

FOCUS



Benhall and The Reddings ward

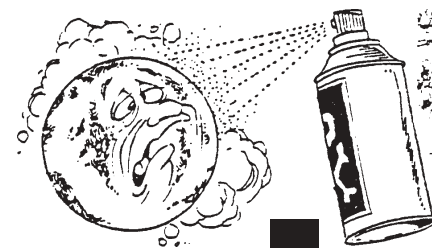
Autumn 2006

<p>Lib Dem 18,122</p>	<p>Con 15,819</p>	<p>Lab 4,988</p>	<p>Can't win here</p>
---------------------------	-----------------------	----------------------	-----------------------

The result from the General Election shows that it is always a close fight between the Liberal Democrats and the Tories in Cheltenham. Labour always come a poor third.

www.libdems.org.uk

It's time to tax pollution not people



Liberal Democrats propose a radical tax shift from work to waste

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

Liberal Democrats will radically change the way Britain pays tax. Taxing good things - like income - less, and switching to taxing bad things - like pollution - instead.

Then, the more you choose to switch to greener living, the more of your Lib Dem income tax cut you will keep. **It's your choice!**



LIB DEM GREEN ACTION PLAN:

- £1,000 income tax cut for the average family.
- Switch Britain to green taxes on pollution.
- The more you switch to greener living, the more of your tax cut you keep.

While other politicians just talk about the environment, Lib Dem leader, Sir Menzies Campbell, has won praise for his green tax switch plan to actually do something to tackle growing climate chaos.

The Liberal Democrats want to make tax fairer and greener, to encourage people to do the right thing for our environment.

By giving you an income tax cut, and then switching to green taxes, the choice is yours. The more you switch to greener living, the more of your income tax cut you will keep.

For example, drivers of greener cars will pay less. The Lib Dems will also scrap the Tories' airport tax on passengers and tax each plane that takes off on its emissions instead.

Fair tax, not more tax

Overall, the costed Lib Dem green tax switch plan has been designed to make taxes fairer and greener, but not to increase tax.

"We want fair tax, not more tax" said Cheltenham's Member of Parliament **Martin Horwood**, "but we do want to use tax to reward people who improve the way they live and do their bit to save the environment."

Vision and experience

Instead of just talking about about climate change, **Lib Dem leader, Sir Menzies Campbell MP**, has been praised for leading the way with a positive action plan for Government to actually do something about it.

Cheltenham's Member of Parliament receives NHS petition



Cheltenham's MP Martin Horwood receiving the petition from the Maternity Matters campaign

On Friday September 15th, Cheltenham's Member of Parliament, **Martin Horwood** received a petition of **10,000 names** from the **Cheltenham Maternity Matters** campaign calling for **St Paul's maternity wing** to be kept open.

The presentation was made outside the maternity wing at Cheltenham General Hospital in College Baths Road.

Martin said " This is by far the largest petition in connection with any of the NHS cuts in Gloucestershire. It just goes to show the strength of support for the St Paul's wing in Cheltenham.

We still want a full obstetrician led service, it is encouraging that the PCT has proposed a midwife led unit instead of outright closure, but a town the size of Cheltenham really deserves a full service."

Martin has passed on the petition to Patricia Hewitt at the Department of Health.

What the Papers are saying...

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

[Lib Dem tax plans] will penalise behaviour that is bad for the environment while benefiting families with incomes of up to £70,000.
- Financial Times.

Many Labour voters may be attracted by Lib Dem plans to take more lower-paid people out of tax altogether. Under Gordon Brown, an extra 1.2 million have been dragged into the higher rate of tax
- The Independent.

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.

Controversy over local airport!

The future of **Gloucestershire Airport** (also known as Staverton) has again been in the spotlight.

Tewkesbury Borough Council Planning Committee has recently refused to grant permission for the safety measures requested by the airport including demolishing and re-building Blenheim House (BJ's Boarding Kennels). This would have enabled the airport to increase its safety run-off area as laid down by the Civil Aviation Authority.

Cheltenham Tories have refused to support proposals to safeguard the future of the airport, with some of them suggesting that the land could be used for thousands of houses!

The issues surrounding airport closure include the loss of jobs at the airport and in the linked local aviation industry and the impact of potential housing on the Greenbelt which would inevitably lead to the coalescence of Cheltenham with Gloucester.

Care home proposal rejected

The planning application to build a care home at the junction of **Whittington Road** and the **A40** has been dismissed at an appeal by a planning inspector who has confirmed Cheltenham Borough Council's decision to refuse the application.



Councillor Nigel Britter welcomes this decision as local residents had many reservations with this development both from a visual impact and safety aspect.

Local news from around the ward

Park watch on Benhall

Councillor Nigel Britter reports that the scheme is now in operation. If you would be willing to assist in keeping the park safe from criminal activity and vandalism, please contact the Park Ranger Dept on **01242 250019**



Work was completed ahead of schedule at the **Park & Ride at Arle Court** increasing numbers of parking spaces within the site to **550**.

Councillor Nigel Britter said "This excellent facility gives many more shoppers and visitors to our town the chance to use Park and Ride which is great news."

The final touches will be a landscaping contract which will be carried out in the autumn planting season. Future developments could see an amenity building which will provide more facilities for passengers.

Lightening the load

Following continued pressure from Councillor Nigel Britter the Waste & Cleansing Department have started to collect the recycling bags/boxes from kerbside positions within **Westside Park**.

Road safety improvements

Traffic controlled crossing lights on both **Hatherley Lane** and **Grovefield Way** have been repaired and are functioning correctly.

Residents in The Reddings are delighted with the carriageway resurfacing/drainage works undertaken during August on the section between **North Road East & Grovefield Way** greatly reducing traffic noise.

The flasher returns!

Nigel is delighted to report that at long last the flashing 30 mph speed reminder sign in The Reddings is now working again.



Working with you to improve our area

Protecting our green belt

Your Liberal Democrat team will continue to fight plans to develop land in **Grovefield Way** despite a High Court challenge to Cheltenham Borough Council's decision to retain the land within the Green Belt as part of the local plan.

Drainage improvements

Following concerns raised by residents Councillor Nigel Britter is pleased to report that additional drainage points have been installed at the junction of Granley Road and Swanswell Drive together and the main drain completely cleaned to improve the removal of surface water which collects during heavy rain.

Police in the community



Residents seeking advice or help with crime related issues can now attend the monthly open sessions at **Hatherley Post Office** organised by officers from **Leckhampton Police Station**.

A Police Information Point notice board is permanently sited in the Post Office informing residents of police activity in our area and providing useful leaflets. These sessions will be held on the **last Wednesday of every month** between **10am and 11am**.

Unwin Road

Cheltenham Borough Homes have been quick to respond to a request by Nigel to tidy the derelict old play area which has now been re-landscaped. The vandalised wooden brook-side fence has been replaced by a much safer galvanised steel fence.

Martin Horwood



Member of Parliament for Cheltenham

Holds regular advice surgeries at his constituency office at **16 Hewlett Road, Cheltenham** and at other locations around Cheltenham
Call **01242 224889** to make an appointment

Piccolo Bears

Early Years at Piccolo Bears are holding a nearly new and cake sale on **Saturday 21st October**.

Money that is raised from the cake sale and a percentage of money made from the nearly new sale will be put towards the building fund that the playgroup has. Piccolo Bears only has a temporary building currently but hopes to have a proper building soon.

The building that the playgroup currently has is about ten years old and in need of updating so any support or donations that they receive will be a great help

For more information contact **Dawn Webb** on **01242 699837**

Early years at Piccolo Bears

Registered charity no. 1003601

Nearly new sale & Cake sale

Saturday 21st October

1pm till 2.30pm

St Marks School Hall, Robert Burns Avenue

Entrance fee 50p

If you would like any information on how to sell your unwanted baby clothing or toys please contact **Dawn** on **01242 699837**

Your local Lib Dem team

Councillor Nigel Britter

☒ Glyndon
The Reddings
Cheltenham
GL51 6RL
☎ 01452 712616
✉ nigel.britter@bopenworld.com

Councillor Simon Wheeler

☒ 20 Castlemaine Drive
Cheltenham
GL51 0UA
☎ 01242 705943
✉ saw50@mac.com

Martin Horwood MP

☎ 01242 224889
✉ martin@martinhorwood.net

Or write to Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST SWC0744, Cheltenham, GL52 6ZZ