

Southampton Itchen FOCUS

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



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

Liberal Democrat education plans would mean a £13,000,000 extra each year for Southampton



• **David Goodall with Liberal Democrat Leader Nick Clegg MP**

Liberal Democrat national policy aims to make education fairer, Shadow Schools Secretary David Laws said ,

“After 12 years of Labour, there is still a yawning gap between state and private schools, and between the life chances of rich and poor pupils.”

Fairer Education

The plans for schools include:

- Cutting infant class sizes to 15
- Using £2.5bn of additional funding to close the gap between children from rich and poor families
- Replacing the 600 page national curriculum with a slimmed-down minimum curriculum entitlement
- Setting up an independent Education Standards Authority to restore confidence in standards

The plans for higher education include:

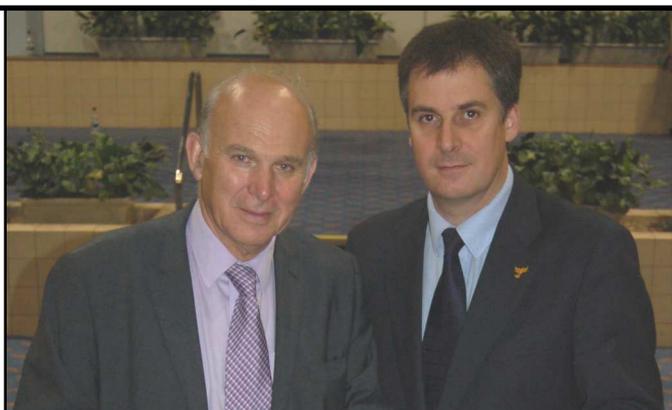
- Scrapping tuition fees for first Higher Education degree qualifications
- Fully funding the off-the-job training costs of apprenticeships
- Improving access to Higher Education for under-represented groups
- Reforming the bursary scheme to make it available more fairly across universities

Fairer Economics

In today's economic climate people are struggling as a decade of complacency by Gordon Brown has led to recession and rising unemployment, in fact 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 plans to improve the long and short term, for example:-
 - insulate schools, hospitals and homes;
 - boost the railways with new carriages, track and stations;
 - build 40,000 new zero carbon social houses



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

- **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 Government's ineffective answer - a 2.5p VAT cut that benefits the haves more than the have-nots.

Liberal Democrats for a Fairer and Greener Britain

Liberal Democrats working for you all year round

Local News Roundup



- **David Goodall signing the petition to support the Gurkha's Campaign for Justice.**



- **David Goodall & Catherine Bearder discuss community safety during a visit to Bitterne.**



- **Lib Dem and public pressure has forced a the Tory run Southampton City council to introduce free swimming for the under-16s.**

Sham consultation makes a mockery local people's wishes

Forced Mass Medication



- **David Goodall with the anti-fluoridation campaign**

The decision by South Central Strategic Health Authority's board to allow fluoride to be added to the water is fundamentally wrong. They are an unelected board and so have to get a mandate to make major decisions; They must consult the people they

serve. In that consultation three-quarters of the people who are affected and expressed a view said "no" to fluoridated water. Also, among the elected councils consulted four out of five said "no" to fluoridated water.

So it could also be said that it was a sham consultation and that in this regard we live in a dictatorship and not a democracy. It was a sham consultation but it is not quite a dictatorship. There are elected people directly involved in the decision process: The Secretary of State for Health Alan Johnson MP and his team, including Ann Keen MP who is specifically responsible for fluoridation.

Commenting on the process David Goodall said:-

"In my view it would be far better if local health services were controlled by a health board where the majority of the members were directly elected by the people they serve, this also happens to be Liberal Democrat policy"

Strangely, the three areas in Southampton Itchen said to be in particular need, i.e. Thornhill, Harefield and Townhill Park, are not to receive fluoridated water, but then again this decision makes so little sense this is of no real surprise.

Can we help you ?

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Can you help bring change ?

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- I want to join the Liberal Democrats
- I enclose a donation to help pay for **FOCUS**

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