

It's Lib Dem or Conservative here!

District Council facing Budget Crisis -

Local Liberal Democrats have repeatedly warned since 2007 of a District Council budget crisis looming .

Despite Council Tax increases year on year, the Conservative controlled District Council used reserves from the sale of council houses to fund prestige projects like the Garrick Theatre.

These reserves are now almost exhausted. The Council faces a budgetary crisis at a time when the Coalition is freezing Council Tax. The Garrick is a community asset. But it is also a millstone round the neck of the local taxpayer. It requires a large regular annual subsidy - £550,000 in the last year - which is roughly equal to the sum taken from reserves. Once the reserves are all gone which other services will be hit?

Local News IN BRIEF



Road to nowhere?

Cllr John Smith

What does the future hold for the proposed new Police Station at the junction with the **Eastern by-pass**? The road markings are in place, but nowhere to go from the centre reservation. If there are no plans to build the Police station, then the centre reservation and signing should be deleted, otherwise it could cause confusion among motorists. A local resident has suggested

that the field which should have been used for the new Police station could be used as a car park for dropping off pupils at the Friary High School.

Lib Dems Slam County 'Fat Cat' Budget

Lib Dem County group leader **Cllr. Christina Jebbs** savaged Tory proposals which will slash spending on lollipop men and ladies by £ 30, 000 this year - rising to £120,000 by 2015/16.

At the same time the number of high-earning council employees (over £ 50,000 p.a) rose from 339 in 2007/8 to 670 in 2010/11. Redundancy payments have topped £6.5 million and early retirements cost Council Tax payers £25 million in two years.

Meanwhile council employees earning less than £21, 000 face a 3-year pay freeze - despite the Chancellors' stated intention that they should receive an annual £250 rise.

Lib Dem Councillor Ian Jackson commented: "How can that be called fair? The council is taking away our Lollipop Ladies to double the number of top earners and fund early retirements."

The County Council needs to hold £8.2 million in reserves - £800,000 lower than the original requirement. Our proposal to use some of this saving to restore school crossing patrols was voted down by the Conservatives.

Remember: The Council Tax freeze is only possible due to the £7.4 million grant from the Coalition Government.

Councillors Derek Love, John Smith and Marion Bland attending the very welcome opening of the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on Darwin Park Estate, for which Lib Dems have long campaigned.

Welcome for Multi-use Games Area



"Extra parking in roads near the MUGA will diminish in a few months" say Lichfield Council officers. They report that this happened in similar sites elsewhere in the District - we will monitor the situation in roads like 'The Whytmore' carefully. 'Yellow line' parking control here, and in other parts of



The Whytmore

Darwin Park estate, is not possible at present because the County Council have a dispute with the developers and are refusing to 'adopt' some roads.

Local Campaigners Selected

Ian Jackson has been campaigning for local residents for over 18 years. He first became involved as Chair of the Leomansley Action Group in their opposition to development plans on green belt land. Elected as a District and City councillor for Leomansley ward since 2003 he is Lib Dem Group Leader on Lichfield District Council. Ian is a chartered management accountant and works for a large international distribution company. He lives has lived in Walsall Road all this time.

Derek Love has been working for local residents in Leomansley since the early 90's and has been your councillor continuously since 1995. Derek is a retired chartered surveyor who previously worked for Staffordshire County Council. Derek has helped many local residents and groups in this time.

John Smith lives in Stafford Road and was elected to District and City Councils along with Derek in 1995. Since then he as served 8 years as a District Councillor and 12 years as a City Councillor. John originally started work as a site engineer mainly on railway works and later on roads and bridges but spent his last 33 years working for a building company as an estimator before taking early retirement in 2003. John was honoured to be Sheriff of Lichfield in 2005. He is currently chairman of the newly opened Darwin Park hall .



John Smith

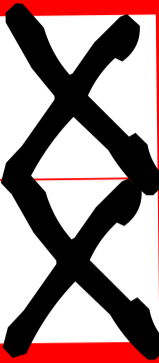

Derek Love

Discussing local residents comments on survey returns

Ian Jackson

Lib Dems - working for our area

On Thursday May 5th, vote...

JACKSON			LOVE		
			SMITH		

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Fairer votes means 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.

THE REFERENDUM CHOICE

On 5 May all registered UK voters will be able to vote Yes or No on whether to change the way MPs are elected to the Alternative Vote system.

Under the Alternative Vote system, voters rank candidates in their constituency in order of preference.

For example:

JONES Adam	2
KING Susan	1
LEDLEY Ian	3

Anyone getting more than 50% of first-preference votes is elected.

If no-one gets 50% of votes, the bottom candidate is eliminated and their second choices are allocated and so on until **until one candidate has at least 50% of all votes.**

A 'Yes' vote means all the candidates who want to be your next MP will have to aim for 50% support in the communities they seek to represent. MPs will have to work harder to win - and keep - your support, reaching out to voters they can no longer afford to ignore.

A 'Yes' vote will give you more say. AV lets you can rank candidates and show support for anyone you feel is up to the job. So if your favourite candidate doesn't win, you can still help decide your next MP.

Getting in touch with your local Lib Dem team

Cllr Derek Love E-mail: derekralove@tiscali.co.uk Phone: 01543 252096	Cllr Ian Jackson E-mail: ijackson@lichfieldlibdems.org.uk Phone: 01543 414732
Cllr John Smith E-mail: jsmith004@btinternet.com Phone: 01543 257865	



Local councillors Ian Jackson and Derek Love have been investigating the poor lighting along the well used footpath from Walsall Road to Trunkfield Meadow. Due to a lack of local authority funding, an alternative solution has to be found. In conjunction with the Leomansley Area Residents Association, who are applying for funds from developers contributions, Ian and Derek are seeing if it is possible to install a solar lamp. This could save future running costs that would otherwise have to be funded by one of the councils

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 _____
 E-mail _____

- I will vote Liberal Democrat next time
- I would like to display a poster
- I would like to vote by post at the next election

Return free of charge to: **Lichfield Liberal Democrats**
Freepost MID 17394
WS13 6BR

If you return this slip the Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you provide to contact you. Some of these contacts may be automated. You can opt out of communications at any time by contacting us.