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Europe : Better in or out ? **Europe Spot**

Many of those opposed to the EU, say that an ideal position for the UK is to be outside the EU but to have free trading arrangements with it, like the Norwegians or Swiss. Now consider the answers to these questions :-

- 1) Who is currently best at implementing EU law?
- 2) Which 7 countries meet the EU law implementation target ?
- 3) Which of these 7 have absolutely no say in EU law content ?

Answers :-

- 1) Norway & Denmark
- 2) Norway, Denmark, Spain, the UK, Ireland, Finland & Iceland
- 3) Norway & Iceland

In all answers Norway appears, to keep their free trade status they have to follow all the EU laws. Yet outside the EU they get no say in what they are.

In Liberal Democrats we believe it is :-

- better to have a say in the EU
- better to have say have in laws that directly effect us
- better to get the best possible deal for Britain

Those that wish to withdraw from the EU wish to remove our right as a nation to have our say. This is not in Britain's best interests.

For the information on the latest EU law league table see:-

http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/score/index_en.htm

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WEST END FOCUS **LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

Summer 2004

Your Number One REGULAR Newsletter Editor : Cllr David Goodall No. 99

School Saved



•Gates open on the last day of term, but not last day of the school

Cllr David Goodall reports after months public discussion it has been decided not to close Moorlands Infants School. Many parents on the Townhill estate, West End were extremely concerned over the schools future.

Liberal Democrat Southampton City Councillor Calvin Horner, the city council's executive member for education, has ordered that a feasibility study look at turning the school into a 210-pupil primary school.

In this Issue

Moorlands School saved

Election Results

Volunteers Clean Up

West End Action Roundup

Policy Point - Quality Education

Photo ACTION File

Europe Spot: Better in or out

This option was the proposal three that parents and teachers at the school backed. It should see the school change from a 2 form entry infants school into a 1 form entry primary school.

This option was also the option that both myself and Cllr Peter Humphreys spoke in favour of at the public meeting held at the school back in March 2004, and wrote in favour of to the Southampton City Council.

However concern was increased when in early July the council officers, following government guidelines, recommend that the best option, in a 21-page report, was to close the school.

All the time Councillor Horner said that the executive will make a final decision on the school's fate on July 19. He also said: "Representations that people want to make,, will be listened to along with all the views that came up in the consultation process." The parents, friends and teachers made their points very well and they were listened to !!

For more on Liberal Democrat education views see inside.

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Charles Kennedy MP

Quality for all not choice for the few

Policy Point: Education

In July Liberal Democrat Leader Charles Kennedy outlined the parties education with a the Pupils' Guarantee. He said that "Liberal Democrats are putting young people at the centre of our thinking and why we begin our policy debate with the 'Pupil Guarantee' - a series of promises to every parent and every child that they will receive a quality education close to home."

The Pupils' Guarantee: Five promises to every child, July 2004

1. Quality Teaching - first class teachers for every child: every class taught by staff trained appropriately for either age group or subject.
2. Quality Curriculum - a personalised curriculum: tailored to the individual from age 14 and delivering opportunity for all pupils, including the 50% who do not go to university immediately.
3. Quality Classes - smaller classes: one teacher for every 25 primary children.
4. Quality Assessment - fewer tests: replace SATS at 7 and 11 with monitoring against national standards.
5. Quality Schools - state of the art schools and colleges: 21st century facilities with IT available to all.

The other two parties appear to think that 'choice' is answer to improve the schools however given a genuine choice between a good school and a bad school of course parents choose the good one, and naturally not all the pupils can go to the good school as there is never enough room. Then the real choice is the schools not the parents or as Charles Kennedy puts it :

'Choice' - according to our political opponents - is about changing structures; about investing yet more power in institutions; about re-ordering limited financial resources; but where is the focus on the rights and needs of young people and the communities they live in?

The focus should be on **quality local education for all** - well with the Liberal Democrats it is.

For the full text of his speech see :-

www.charleskennedy.org.uk/speech010704.htm

Election Highlights



Daily Echo Photo

- Eastleigh Lib Dems retain all seats & gain 2 more ...one from each of the other two parties
- Emma Nicholson & Eastleigh's Chris Huhne retain Euro seats with an increased vote.
- Leicester South by-election win from 3rd to 1st in Labour 'safe' seat
- Birmingham Hodge Hill by-election photo finish 2nd from a distant 3rd in another Labour 'safe' seat.

Chris & Emma say "Thank you" & promise "to work for all"

Photo ACTION File

- **Townhill Paths**



...Swept
- **Barnslad Bus Stop**



...Repaired
- **Cutbush Lane**



...Cleaned
- **Fly Posters**



...Swatted



Millennium Volunteers hard a work...

funds to take disabled people for a good day out at the Queen Elizabeth Centre.

For more on Millennium Volunteers see :-

www.millenniumvolunteers.gov.uk

The next big question what can we all do to for the young people in West End ?



... and councillors

Volunteers Clean Up

Cllr David Goodall reports recently a team a local young people from the Millennium Volunteers did a sponsored paint in West End. Eastleigh Borough Council sponsored them to paint railings in High Street, decorate at Merlyn House, and paint the Hilldene Centre Gates.

These young people did a great job and what are they going to do with their hard earned cash you may ask ? Well it's not party the night away, as some might think. They are actually raising

Roundup of action in West End

- Itchen Valley Country Park - £19,000 grant for - children adventure playground renewal and aerial runway upgrade, and a £40,000 grant to upgrade the access road pedestrian cycleway access
- Megan Open Space - improved with extra planting, footpaths, clearance of untidy shrubs
- Hilldene Centre - £25,000 grant for - brickwork repointed, new fencing, new acoustic panelling, new training equipment, new exterior door closing mechanisms.
- Upmill Close - new play area and residents association formed.
- Street Lighting - £37,500 grant - for a lighting/safety scheme on Botley Road from the Tollbar Way to Moorgreen Hospital.
- Youth Facilities - £6,400 grant for - goal posts on Moorgreen Recreation & improvements to Hatch Grange. The Borough Council is always keen to support the local Parish Council in developing activities for young people.

Keeping in Touch

Your FOCUS Team are always available:

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David Chidgey holds regular advice surgeries in his Eastleigh office - please ring for details.

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

What can we do for YOU?



If there are issues you want us to take up, or if you have a problem or idea for West End get in touch with our unique **FREEPOST** service. Write to: West End, Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST, Eastleigh, SO50 9AA
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Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____