

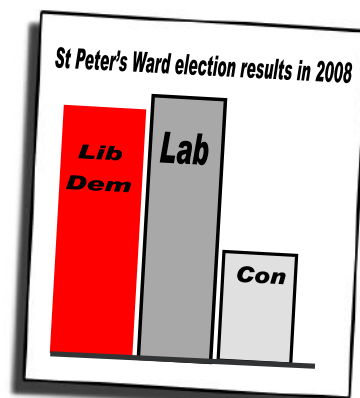
FOCUS

On St Peter's Ward



October
2008

www.wolverhamptonlibdems.co.uk



**Zahid Shah and the Liberal Democrat Focus Team
working for St Peter's Ward**

Post Office update



Lib Dem councillors and members meet to campaign to save Newhampton Road Post Office

huge response to our peti-

There has been a huge response to our petition to the Royal Mail objecting to the closure of Newhampton Road Post Office. The deadline for submissions and objections has now passed. Before it did Zahid Shah joined liberal Democrat Councillors Cllrs Robin Lawrence and Claire Darke and wrote to Post Office Consultation Team explaining clearly why this Post Office is needed. In addition, all the petition replies you sent us have been presented.

Part of their letter is reproduced below.



The Newhampton Road West Post Office is a well used and much loved Post Office which is a key part of our local community. We have run a consultation in the local community, a petition and highlighted the issue in the local media.

The Newhampton Road Post Office has been improved in recent years to be accessible to all the community and has developed excellent disabled access specifically to comply with DDA and Post Office requirements. Many residents have commented on how friendly and helpful the owners and staff of the Newhampton Road Post Office are, as compared to other Post Offices in Wolverhampton.

We are also concerned that the closure of the Newhampton Road Post Office would also put the shop at risk; the shop serves the local community which would have to travel a fair distance for basics like milk and bread and other products.

The Newhampton Road West Post Office does not deserve to be closed and lost to our local community. It has significant support amongst the local community and the alternative Post Offices do not offer a real alternative due to fears of community safety and access issues.



What Liberal Democrat influence has meant for the people of Wolverhampton

Last May Labour lost control of Wolverhampton City Council. The Liberal Democrats agreed to fulfil the wishes of the electorate and allow the Conservatives to form a minority administration. This is not a coalition and the Liberal Democrats remain separate and able to vote on individual issues. In return the Conservatives agreed to the following action points demanded by the Liberal Democrats:

- Abolition of the much hated Red Route. **Done**
- The retention and extension of the Neighbourhood Warden Scheme across the city. **Underway**
- The introduction of kerbside plastic & cardboard collection. **Starting in November**
- A review of young persons provision across the city to help stop the slide into the misuse of alcohol and drugs and the ever present gang culture. **Review under way**
- A review into the governance of Wolverhampton Homes. **Actively being pursued**

The few months since the election in May have seen more positive activity than in the previous years of Labour administration. No overall control of the council has been good for Wolverhampton.

Plastic & card recycling

In doing our bit to achieve the Liberal Democrats' policy aim of a carbon neutral Britain by 2050 Zahid Shah is delighted by the introduction of plastic and cardboard kerbside collections for recycling. The new scheme which is being rolled-out across the city this month was brought about thanks to the minority council administration agreeing to implement Liberal Democrat policy.

Plastic bottles and card
At the end of October you should receive a special white reusable bag into which you can put plastic bottles and card. It will be emptied every two weeks on the same day as the green recycling box starting in November.

Without The Liberal Democrats Wolverhampton would still be waiting for plastic and cardboard recycling.

Zahid Shah told Focus "All residents of St Peter's Ward will know just how long the Liberal

Democrats have been campaigning to bring in this vital service. It is very pleasing to be able to report, finally, that plastics and cardboard recycling is on its way thanks to all the hard work put in by Liberal Democrat Councillors and campaigners."

This new service has to be just the beginning of the drive to make Wolverhampton Council carbon neutral. Zahid Shah added "The Liberal Democrats have detailed policies aimed at making Britain carbon neutral by 2050. To ensure that these plans are allowed to be put into action we must do all we can to elect as many Liberal Democrat councillors as possible."

Local people feel the pinch

Soaring prices of petrol, food and heating are hitting people hard across our area.

It doesn't matter how much you earn, almost everyone is feeling the pinch. Hardest hit are pensioners and others on fixed incomes.

Local campaigner Zahid Shah said, "People are fed up with Gordon Brown's excuses for his economic mismanagement. We need action now to help people in our area."

"Pensions went up by just a few pounds a week this year. That is quickly wiped out when the cost of basic foods like butter and cheese has risen by a third in a year."

"It doesn't stop there either. The cost of heating also went up by up to 40% too. Petrol prices remain sky high."

Lower taxes and better pensions needed

Zahid Shah is backing Lib Dem Shadow Chancellor Vince Cable MP to get action to tackle the crisis.

Top priority is putting more money in the pockets of ordinary people. The Lib Dems are calling for a 4p in the pound cut in income tax and better pensions.

Energy companies would be forced cut prices for the less well off and pay to improve home insulation.

Zahid said, "It's only right that people need to keep more of what they earn to help deal with rising prices."

"Energy companies have made massive profits from their customers. It's time that they helped those on low incomes."

"No one should have to choose between putting food on the table or keeping their home warm."

Lib Dems Propose An Economic Recovery Plan

The Liberal Democrats have published their own package of proposals designed to help people left struggling by the credit crunch. Our measures include tax cuts for low and middle income households, stopping unnecessary repossessions, action to cut energy bills and moves to stop reckless banks jeopardising economic security.

Zahid Shah, said: "Gordon Brown's response to the economic crisis has been too little and always too late."

"If the Prime Minister really wants to help people on low and middle incomes he should take the simple and obvious step of cutting their taxes, releasing billions of pounds to boost the economy."



Gordon Brown's proposals to deal with the economic slow down are too little too late

How prices have gone up in one year



Lib Dem Shadow Chancellor, Vince Cable MP and Jo Swinson MP (in photo on the left) show the rise in price of a typical basket of groceries over the past year.

Last year the basket of groceries would have cost £9.77 but today the same items would cost £12.24.

That's a 26% increase!

MEP INVESTIGATES 'BIG BROTHER' DNA DATABASE

More than 17,000 children under 16 living in the West Midlands Region currently have their genetic details stored on the Government's DNA database, even though most are innocent of any crime.

The shock figures uncovered by the Liberal Democrats have alarmed local Euro MP Liz Lynne, who has now written to the European Commission to ask if this infringes the children's human rights under EU legislation.

Liz said: "These figures highlight a gross intrusion into the lives of our children, often without parental consent. In future years it could affect their lives and job prospects in all sorts of ways - even assuming these details are not accidentally copied



LibDem MEP Liz Lynne is asking whether the government's DNA database is illegal.

onto a CD and lost in the post by accident!

"I am now investigating to see if this Big Brother practice is allowed under EU law."

In the West Midlands Police Force area alone, the DNA database has the genetic details of 10,095 children under 16, and a further 20,699 16 to 18-year-olds. In total, the force has DNA data for 279,511 people.

Liz added: "Across the country almost 150,000 children's DNA is on the database, and will remain on file for life, though many thousands are not and never will be found guilty of any crime. Adding personal information on the grounds of accusation alone to this Big Brother list has to stop."

Liz Lynne has tabled a parliamentary question to the European Commission, asking if they believe the list is disproportionate and whether it contravenes EU human rights law.

The figures vary widely from force to force - Northamptonshire Police only have details on 845 under 16s.

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Support the Liberal Democrats locally

No stamp is needed to reply

FREEPOST RRSZ-EATX-GEKC, Wolverhampton S.W. Lib Dems
3 Merridale Crescent, WOLVERHAMPTON WV3 9QY

I support the Lib Dems' Economic Recovery Plan

I would like to join the Liberal Democrats

I would like to vote by post in future

I can help deliver Focus in my area

I would like to contribute to the cost of this Focus

(A donation of £10 or more entitles you to membership of the Liberal Democrats Please tick here if you do not want to become a member.)

£5 £10 £20 Other £ _____

Please make cheques payable to "Wolverhampton South West Liberal Democrats".

Name

address

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email