



Phone your Focus Team

Cllr Whitehouse 659835 1 pm- 5 pm
Cllr Gwinnett 398800 10 am -1 pm
Cllr Mike Heap 754030
Sandra Terry 650088
Office 555005 3 pm - 5 pm

24 hour answerphone at our office

Email:

Richard.Whitehouse@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Councillors' Saturday Advice Centres

no appointment necessary

1st Saturday in the month

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Manor School 12 noon to 1 pm

3rd Saturday in the month

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My name

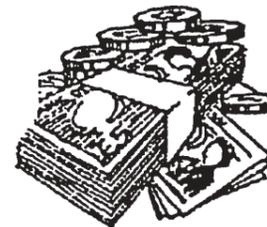
address

"Scrap Council Tax" say Liberal Democrats

Liberal Democrat Parliamentary candidate David Murray asks "Why should the Chancellor of the Exchequer earning over £120,000 a year pay £1,000 in Council Tax when a pensioner on an annual income of £12,000 also pays £1,000 ?

Liberal Democrats recognise that local services have to be paid for but believe a much fairer method is by a local income tax

collected through the existing tax system. This would also release £400 million that is spent on the bureaucracy to collect Council Tax and administer Council Tax Benefit since it would no longer be required.



Surely a system based on ability to pay is fairer than the current system.

Yes! I want to help the local Liberal Democrats

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Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST WV 2092, WOLVERHAMPTON WV4 4BR



FOCUS

Issue 172

Forward Together

From your Liberal Democrat Focus Team
Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett
Cllr Mike Heap
Cllr Richard Whitehouse
Mrs Sandra Terry

Sept - Oct 2005

We don't want a Green Corns house here!

Your Liberal Democrat Councillors help lead the fight



Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett speaking to Woodcross residents

Residents of Woodcross are campaigning hard to stop a Green Corns house opening in their area. Mass meetings have been held and the fledgling Tenants and Residents Association has collected well over a 1000 names on a petition.

Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett used his formidable knowledge of planning law to suggest that such homes require planning permission. He has sought and obtained the agreement of planning officials

at Wolverhampton Council. He suggested to the crowd in the photograph that they present a copy of the petition to the planning department and a copy to Green Corns district office in Spring Road. (see overleaf)

Two Green Corns houses have been set up in the ward. These homes are meant for very disturbed youngsters, including a number of sex offenders. Obviously, to place them in homes in the middle of our housing estates is most inappropriate. Focus is not allowed by a court injunction to print the addresses but one is in Woodcross and one in Parkfield. The Council have no Social Services involvement with these homes and they are registered by a Government agency, The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). They can be accessed at www.csci.gov.uk. The address of the office dealing with these homes is CSCI, First Floor, Chapter House South, Abbey Lawn, Shrewsbury SY2 5DE phone 01743 284300.

Labour's lost deposit as Lib Dems win Cheadle yet again

The Liberal Democrats have won Cheadle constituency in a parliamentary by-election. The election was triggered by the death from cancer of Lib Dem MP Patsy Calton shortly after May's general election. Lib Dem candidate, Mark Hunter, won the Greater Manchester seat with 19,953 votes, a 3,657 majority over the Tory, Stephen

Day, who came second. This is the third consecutive election in which Stephen Day has been beaten by the Lib Dems in Cheadle. The new Lib Dem MP said "People voted for the Lib Dem's more honest and positive approach". Labour were totally rejected with a result so poor that they lost their deposit.

Fighting Green Corns



Malcolm Gwinnett hands the Woodcross petition to the chief planning officer of W'ton Council.

From the work of Malcolm Gwinnett it appears that planning permission may well be required for these homes and so large petitions such as the one from Woodcross residents can help. Another possibility is that if a home is already open and residents are experiencing problems, then do as the residents of Parkfield did. On their behalf Cllr Richard Whitehouse found the regulations to run one of these homes on the CSCI website. He and a number of residents then wrote to CSCI using the regulations, to

complain about the poor running of the home. This resulted in a surprise inspection and a temporary voluntary closure of the home.



Residents from across the Black Country went by coach to visit Green Corns' bank, The Bank of Scotland, as well as Green Corns national headquarters. If we can persuade the bank to stop Green Corns funding then that is a third way of tackling this problem.

Focus says "This is a non political issue that all politicians and residents need to work together to overcome, and your local Liberal Democrat councillors will definitely do their bit."

Bilston on Sea

Councillor Malcolm Gwinnett organised yet another very successful free entry weekend at Hickman Park, Bilston in August.

More than 125 tons of beach sand were brought in for the event which will now be used on local football pitches. 40 paddling pools were used with beach umbrellas, windbreaks, lifeguards, donkey rides and a Punch & Judy show. There was even free rock with Bilston running through it.

There was a Cresta run, a Wild West show, a marching bands competition, steam engines, a

funfair, sideshows, face painting, charity stalls and trade stands.

Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett said, "We aimed to make it the next best thing to a weekend at the coast and we have estimated over 9,000 people attended."

Sandra Terry said, "I think Malcolm deserves the thanks of the people of Bilston and the surrounding areas for all his hard work."



Cllr Mike Heap with a new lamp post

New Street Lights

As promised by Cllr Mike Heap earlier this year, new street lights for Pritchett Avenue, Crawford Avenue and Hill Avenue will be fitted this October. Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett said, "These lights have been achieved by Mike Heap's persistence with the Highways Department following complaints regarding the poor quality lighting from local residents led by former Tenants and Residents chair, Ray Stanton, after two awful rapes in the vicinity."

Rookery Lodge Saved

Focus led campaigns to save Rookery Lodge and then stop a massive 'care village' on the site which would have been totally obtrusive to all the neighbours. We are now very pleased to announce a £3m rescue plan to rebuild the home, bring it back into pristine condition and eradicate all the antisocial problems being experienced by neighbours. Cllr Richard Whitehouse said, "It has been a long hard campaign to bring this about including an interview on television and action to stop the 'care village' application. I am very pleased that an excellent conclusion is in sight."



Cllrs Richard Whitehouse and Mike Heap during their long campaign to save Rookery Lodge

Rent rise beats inflation

(And a similar Council Tax rise is planned for next year)

Yet again your Liberal Democrat Focus team reports an above inflation rent rise of 6% and we understand a similar rise in Council Tax is planned for next year. Cllr Richard Whitehouse said, "Every year we have lambasted Labour for their above

inflation rises. Suffice it to say the only time that rises were below inflation was when we were in coalition control. Does Labour intend to continue to squeeze until the pips squeak?" Only the electorate can change that next May.

Anti social behaviour

Sandra Terry said, "All three Focus Councillors have received numerous complaints of antisocial behaviour throughout the ward over the last couple of months. These range from loud music, motorcycle misuse, drug abuse, threatening behaviour to actual violence. Your Focus Team have a good working

relationship with our local beat bobby PC Tony Whitehouse and a number of these issues are now being progressed by legal means. The housing department are also helping by serving possession orders where the property is Council. If you have any issues please contact one of your Focus Team who will get things moving on your behalf.

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Your Liberal Democrat Focus Team

Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett, Cllr Mike Heap, Cllr Richard Whitehouse and
Mrs Sandra Terry working for the community throughout the year