

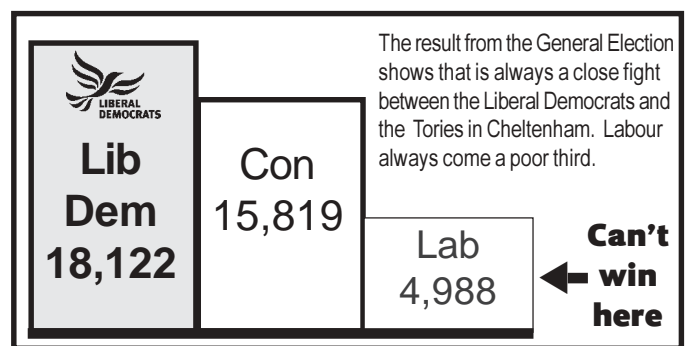
FOCUS



Springbank ward

www.libdems.org.uk

Autumn 2006



Support for Kingsmead School



Your local Liberal Democrat team are in a strong position to look after the interests of the pupils of Kingsmead School.

Councillor John Morris is a governor of the school and has already had meetings with the head of the County Council's Children's services and with the support of the **Liberal Democrat County Councillor for Springbank, Suzanne Williams**, we are making it clear we want the best result for the children of the school **and are fully supportive of headteacher Tina Moon and all of her staff.**



If the school is forced to close, we have made it clear that the children at Kingsmead and the primary schools that feed it, must be given adequate warning with a full support program put in place, such as free transport to other schools for all children who could be affected.

We have also made it clear we believe that education on this site is worth saving and we will fight any program that would mean that the County Council sells off the site for redevelopment.

This school is the only true Community school left in Cheltenham and we intend to use all our powers to keep it that way.

We also have the support the **Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament, Martin Horwood** who visited the school at the beginning of this term and was impressed that the Head Boy and Head Girl and their respective deputies showed him around the school. Martin said that this was the only school that he had visited that allowed this to happen and it just shows the faith and belief the school has in its pupils and staff.

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.

Martin Horwood



Member of Parliament for Cheltenham

Holds regular advice surgeries at his constituency office at

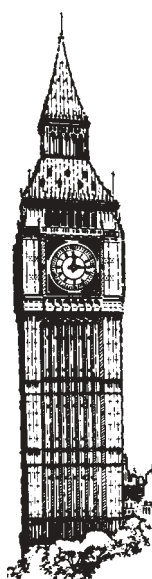
16 Hewlett Road, Cheltenham and at other locations around Cheltenham

Call 01242 224889 to make an appointment

Would you like a tour of Parliament?

Martin is always delighted to welcome constituents to Westminster and arrange a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament for them. Whether you want to come along with a few friends or family members, or would like to organise a group to come from your school, place of work or organisation, just let Martin know on **224889** or email **martin@martinhorwood.net**

Martin says: "It has been a pleasure to see so many constituents up in Westminster - do come along if you can." There is no charge for tours but places are limited so please let Martin have as much notice as possible.



Your local Lib Dem team

Borough Councillors

John Morris: 242814
johnmorris22@blueyonder.co.uk



Simon Wheeler: 705943
saw50@mac.com

County Councillor

Suzanne Williams: 230648
suzannewilliams34@yahoo.co.uk



Member of Parliament

Martin Horwood: 224889
martin@martinhorwood.net

Local news from around the ward

Helens Close

After being approached by the residents of **Helens Close**, Councillor John Morris has had meetings with the residents and with officers of the Borough Council to try and solve a problem of inadequate parking in the area.

The solution of a hard standing area has been drawn up and will be presented to the council for inclusion in next year's budget.

Solway Road

Martin Horwood MP and the local Lib Dem team recently visited the area and were made aware of the state of some of the pavements by local residents. This has been registered with Cheltenham Borough Council so that an inspection and if funded, work carried out.



Councillor John Morris reminded residents that the **Tory controlled County Council** is the sole arbiter of repairs and renewals to roads and pavements as from 2007 but that both he and Councillor Suzanne Williams will do their best to have this area made a priority.

Welch Road playing fields

The new CCTV cameras have been installed and vandalism in the area has been drastic reduced. **Councillor Simon Wheeler** said "I am very pleased that the cameras are so effective, I have been pushing for these cameras to be installed for over four years because we knew that the benefits would be worthwhile."

Motorbikes Menace

In recent weeks, we have spent a lot of time in the area with the MP Martin Horwood and have a list of issues which we are taking up on behalf of residents. If we missed you, please contact us via one of the addresses or phone numbers on this leaflet and we'll do what we can to resolve your issue.

One issue which came up time and time again is the use by youths of motorbikes and scooters. These bikes are used illegally and we are talking with the police, council and Crime and Disorder Partnership about ways in which this can be tackled.

We would urge you to contact the police when you witness this anti-social behaviour as it enables them to target their resources where they are most needed.

Curry's and PC World

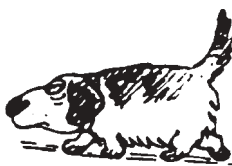
Councillor Suzanne Williams reports that the car park for Curry's and PC World is now gated after normal opening hours.

This has effectively closed down one of the meeting places for car enthusiasts and will enable local residents to have more peaceful evenings.

Suzanne is also pleased that we have encouraged the managers of the site to keep tighter control of their rubbish and as a result the whole site is looking a lot more pleasant.

Dog bins

Suzanne has had further requests for dog waste bins at various points in the ward and has passed these onto the relevant council officer.



Dulverton Close

During recent house calls made by our Member of Parliament, Martin Horwood and the Springbank Liberal Democrat team, concerns were raised about the state of the unfinished area around the children's play area. This has now been taken up and should be sorted out in the very near future.

Kingfisher Drive

Councillor John Morris has been battling with developers to complete the boundary wall and despite numerous letter emails and telephone calls all we have got so far are broken promises.

The latest promise was that the wall would be completed by the end of October but this now seems very unlikely. John Morris said "I will keep trying to find a way to make the developers complete works as outlined in their original planning application."



Councillor John Morris is pushing for the work to be completed

Village Road

Suzanne has spoken with some residents who are not happy with the speed humps in **Village Road**.

Of particular concern is the fact that the humps go almost kerb to kerb and leave little room for easy access by bikes.

The actual effectiveness of the humps has also been questioned and the possibility of chicanes suggested.

Other areas appear to have a much more satisfactory set-up and Suzanne has brought this to the attention of the council.

Local councillor calls for a "FAIRTRADE" county

A motion proposed by Springbank Liberal Democrat Councillor Suzanne Williams to make Gloucestershire a "**Fairtrade County**" recently moved a step closer to being accepted as formal County Council policy. The motion has been referred to a sub-committee for further research.

"The Fairtrade County Scheme is set up by the **Fairtrade Foundation** and is a wonderful opportunity for Gloucestershire," said Suzanne. She added: "We want to make Gloucestershire a Fairtrade County as a matter of pride in order to show where we stand on this issue."

Crimestoppers

The Gloucestershire Crimestoppers scheme has been a huge success since the service was launched in 1995.



Residents wishing to report a crime or who have information that they wish to give anonymously can ring **0800 555111**.

Another case of Tory arrogance



Despite calls from his own party to reduce the allowance that the leader of the council receives, it appears that Conservative council leader; Duncan Smith has no plans to take a cut in his allowance.

Before the last set of local elections, the Conservative party in Cheltenham distributed a leaflet saying that **huge savings could be made by reducing the leader's allowance.**

Now that we have a Conservative leader of the council, it appears that they have changed their mind.

It seems that this is a case of the Tories saying one thing in opposition and doing something completely different when in power.

Have your say on dog control orders

Residents wishing to have their say on the draft dog control orders agreed by Cheltenham Borough Council's cabinet can give their views during the 35 day public consultation period from **6th October** to **10th November**.

The public can comment on the orders via the council website www.cheltenham.gov.uk or by letter to **Public Protection, Cheltenham Borough Council, PO Box 12, Municipal Offices, Promenade, Cheltenham, GL50 1PP**. The results will be fed back to the Tory Cabinet before a final decision is made in the new year. If there are no representations received opposing the draft orders, they will be introduced with effect from 2nd April 2007. Councillor Simon Wheeler said "I would urge all responsible dog owners to have their say on these proposals so that we don't end up with rules that are both impractical and unworkable."

Controversy over local airport!

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

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.

Would you like to get involved in campaigning to improve our area?

I can help deliver leaflets

I can help with clerical work

I'll display a poster at election time

I would like more information about the Liberal Democrats



Title: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel: _____

Email: _____

Return to: Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST SWC0744, Cheltenham, GL52 6ZZ.