

## After Concerns Action on Vandalism



- **Parish Councillor Joyce Sortwell and local campaigner Ann McRae with the vandalism petition.**

**Cllr Joyce Sortwell reports:** After the petition was presented to both the Parish council and the Borough Council, all the local bodies have taken steps to tackle the various issues that have been raised.

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**The Police** - have designated West End a PRIME so they can target their limited resources more in West End. This is having a real effect and residents and traders have reported a very much improved situation.

**The Borough Council** - have agreed to extend and upgrade the existing CCTV system in the high street. The original system was installed in 2001 as part of the £140,000 village centre improvement scheme. The £6,000 plus upgrade and extension should hopefully see all the shopping areas covered. The Borough Council are also looking at designing out other problem points.

**The Parish Council** - are continuing with their plans for a West End Police Community Support Officer. They have also set up a liaison panel to coordinate all the effort and the first meeting has been successfully held.

**The West End Traders** - are looking to set up an "Evening Shop Watch" scheme to alert each other and the Police to any problems that arise.

Also some residents and traders have been given forms by the Borough Council in conjunction with the Police to monitor any problems they witness.



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## Promises Made Promises Kept:

# Council tax 1% below inflation



**Cllr Carol Boulton reports:** Three years ago the Liberal Democrats on Eastleigh Borough council made a promise to keep their council tax rises 1 % below the RPX inflation published in December. This promise has been kept.

As a member of both the Borough and County Councils I am in a good position to compare this 1% below inflation rise with the Conservative run County Council, who yet again have an inflation busting tax rise of 4.7% this year.

• **Carol Boulton**

The Tories running the County Council make no promises on tax increases and no sensible decision on what services are essential to provide and which are not.

This year for example the Conservatives at the County have decided to cut the Adult Care Service instead of cutting the £4,000,000 budget publishing county council papers. This is wrong - old and vulnerable people are more important than glossy bits of paper.

**Policy Point: Localism**

## A Local Future

Liberal Democrats have won the battle to spend more on our hard-pressed hospitals and schools. Overall, government spending has already risen by more than a third in real terms since 1996-7. The Liberal Democrats were the party that honestly stated the need to raise taxes to fund services.



**Chris Huhne MP**

The problem is not money, but power. Local people who best understand whether a public service is provided well or badly cannot hold decision-makers to account. In the National Health Service, the first elected politician in England and Wales who is responsible for the health service is the Secretary of State, and she knows little of particular hospitals and their problems.

As a country we need to embark on a radical decentralisation of the British state, which is the most centralised and monstrous bureaucracy in Europe. Money matters, and 94 per cent of all tax revenue goes through central government. Only one other state - tiny little Malta - pushes more through its central bureaucracy.

Local control of public services like health and schools will mean creativity, experimentation, innovation. The successful will be beacons for others to follow. Those who fail can be removed by their voters.

The gradual erosion of local democracy and local control explains poor public services, but it also explains the corrosion of faith in the democratic system. Too often, voters have no contact with someone in the community who can change things for the better. By destroying the power of councillors, successive governments have undermined the vital first link in the democratic family.

**They have undermined our democracy itself.**

## Lib Dem Eastleigh has LOWEST Tax Rise in Hampshire

Lib Dem-run Eastleigh Council has set a Council Tax increase of just 1% this year - that's **HALF** inflation and just 2.5p a week for a typical home.

*It's the third year of below-inflation increases.*

Council Leader **Keith House** says, "Massive tax rises from the County Council Conservatives have hit many people, especially pensioners, very hard."

*"We are guaranteeing tax rises 1% BELOW inflation for the next 3 years."*

*Hampshire's Conservatives recently agreed yet another **DOUBLE** inflation increase in the County Tax - what a contrast with the Lib Dems!*

## The Lib Dems' Tax Guarantee 1% BELOW costs for three years!

## Barnsland Busstop Upgrade



**New bus stop to come**

**Local Campaigner Bruce Tennent reports:** The northern bustop at Barnsland is to be replaced with a similar Arun style shelter as on the southern side.

Also there is to be a further pedestrian refuge added to the A27 for the area between the Barnsland bustops.

**Liberal Democrats for a fairer and greener Britain**

At a recent full council a sceptical conservative group asked questions about the new side waste policy. The answers by Eastleigh Environment Cabinet member Cllr Louise Bloom, make interesting reading :-



- **On the scheme in general** - it was too earlier to draw any firm conclusions, particularly with the Christmas and New Year break, however there are some initial figures available.
- **Recyclables collected** - in green bins has increased by about 5 tonnes per week (1%). No figures are yet available but this is probably true of bring banks & glass collections too.
- **Non-recyclable waste collected** - has decreased by 25 tonnes per week (5%). Due to the side policy and the extra Behavioural Change work. The fall is a combination of better separation green bin and other recyclable waste plus less garden waste.
- **Non-recyclable waste at collection centres** - from October to January showed a similar pattern to the previous year except for each month the amount disposed of was less this year than last year.
- **The environmental impact of residents taking excess waste to the collection centres** - as the amount disposed of was less this year than last year the number of visits is down and so the environmental impact is also less.
- **Number of missed bins** - this did initially increase but it has now dropped back to the normal level of less than 25 per week out of 47,000, or 0.05%.
- **The quality of the waste in the recycling bin** - has improved since the change. There have been no loads rejected because of contamination.
- **Fly-tipping** - this did initially increase too but this has also reduced and was coped with using existing resources. All such incidents are always fully investigated.

**All of this is no surprise as it mirrors the experience of the majority of Hampshire Councils.**

## Side Waste Success

## Keeping in Touch

Your **FOCUS Team** are always available:

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### West End Parish Council

**Joyce Sortwell, John Read, Peter Humphreys, Rick Whineray, Anthony Noyce, Graham Sortwell**

## County Lib Dems to fight Adult Care Services cuts

**Cllr Carol Boulton reports:** Liberal Democrats on Hampshire County Council have pledged to keep up their campaign to save vital Adult Care Services.

Planned cuts by the conservative run council in Adult Care Services include:

- 45% of day care provision to go
- 5 residential care homes to close and not be replaced
- A freeze on all new residential placements (except where nursing or EMI care is provided)
- Increases in charges to vulnerable people at above inflation rates (on top of their council tax increases)

Clearly the spin on what the new national Conservative leader calls compassionate conservatism is a great deal different from compassionate conservatism in action.



County Council Liberal Democrat group leader Cllr Adrian Collett said:

• **Adrian Collett**

*"In more than 20 years on the County Council I have never seen such damaging cuts to Adult Care Services. This is a very dark day for old and vulnerable people in Hampshire."*

## What can we do for YOU?



### Now 4 ways to contact your West End Liberal Democrats

- ① write to West End Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST, Eastleigh, SO50 9AA
- ② visit the website [www.davidgoodall.org.uk](http://www.davidgoodall.org.uk)
- ③ phone
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## Promotion for Chris

*David Goodall reports:* Chris Huhne Eastleigh MP, has been appointed to one of the parties top jobs as Shadow Environment Secretary. Commenting on this he said :-

*"This is the job I really wanted, the environment is going steadily up the political agenda, and Eastleigh has set the pace on all the environmental issues that can be achieved at local level such as recycling. Where Eastleigh leads the rest of Britain follows!"*

Cllr Louise Bloom, Cabinet Member for the Environment on Eastleigh Borough Council said :-

*"I am absolutely delighted that Chris has been appointed to the party's top job in Environment. His undoubted expertise in this area, combined with his skills as an economist will give new weight to this role both within and outside the party. I look forward to working with him to make sure the environment stays right at the top of the political agenda locally in Eastleigh as well as nationally and internationally."*

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