

**Lib  
Dem  
45%**

**Con  
41%**

Can't  
win  
here!

**Other**

Elections here are a close fight  
between Conservatives and Lib Dems.

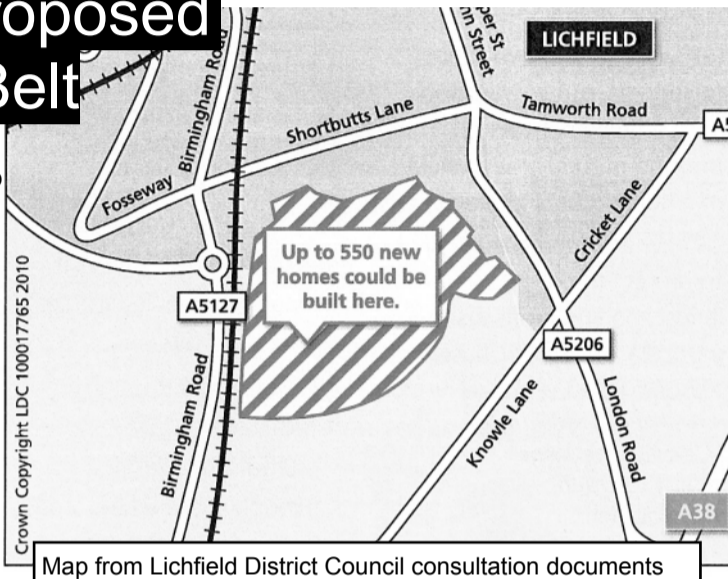
*It's Lib Dem or Conservative here!*

# Green belt fears

## Extra 550 New Homes - proposed on South Lichfield Green Belt

Lichfield District Council 'Core Strategy', recently published for consultation, includes proposals for **550 new homes** on Green Belt land in the area South of **Shortbutts Lane** and bounded by **London Road**, **Knowle Lane** and the railway line. Previous proposals for the Lichfield District 'Local Development Framework (LDF)

**proposed up to 1,650 dwellings** in this area - also **extending across Cricket Lane and London Road**. Liberal Democrats and local residents groups campaigned against this huge attack on our Green Belt. So a **partial success** - but time also for **renewed efforts** to make **our voices heard** in a **consultation ending on February 28th**.



### Key Points - 2006 - 2026

- Target of 8,000 for house building from 2006 to 2026 within Lichfield District.
- Of the 8,000 target nearly 1,250 will have already been built and a further planning permission given for 1,800 since 2006 so **4,950 extra over the next 15 years**.
- Over the period there is a housing need for nearly 3,000 affordable homes (housing that receives direct or indirect subsidy for people who are unable to access housing at market rents)
- Present allocation of land for **employment sites** said to be sufficient by council
- Continue with 'Friarsgate' proposals to give an extra 35,000m<sup>2</sup> of extra retail in Lichfield City centre.

Extra information on view until 28 February at council offices, Frog Lane, Lichfield 8:50 am to 5:15 pm weekdays or on the Internet at <http://lichfielddc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>

### Why is the Lichfield District 'Core Strategy' important?

The 'Core Strategy' is a statutory document to 'manage future growth and change in Lichfield District up until 2026. It will effectively control the response of local councillors to individual town planning applications. Applications that are within the terms of this policy would, if refused by local councillors, be very likely to be allowed by the Government Inspector on appeal with any costs of the appeal charged to the Council (us!) In addition to housing the Strategy includes issues such as climate change, economic development, natural resources, community safety, sustainable transport and infrastructure needs including school, open spaces, play areas and health centres to name but a few!

### Liberal Democrat Councillors response to Local Development Framework

- The 8,000 target for houses to 2026 should be kept so that we are enabled to build as many 'affordable' (subsidised) houses as possible after allowing for the 3,000 already given planning permission or built since 2006;
- We believe Lichfield City is near to capacity in dwellings and therefore the proposals for 550 dwellings in south Lichfield should be reduced and no land for development or recreation should be taken from the Green belt;
- The Recreation buffer zone at Darwin park should be retained and used for allotments or sports pitches
- The lesson of Darwin Park should be learned so that the provision of community facilities are dealt with at an early stage of the development - not at the end of it;
- Energy efficiency, Solar Panels and Ground source heating should be built into new community halls, schools etc;
- Proposals for a 'Birmingham Park & Ride' facility at Lichfield Trent Valley rail station should include a shuttle service to and from Lichfield city centre to reduce vehicles and parking

## Local News IN BRIEF

### Grit our pavements!

There has been a lack of co-ordination between the County Council who provide the grit and the District Council who apply it to the local footpaths. Partly due to our efforts the supply issue has been resolved. We have noticed that the main priority has been to grit the car parks and the paths leading from them into the city centre.

We have pointed out to the council that there are many who do not have cars and walk into town and the main paths into town should also be gritted.

We will monitor the situation.

### Dangerous right turn!

At the last Lichfield District Council meeting Cllr Derek Love stated that there was a problem when trying to **turn right** into the new **Vulcan Road Shopping Centre**, when proceeding westwards **along Eastern Avenue** from **Trent Valley Road** roundabout.

With no central reservation there is often a tailback of vehicles. The County Council needs to take action on this..

### Multi-use Games Area

We are pleased that this facility is ready for use. Over the past year we have met with council officers to try to speed up the process. It will provide a much needed outlet for young people from the **Darwin Park and Chesterfield Road estates**. We hope that the road crossing will soon be in place over **St Foye Avenue**. This will also provide a route for foot or cycle from **Chesterfield Road estate** to **Waitrose** supermarket.

## Getting in touch with your local Lib Dem team

### Cllr Ian Jackson

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[www.lichfieldlibdems.org.uk](http://www.lichfieldlibdems.org.uk)

**Or fill in the form over the page!**

## Have your say - before 28 February 2011

Respond online by registering at <http://lichfielddc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>. This is a free quick way to respond and you will automatically receive updates. You can also write to: Planning Policy Manager, Development Services, Frog Lane, Lichfield WS13 6YZ

# Getting the economy moving again

The last Labour Government left Britain heading for bankruptcy and in the middle of the worst recession in a hundred years.

At this time of crisis, Britain needs a strong and stable Government.

That's why the Lib Dems and the Conservatives are now working together - to fix our economy and nation's finances.

The first thing the Coalition has had to do is to get our soaring national debt under control.

Their actions have been backed by top economists and Labour's Lord Mandelson admits that "we

were in a pit of debt and just kept digging".

Cllr Ian Jackson says, "Labour left everything in a mess, but things are looking brighter with the Lib Dems in Government."

"To carry on like Labour now wants to would mean relying on foreigners to be willing to lend us extra hundreds of billions of pounds - year after year - all without imposing tough conditions and high interest rates."

"Our policies will keep interest rates low, create jobs and rebuild Britain's finances."

**Labour Minister:**  
**"There's no money left"**

Labour after the General Election

Getting Britain out of recession is the top priority for the Coalition.

# Fairer votes mean more power to you

Britain's unfair and outdated voting system is at the heart of what's wrong in our country.

It has allowed Governments and MPs to ignore us and take us for granted.

But all that can change with the Fairer Votes Referendum on 5th May 2011.

Under the fairer *Alternative Vote* system all votes will count making sure your voice can't be ignored any more.

A Yes vote on 5th May will put power back in your hands - where it belongs.



Fairer Votes Referendum

"If governments don't tackle deficits, the bill is footed by taxpayers"

Printed by N. Stanley, 13 Deacons Way, Rugeley WS15 3JZ Published and Promoted on behalf of Lichfield Liberal Democrats by K LePla, 20 Richmond Drive, Lichfield WS14 9SZ

# Lib Dems bring in tough new rules against "garden grabbing"

Local Lib Dem campaigners have backed tough new planning rules brought in by the Coalition Government.

The rules aim to protect against so-called "garden grabbing".

The phenomenon - where developers build homes on existing gardens because they are classified as "brownfield" sites - is a concern of many local people.

Now gardens are to be reclassified as "greenfield" sites, making it much more difficult to built on them.

"I'm delighted at these changes as they will help protect the unique character of our local area," said Councillor John Smith

"It may just be a house here or a house there, but these developments can

really change the character of our local area.

"It means that these developments will be much less likely to go through on appeal, which is great news."

## Five key Lib Dem achievements in Government:

- Scrapped Labour's intrusive ID cards plan ✓
- £2.5bn "pupil premium" to benefit schools ✓
- Reclassified gardens to curb "garden grabbing" ✓
- More low earners to be taken out of income tax ✓
- No more Post Office closures ✓

# Labour's legacy of debt and waste

Why every man, woman and child in Britain owe £24,400 because of Labour:

What it cost then...

**ID cards: £5 billion**

**Iraq war: £7 billion**

**Failed NHS IT system: £12 billion**

"We were in a pit of debt and we just kept digging"

Labour's Lord Mandelson

...and what it's costing now.

**Projected national debt: £1 trillion**

**Debt interest payments: £80,000 per minute**

# Tell us what you think

Want to tell us something? Something you'd like us to help with? Let us know here!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- I will vote Liberal Democrat next time
- I can help deliver FOCUS in my area for 1-2 hours per month
- I would like to vote by post at the next local election

Return free of charge to:

**Lichfield Liberal Democrats**  
**Freeport MID 17394**  
**WS13 6BR**