


FOCUS

Up Hatherley ward

Autumn 2006



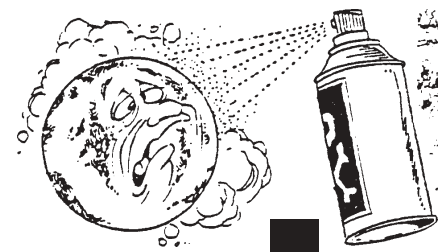
Edited by
Roger Whyborn

 Lib Dem 18,122	Con 15,819	Lab 4,988	Can't win here
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The result from the General Election in the Cheltenham constituency shows that it is always a close fight between the Liberal Democrats and the Tories. 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.

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.

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.

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.

Caernarvon Park and nearby roads



Whilst calling on residents in **Caernarvon Road, Martin Horwood MP** and **Roger Whyborn** were inundated with problems of youth behaviour in **Caernarvon Park**.

We were subsequently appraised of problems further afield: excessive noise at night - highly offensive language, verbal abuse, fires, alcohol, reports of drugs, vandalism and criminal damage, including broken house windows. In the subsequent public forum in the park on the 19th September numerous ideas were discussed.

The Police and Council officers have taken a numbers or things away to consider, these include:

- Installation of CCTV
- Removal of the hedge abutting **Caernarvon Road** and replacing it with metal railings.
- Increasing the height of current lighting to create a wider range of illumination and more robust bases for the lighting columns
- An advisory / warning letter to parents written by the Local Police Inspector. The local Police have a long list of names of young people who use the park on a regular basis. These letters are being distributed over the next week or so.
- Continuation of the regular Police Patrols ensuring the whole area remains included within Operation Tiger (an Anti Social behaviour operation that increases police patrols). **The Council will ask for a Crime Reduction Survey to be conducted by the police - to identify improvements for the area such as additional lighting.**

Council Officers will contact the Park Rangers with a view to creating a Park watch scheme. There is a lot of public goodwill for the Park Watch scheme, over 40 residents supported the idea. This is something which would require additional funding, which we will press for.

The Police advise us that it is important to continue reporting any incidents (**0845 0901234**)

If requested, no officer will visit you. **Please make sure you get an incident number.**

Local news from around the ward

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**.

Pavements

Roger Whyborn reports that after pressure from local residents and the Lib Dem Focus team, the Borough Council have finally resurfaced the pavement at the corner of **Pembroke Road** and **Caernarvon Road**.

Park and Ride site

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

Roger Whyborn 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.

Trees on Fernleigh and Long Mynd greens

Local residents will be aware of the controversy surrounding the Parish Council's proposal to fell two of the trees. Roger Whyborn is not privy to the full facts and arguments for and against, nor the costs, nor whether a maintenance regime would adequately control the risks of water extraction on sub-soil, particularly the one on **Fernleigh Green**.



The Tree Protection Officer informs us that the estimated remaining life of the trees is up to 40 years.

The Borough Council have placed a Tree Protection Order on the trees for now; it will come up for discussion in the Planning Committee later in the year. It's quite ironic that the Borough Council is now seen as the protector of trees against the Parish Council!
Our postbag is running 2-1 in favour of retaining the trees. If residents have strong views they should write to the **Parish Clerk**, at **15 Holmer Crescent, GL51 3LR**.

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 Up Hatherley 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. Roger Whyborn 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."

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

Your local Lib Dem team is here to help

Focus editor

Roger Whyborn: 231458
whyborns@blueyonder.co.uk

County Councillor

Simon Wheeler: 705943
saw50@mac.com

Member of Parliament (Cheltenham)

Martin Horwood: 224889
martin@martinhorwood.net

Or write to Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST
SWC 0744, Cheltenham, GL52 6ZZ