results ever.

Action to protect character of our neighbourhoods



Local MP Sandra Gidley and Lib Dem President Simon Hughes with Councillor Liz Mizon's recently. Liz is spearheading efforts to protect our city from inappropriate development - full story inside.

ECO-ACTION

SOUTHAMPTON'S Lib Dem Council has won national recognition for environmental action.

A trial to run street

lights on solar power has been applied for.

The city already has solar powered bus shelters and even parking meters.



Councillor Peter Galton gets a helping hand to recycle his garden waste. Under the Lib Dems the Council has won a Green Apple award in recognition of its environmental record.

Getting value for YOUR money

Tax rises kept low but Council Tax must go says senior City Councillor

FOR THE THIRD year running the Liberal Democrats have delivered a lower Council Tax increase.

This year's 3.89% is the lowest for many years, comparing favourably with Conservative Hampshire County Council's 4.7%, and Labour's whopping 18.6% increase during their last year in office in the city. This despite increased demands and reduced grant in real terms, from Government.



SAVINGS
During their 3 years in office the Lib Dems have found over £17 millions of savings.

Swaythling Councillor Dave Beckett, Cabinet Member for Resources, says: 'No wonder the independent Audit Commission describes Southampton as a low cost Council.'

Cllr Beckett slammed the Conservatives as offering a 'Harry Potter' budget which promised to slash taxes while offering vote-catching spending increases.

UNREALISTIC PROMISES
Labour, too, were promising 'all sorts of unrealistic goodies.' Cllr Beckett pointed out that Labour always propose the highest Council Tax level.

'The only way to end annual tax hikes and to have a fair system is to scrap the Council Tax altogether,' added Cllr Beckett. 'We need a new system that is based on people's ability to pay.'

Street Scene Success for city

WHEN Liberal Democrats took over running City Hall three years ago, one of their first priorities was to improve the city's streets and environment.

"We've put in an extra £18.5 millions to tackle the backlog of road, pavement and lighting repairs after years of Labour neglect," says Councillor Jill Baston.

"Major 'whole street' schemes delivered for Howards and Archers Road, Romsey Rd, Portswood Broadway and Aldermoor Road. And we're planning improvements for Witts Hill shopping parade, Millbrook Road, Britannia Road and London Road."

A 'real time' bus information system is still being expanded. Car parks have been improved. Street cleaning boosted & a graffiti busting team introduced.



Councillor Jill Baston has hailed the success of Street Scene action but says: "You don't have to take our word for it - just listen to the independent Audit Commission says - "Significant success has been achieved."

Portswood Pavements Scandal...



WHEN the Liberal Democrats took over running City Hall, Labour and Conservatives ganged up to vote against plans for much needed development of Portswood Broadway.

Labour and the Tories blocked the improvements for a year, until the Liberal

Democrats were able to get it re-instated.

Portswood Lib Dem candidate Steve Sollitt (pictured with Councillors Adrian Vinson and Jill Baston) comments, "This was party political game playing at its worst. But now residents and traders are able to benefit from this refurbishment."

Aldermoor Rd Car Park

Councillor Peter Galton was very pleased to see work on the car park in Aldermoor Road finally completed after years of delay.

"If Labour couldn't get this job done in a timely fashion, how can they expect us to take seriously the 100s of extra spaces they are promising at election time," says Cllr Galton, pictured below with residents who are very happy with their new car park.



Peter Galton with residents at the long-delayed Aldermoor Road car park which is finally completed.

Varsity Ground Make-over

IN JULY 2004 City Councillor Gerry Drake asked the Council to carry out a study to see what could be done to improve the Varsity Ground.

Now, following a successful bid for finance, the Ground is benefiting from a revamp of the football pitches, five-a-side pitches, skatepark, trimtrail and floodlit multi-use-games area, as well as landscaping.

Improvements are also planned to the basketball area, children's playground and changing rooms.



● Gerry Drake says: "It is great news that local people will now be able to enjoy the benefits of all these facilities."

Bitterne Park Action

HUNDREDS of residents have signed the Lib Dem petition calling on the Government to review policies which would lead to increases in noise, pollution & traffic at Southampton Airport.

Local campaigner Keith Reed will be handing the petition in to the Government at the end of April.



● Keith Reed

Protect services

Keith Reed says Bitterne Park needs a strong voice to fight for the area. He wants action to protect local shops and services & tackle parking problems and graffiti blight.

WESTON SHORE IMPROVEMENTS

Enough is Enough!

Tackling anti-social behaviour is top of the Lib Dem agenda



WOOLSTON and Weston candidate Martin Lisle is pleased that the new public toilets have been completed at Weston Shore. The new grass-roofed toilet block includes baby-changing facilities and access for disabled visitors. Martin says: "This is good news that these long awaited improvements have now been put in place."

The Liberal Democrat City Cabinet has also given the go-ahead for a new multi-use games area on Weston Shore, close to the flats, to provide facilities for young people of the area.

SOUTHAMPTON'S Liberal Democrats have said: "Enough is enough" to those who blight the lives of so many citizens.

Councillor Liz Mizon is the city cabinet member responsible for tackling anti social behaviour. She reports that an expanded team of 17 City Patrol officers is on the streets with CCTV vans. A 24 hour 'phone line has made it easier for residents to get support from enforcement officers. During the past year alone 17 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, 60 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and 7 Dispersal Orders have been issued.

"Like the rest of Britain too much alcohol is part of the problem", says Liz.

"We have introduced a city centre ban on street drinking, targeting under-aged drinking with huge publicity



● Liz Mizon working with Junior Wardens on the Flowers Estate.

over Christmas."

The battle against anti-social behaviour has included a boost for Youth and Play services. Schools, communities and parents are being involved as part of the solution. "We are especially proud of the award-winning Lib Dem initiative with Junior Neigh

bourhood Wardens, who work with our adult wardens to improve the city."

"This problem will not be solved over-night but we have been nationally recognised by independent auditors and senior Home Office officials for the good start we have made."

Good design plans

- Action to protect character of city neighbourhoods

FOR too long the council has not had the powers to protect the character of our neighbourhoods.

Now, thanks to Liberal Democrat action, there is a comprehensive "Residential Design Guide" which sets standards for developers and insists that they protect the character of an area. It will also help residents protect privacy, right to light and the character of their street.

"This important guide is very welcome, especially in places like Bassett that have been under attack by developers," says Bassett Councillor Liz Mizon.

Action for Redbridge



Local Councillor Paul Russell has a proven record of getting action for Redbridge.

THE CITY'S Lib Dem Cabinet has given the green light to a major innovative project which will bring cheap power to many homes in the Redbridge and Millbrook area, while making a key contribution to cutting the 'greenhouse gases' which have such a harmful impact on climate change.

The Combined Heat and

Power scheme will use palm oil from sustainable and renewable sources.

Another recent scheme approved by the Council will bring major improvements for Mansel Park.

Redbridge councillor Paul Russell says: "These projects will bring real benefits for local people and I am delighted we have been able to bring them forward."

DECENT HOMES FOR ALL

- 97% of city tenants recently voted to stay with council control. Investment & action to tackle crime help to explain why.

UNDER the Liberal Democrats, Southampton's housing has made great strides.

The Council is on target to meet the Government's Decent Homes standard by 2010 with £22 millions invested last year, as well as 100 empty properties brought back into use and 400 families helped avoid losing their homes.

The 6 tower blocks at Woolston and Weston were the first to benefit from Southampton's innovative warden scheme, launched by Liberal Democrat Councillor Paul Russell, Cabinet Member for Housing & Homes. Already residents have witnessed a visible drop in crime in the area and much less vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Russell says it is the Liberal Democrat's ambition to mirror the concierge scheme city-wide over the coming years. Adoption of probationary tenancies will help curb unacceptable behaviour in council housing.

HOGLANDS PARK SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

THE PAVILION at Hoglands Park is bright and beautiful after being painted by local artists. Lighting has been improved and shrubs trimmed back, all part of a scheme to eliminate dark corners from the parks. Further work is planned for other city parks.

Local Lib Dem campaigner Ruth Liskutin says: "Increased lighting, together with extra patrols from the police and City Patrol and an improved environment will help them feel safer in the evenings."

election 2006...election 2006...election 2006... elect

Introducing the Liberal Democrat team

VOTERS go to the polls across Southampton on Thursday May 4th. It's your chance to decide who represents you at City Hall. In this special feature we profile the Lib Dem candidates.

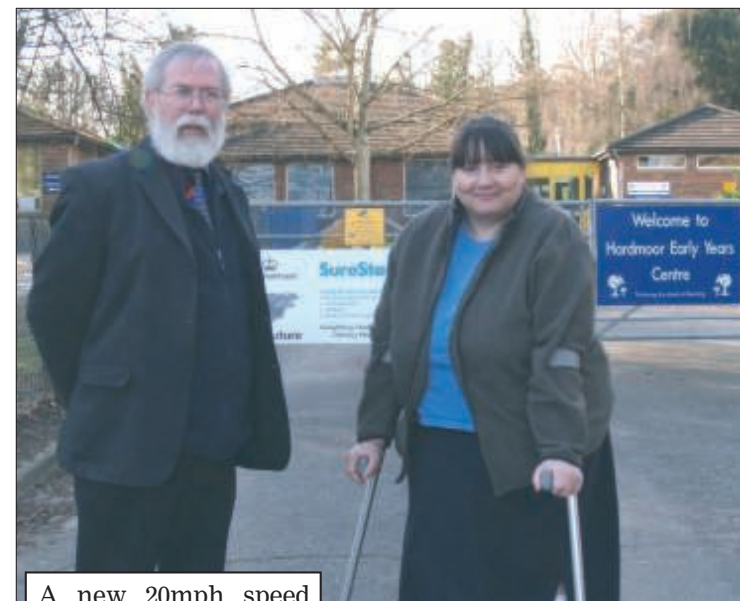
Lib Dem action in your area



Ceren Davis and Virginia Moore at Maybush

CEREN DAVIS has been campaigning with Lib Dem Councillor Virginia Moore for improvements in Millbrook ward.

These include resurfacing of the car park and a new exit road from the shops at the corner of Wimpson Lane and Trebourba Way, resurfaced paths and restored verges in Munro Crescent & Elmos Drive, school safety bollards and a new crossing at Tanners Brook.



A new 20mph speed limit has been introduced outside Hardmoor Copse School in Leaside Way following a request from local councillor Dave Beckett. Cllr Beckett, pictured with Anne Milton, city cabinet member for children's services, says the speed limit is a welcome contribution to making our children safer.

Surestart for city centre children



City families will benefit from the latest project under the Government's Surestart programme with the opening of a new centre in Clovelly Road. Lib Dem campaigner Rob Holmes (pictured) has welcomed the news.



Bassett: Liz Mizon lives in Bassett and has represented the ward on the Council for the last 4 years. As Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration she has led the battle to lessen anti-social behaviour in the city.

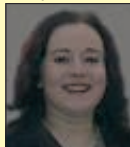
Bevois: Rob Holmes

is 24 and lives on Lodge Road, in the heart of Bevois ward. He is a research scientist. A keen cyclist, Rob is committed to campaigning for more sustainable transport in the city.



Bargate: Ruth Liskutin

a local resident, works in insurance. She wants to ensure local people's voices are heard on planning, Residents parking, city centre health and leisure facilities, and tackling homelessness.



Bitterne Park: Keith Reed

is 32 and married to a nurse, Sarah. A nationally respected Human Rights campaigner, Keith has been director of disability and advice charities and a local councillor before moving to the city.



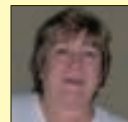
Bitterne: Rob Naish

a lifelong So'tonian, is a buyer for a local manufacturing company. He is an active member of a local conservation group and interested in a wide range of environmental issues.



Freemantle: Ann-Marie Russell

was born in Southampton and has lived here all her life. Married to a city councillor, she knows how things work. Ann has worked for the last 16 years with people who have learning difficulties.



Coxford: Peter Galton

has lived in Southampton all his life and has represented Coxford Ward since 1994. A member of Hampshire Fire & Rescue, he's a keen Saints fan & member of Southampton Petanque Club.

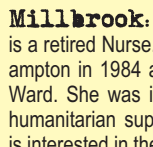
Peartree: Gerry Drake

a carpenter and joiner by trade, lives in Peartree Ward, which he has represented as a councillor since 1993. He is a respected campaigner in the local community and works with a local environmental group.



Harefield: Diana Wills

was brought up in Southampton and is a retired teacher. Her interests are education, the environment and the Third World. Diana is a strong supporter of Fair Trade.



Millbrook: Ceren Davis

is a retired Nurse. She came to Southampton in 1984 and lives in Millbrook Ward. She was involved in delivering humanitarian supplies to Bosnia. She is interested in the environment, health and transport.



Redbridge: Paul Russell

lives in Redbridge, which he has represented as a Councillor for many years. As Cabinet Member for Housing & Homes he is proud of Southampton tenants' strong vote of confidence in the Council's management.



Portswood: Jill Baston

lives in Portswood which she has served as a Councillor since 1993. As Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport she has spear-headed the Lib Dem priorities for highway and street scene improvements.



Portswood: Steve Sollitt

works locally for the NHS as an accountant. He was Lib Dem Candidate for Southampton Test in the 2005 General Election, and has 11 years experience as a councillor before moving to Southampton.



Why not get involved?

The Liberal Democrats rely on the backing of individual members and supporters to get our message across. If you support the Lib Dems, why not join the team.

Your name:

Address:

Tel. No.:

Return to: Southampton Liberal Democrats, Freepost, Southampton SO19 7WA

Yes, I can help by:

- Delivering a few leaflets in my area
- Displaying an election poster
- Joining the Lib Dems

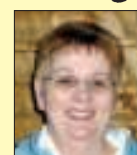
Swaythling: Dave Beckett

has been a City Councillor since 1991 and is Cabinet Member for Resources. He lives in Swaythling and is a Chief Technician at Southampton University.



Sholing: Barbara Cove

enjoys meeting the public in her work in the box office of a local entertainment venue. She is involved in a number of local community activities and is particularly interested in facilities for young people.



Woolston and Weston: Martin Lisle

is an experienced HGV driver and is currently training as a driving instructor. He lives locally and has a special interest in transport issues.



Shirley: Jane Langshaw is Southampton born and bred, with close family ties to Shirley. She has particular interests in education and the care of the elderly.

