

Andrew Simpson

Putting Northampton First



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Andrew Simpson

Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate
for Northampton North

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Lib Dems off to a flying start in Northampton North

The Liberal Democrats are well placed to take Northampton North, with popular, local candidate, Andrew Simpson's campaign gathering pace. Andrew is confident of repeating his 2005 success and taking the seat.

Commenting ahead of the Queen's dissolution of Parliament, Andrew said:

"It's high time this rotten Parliament came to an end.

"In the wake of the expenses and cash-for-influence scandals, hard-working people in Northampton are furious with politicians.

"With both main parties mired in sleaze and lacking in public confidence, this is not a typical election.

"After years of government stooges representing them in Parliament, local people increasingly want an MP who will stand up for them in Westminster, not make excuses for government policy.

"I want to do things differently. As a local MP, I would continue to live here and take issues from local people to Parliament, not the other way round.

"I'm getting a great reception on the doorstep, with supporters of Labour and the Conservatives pledging their support for me this time.

"Local people know me well. As a Councillor for 15 years, I've worked with constituents to get a better deal out of County Hall, The Guildhall and government departments.

"And as their candidate last time around, they know I've campaigned hard for them round the clock, not just over the last few weeks. They know I am committed to them and to our town.

"I'm a local candidate, with a real stake in Northampton's future. I live locally, I rely on local services, and I am committed to putting Northampton first."

Pledging his support on a recent visit to Northampton, Liberal Democrat Deputy Leader and Shadow Chancellor, Vince Cable, said:

"Andrew is a great candidate. Northampton couldn't ask for a harder-working MP.

"Andrew has a real stake in the town's future. As a long-serving local Councillor, he's shown he can get things done and with his business background, he knows how important it is we get our economy going so we can invest in our public services and bring down the deficit.

"Andrew would be a great MP – tough, hard-working and uncompromising in his desire to get things done."

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About Andrew

Andrew Simpson, 44, has lived in Northampton for 27 years. He first moved to the town in 1983 to attend Nene College, now the University of Northampton, and has lived here ever since.

Andrew first got involved in politics after standing up against Labour's iron-grip on student politics at the college. He joined the Union of Liberal Students a year later, and was elected President of the Student's Union in 1987, during which time he successfully campaigned for better disabled access for his campus library and a crèche for mature students with children.

Whilst as a student he got involved in local community politics and was elected to Northampton Borough Council in 1995. , Andrew is a former Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats on Northampton Borough Council (1999 to 2004) and Parliamentary Candidate (2001 and 2005).

In 2005, Andrew gained just under a 7% increase in the vote gaining 3,000 votes from Labour in Northampton North. In 2010, he needs a swing of just 6% from Labour to win.

'I've always voted Labour, but they've let us down. I don't feel like Labour has stood up for me at all.'

Mike Fuller, Thorplands

'I'm disappointed with the Conservatives. I've never heard of their candidate, and their cuts to services are going to hit vulnerable people hard.'

Barbara Hughes, Parklands

"...Andrew Simpson is the best man for the job in this town and he is getting my vote."

Steve Williams, Thorplands

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Northampton North: constituency briefing

Election results in Northampton North

2005 General Election

Labour 16,905 40.2% -9.2%

Conservative 12,945 30.8% (+ 0.4%)

Andrew Simpson Lib Dem 10,317 24.5% (+ 6.8%)

2005 County Council elections

Lib Dem 34.9%

Labour 33.2%

Conservative 27.9%

2007 Borough Council Elections

Lib Dem 54.1%

Conservative 21.6%

Labour 19.5%

2009 County Council Elections

Lib Dem 35.4%

Conservative 31.6%

Labour 18.8%

Key points:

Labour have slumped to third, with less than 20% of the vote in both constituency wide local elections since the last general election.

The Tories are at best flat lining. Their vote has barely improved in Northampton North over three successive general elections, and they have failed to make the progress they need in local elections.

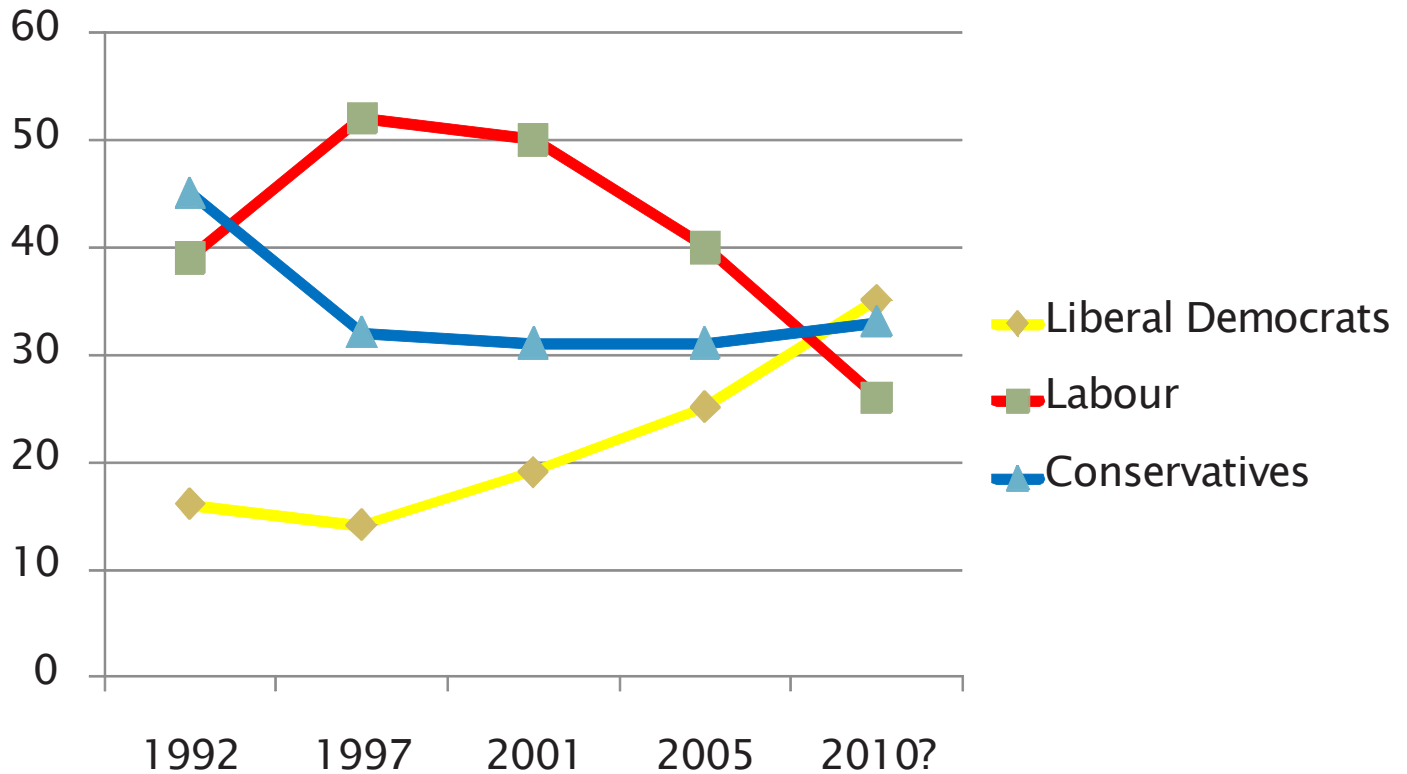
The Lib Dem vote has been steadily rising in every General Election since 1992 and has consolidated in the mid 30's in local elections.

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Sally Keeble has voted with the Government 99.6% of the time, including on post office closure (Northampton North has lost 9 of 20 post offices since 1997), Top up fees, war in Iraq and removal of the 10p tax rate.

She has completely failed to represent the needs of Northampton in any meaningful way, and people are aware of this.

Labour's vote in the County Council elections slumped to 19% (and they lost their last Councillors in the constituency) Even allowing for an increase in the general election our own canvass returns and surveys keep her solidly placed in the low 20's in percentage terms, with even much of this vote unsure.

Labour now have no county councillors in the Constituency, with their only borough councillors remaining in Lumbertubs, a ward which went Liberal Democrat in the recent county elections.

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Andrew's values

Andrew thinks that politics can be a force for good. Andrew believes in the power of government to improve people's everyday lives, but thinks that all too often, it oversteps the mark.

Andrew thinks Parliament should be about empowering local communities to find better ways of providing local services, free at the point of use. Andrew believes people can be better served by Parliament and understands their anger at MPs and the failed political system.

Andrew would be a genuinely different MP. Locally based and constituency focused, Andrew would work from the ground up to solve people's problems, rather than decamping to Westminster for months on end. Casework – local people's everyday problems – would be his spur to tackle Ministers in Parliament, whatever the government.

Andrew believes in grassroots politics and would work hard to solve his constituents' problems. Andrew has campaigned for people locally and is now ready to give them a voice in Westminster.



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Key constituency issues

1. Putting Northampton first: tackling persistent funding shortfalls.
 - Northampton is the UK's 3rd largest town, with a population of almost 210,000. But Northamptonshire's Primary Care Trust is ranked 131st out of 151 in terms of national, per capita spending. Spending on related areas, like social services, are also facing cuts. Whether from Whitehall or County Hall, Andrew would keep a close eye on funding levels for Northampton's public services.
2. Education: putting our money where our mouth is.
 - Seven of Northampton's nine secondary schools fail to get 50% of their pupils five good GCSE's. In a global economy, with increasing competition for jobs, that is not good enough. The Liberal Democrats are the only major party pledging to increase the schools budget. We would invest an extra £2.5 billion in schools via a Pupil Premium – or £23 million for Northamptonshire's schools.
3. Housing: putting it back on the agenda.
 - There are 2,922 empty homes in Northampton. Property prices are already creeping up after the credit crunch, leaving a new generation young people without affordable homes. Conservatives oppose building new homes, while packing local planning quango, the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation, with their Councillors. Labour, meanwhile, is intent on building a 42,000-strong housing estate in Northampton by 2026, without addressing the town's £9 million 'negative subsidy', paid to Whitehall by the town's 12,500 Council tenants. Andrew has campaigned to devolve house-building powers to local Councils, better able to take decisions about today's land use and tomorrow's housing needs. He also has campaigned strongly against the imposition of housing developments on precious green spaces around our town.
4. Crime: tough on crime means cutting reoffending.
 - Labour and the Conservatives want a sentencing arms race, propped up by Europe's lowest age of criminal responsibility. The UK has the largest prison population in Europe, with each offender costing the taxpayer £40,000 a year. Liberal Democrats would cut the number of thugs and petty criminals in our jails by making them face victims and local people via Community Payback. By converting low-level crime into meaningful community work, the Liberal Democrats would curb our prison population and cut reoffending rates.

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Contacting Andrew's campaign team

Campaign Office HQ
01604 633009

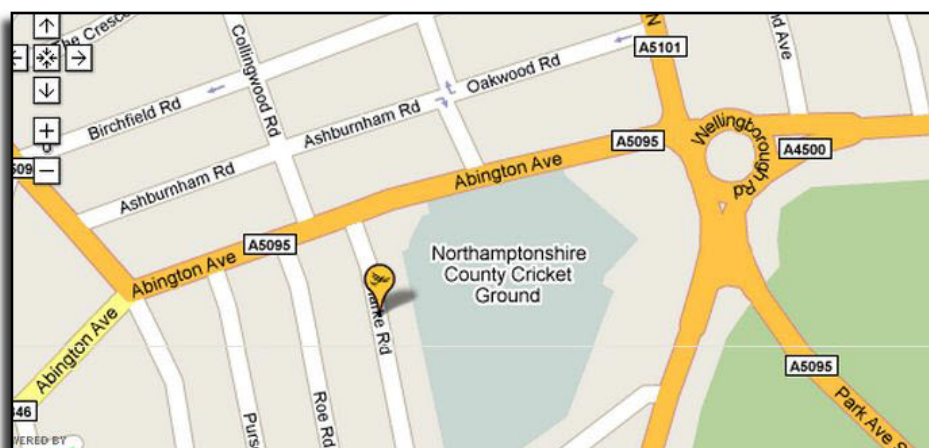
Mike Quinn, Campaigns Officer
As above; 07825 819119

Richard Church, Press Officer
01604 719097; 07780 524792

How to find our election HQ

Northampton Liberal Democrats are just behind the Steelbacks' County Ground at:

78-90 Clarke Road
Northampton,
NN1 4PW



For more photos of Andrew please contact Mike Quinn on the details above.

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