

Northampton People

Autumn 2009 Edition Delivered FREE

Labour support crumbles in Northampton North!

**Lib
Dems**
35%

Con
32%

Won't Win
Again!

Lab
19%

1000's of Labour supporters have turned their back on Gordon Brown and New Labour. It is clear that Labour will not win again in Northampton North.

Residents face a clear choice between hardworking local campaigner Andrew Simpson and the Conservative who said he doesn't have time to be our MP!

Also in this edition:

- Government targets threaten Countryside
- It's time to clean up politics!



3 Care Homes Face Tory Axe



Obelisk House



Lakeview House

Southfields House

Three of Northampton North's care homes are being threatened with closure by Northamptonshire's Conservative County Council.

The announcement came just days after the local elections. Many residents are up in arms that Conservative bosses could not be honest about their plans before the elections.

Campaigners, such as Liberal Democrat Andrew Simpson, are wondering whether this is a taste of things to come should they win the General Election?

The Conservative axe now hangs over Southfields House, Obelisk House and Lakeview House - despite them all being rated good or excellent by independent inspectors. In total 400 places in care homes could be lost

across Northampton over the next five years, while the number of elderly people is set to rocket.

Lib Dem campaigner Andrew Simpson told the ruling Tories, "You have got several choices for the future management of these homes. But whatever you do you can now put the current residents' minds at rest and remove this unnecessary threat of closure."

The Conservatives have ignored the plea and are pressing ahead with the closure threat regardless, causing worry to hundreds of elderly residents.

"Not one Conservative election leaflet gave a hint of this," said Andrew Simpson. "If they can treat voters like this after a council election, what would they do after a general election once they knew they had won?"

More money for pensioners and families

Lib Dems have announced radical plans at their conference to slash taxes for people on low and middle incomes - paid for by closing tax-loopholes for the rich.

This will benefit the average Northampton family by saving them £700 a year and Northampton Pensioners £100 a year.

Local Lib Dem campaigner Andrew Simpson championed the policy, saying "While the Conservatives want to cut taxes for the richest 6% and Labour abandon low and middle earners utterly, only the Liberal democrats are putting forward a package that will help hard working people struggling through the economic trouble, instead of pandering to rich donors."

Cllr Portia Wilson is delighted with Lib Dem plans to introduce more midwives and health visitors.



3000 more midwives pledge

Lib Dems are pledging 3000 more midwives and health visitors on top of current Government promises - which Labour are still failing to achieve!

"The number of births have increased" said Local Lib Dem councilor and community Nurse Portia Wilson "and the number of health professionals has become stagnant under Labour. We need more, a lot more, now."

"The Labour Government are utterly misusing the money ring fenced for maternity with phony giveaways, bureaucracy and red tape" she added. "When my second child arrives in march - I would like to know there'll be a midwife there to see her safe!"



The Liberal Democrat Borough Council is continuing with its commitment to revitalise our town centre after years of neglect. A new fountain is planned for the market square after favourable feedback from the public.

Making a splash in the Market Square

Watch out for more changes to the Market Square in 2010.

Plans for a new fountain on the Market Square have been given the green light by Lib Dems in The Guildhall after consultation with shoppers and traders.

The fountain, planned for the Abington Street entrance to the Market Square, could be installed as early as January next year.

Cllr Richard Church, Lib Dem Borough Council Cabinet member for Regeneration welcomed the news, saying:

"Investing in our town centre is a top priority for the Lib Dems."

"Since coming to power in 2007, local Lib Dems have earmarked £1 million to redevelop the Market Square."

"A fountain in the square's gateway will add to the work already under way to create an events space and catering area so that Northamptonians can use the square after the traders go home."

A planning application will be lodged to Planning Officials for final approval in the Autumn.

Lib Dems Pledge to Re-plant Rose Garden

Lib Dems in the Guildhall have announced that a memorial garden, dating back over 50 years, will be replanted after being vandalised twice in as many weeks.

The Abington Park Rose Garden, relocated after an incident in November last year, was attacked for a second time in July.

The three incidents follow a separate attack on the children's train in Abington Park, which was set alight by vandals.

Commenting on the trend, Lib Dem Parliamentary Candidate for Northampton North Andrew Simpson said:

"Vandalising a memorial garden for loved ones a disgrace."

"Lib Dems in The Guildhall have set aside cash to replant the garden and are working to find a sponsor for a new train."

"We have only been able to right the wrongs of these thugs through sensible financial management in the Guildhall."

"But with government cuts to council services now being felt, we must continue to protect taxpayers' money."

Replanting will get under way in October.

Bill says "Thank You"

Northampton Lib Dem Euro MP Bill Newton Dunn has said thank you to local people for voting for him and the Liberal Democrats in the European Elections on June 4th.



The result saw Bill retain his seat in the European Parliament as the Liberal Democrats took a seat from UKIP in the East Midlands.

"I am delighted to continue my work as your MEP and look forward to continuing to fight for Northampton people alongside my Lib Dem colleagues in the town" said Bill. You can contact Bill by writing to Bill Newton Dunn MEP, 78-90 Clarke Road, Northampton.



Liberal Democrat Councillors in Northampton have responded to residents' calls and are taking tough action to stamp out illegal car sales in Northampton.

Lib Dems crack down on illegal car sales

Roadside car sales have been slashed after tough action by Lib Dems in the Guildhall.

Lib Dem-run Northampton Borough Council began a town-wide sweep of roads and pavements in June to curb the number of street-side car salesmen.

Following the campaign, the number of illegally sold cars on the Wellingborough Road fell from 15 to none.

Welcoming the move, Andrew Simpson, Lib Dem Parliamentary Candidate for Northampton North, said:

"Illegal car sales have been a problem in Northampton for many years."

"They have a real effect on residents' day-to-day lives, often preventing people parking near their own homes."

"Working with local Police, the council's new Environmental Crime Team has issued over 100 penalty notices and slashed the number of cars for sale on our streets."

SAY NO TO ACADEMY PLANS

The Conservative run County Council is pressing ahead with plans to turn both Unity College and Weston Favell Upper School into Academies despite widespread opposition from parents, staff and pupils at both schools.

It also comes as the latest GCSE results for both schools showed marked improvements and with Weston Favell actually now meeting the Governments National Challenge target of 30% A-C grade passes.

"The Conservatives have no grounds whatsoever to turn Weston Favell into an Academy as it is now meeting the Governments targets. I have argued that both schools need time to recover from previous disruption and this has been proved correct as this years grades show.

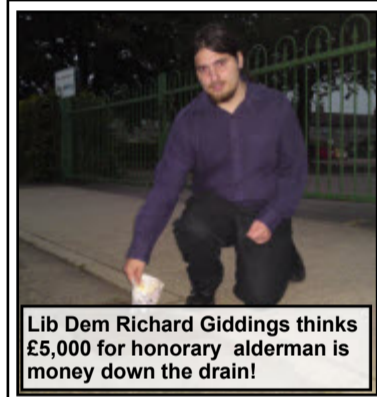
"Turning them into Academies is politically motivated and not in the best interests of education locally" said Andrew Simpson, Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Spokesman for Northampton North.

"The Conservatives are simply trying to hand over responsibility for running our schools to outside organisations rather than sort out the mess they have created".

Andrew Simpson has spoken out against the plans by the County Council to appoint David Ross, one of the founders of Carphone Warehouse, as the sponsor for Unity College and to press ahead and turn the school into an Academy next year. Speaking at a meeting of the Council's Cabinet Andrew Simpson said "There has been no justification as to why the David Ross Foundation should be appointed to run our local school. Mr Ross has no links with Northampton to speak of and the one Academy he is involved in at Grimsby is still failing to reach Government targets."



Liberal Democrats such as Richard Church and Andrew Simpson are angry that the Conservative County Council has ignored local people and intend to press on with plans to turn both Unity College and Weston Favell Upper School into academies.



Lib Dem Richard Giddings thinks £5,000 for honorary alderman is money down the drain!

£5,000 to honour ex-councillors

One of the first acts of the newly elected Northamptonshire Conservative County Council has been to agree an Honorary Alderman scheme for former Councillors at a cost of £5,000 to the council tax payer.

New Lib Dem County Councillor for Lumbertubs Cllr. Richard Giddings said "This is an obscene waste of public funds at a time when most people have to tighten their belts.

"Many Conservative voters will be disappointed in the priorities of their new Council."

MP blasted over 10p tax u-turn

Labour MP Sally Keeble has been dubbed "two faced" by her Lib Dem opponent after her apparent u-turn over plans to compensate low paid workers, who have lost out under Gordon Brown's 10p tax fiasco.

Ms Keeble has come under fire as she said publicly that she would back a cross-party bid to compensate the lowest paid workers but when it came to the vote she caved in and voted with Gordon Brown. This move helped deny extra money to Northampton's lowest paid workers.

Keeble, has been widely criticised locally for her die-hard loyalty to the Labour Leadership, she has voted with the Government in over 99% of all votes. Some of her more controversial decisions include backing George Bush's War in Iraq, voting to allow several of Northampton's Post Offices to close and voting to introduce student fees - breaking a manifesto promise in the process.

Andrew Simpson said, "I have met so many local people on low wages who have lost up to £120 a year, thanks to Gordon Brown's tax grab. This measure would have gone some way to compensate them for what they had lost. No wonder so many people are angry with Labour.

"What people find even more galling is that Sally Keeble signed an amendment calling for compensation to be given but then voted with the Government. It is this sort of cynicism that gives politics a bad name."

Hands Off Our Fields!

Labour forces 40,000 new Houses on Northampton

43,000 new houses and acres of our countryside lost forever. That will be New Labour's legacy for Northampton.

Labour bosses have ordered that land must be provided to provide 43,000 homes by 2026 in order to cope with population growth in the South-East. This will mean acres of precious countryside will be lost forever.

Nationally, and here in Northampton Liberal Democrats have challenged the number of homes to be built. The Conservatives have remained silent.

Liberal Democrat Spokesman, Andrew Simpson said, "At a time when the housing market is at a standstill it seems crazy to be

forcing all these extra homes to be built. But such stupidity is what we have become to expect of this tired Labour Government.

"I have consistently opposed these growth figures which will see building on Dallington Grange and Buckton Fields.

"Labour MP Sally Keeble must take a large share of the blame for this. She failed to stand up for our area against Labour ministers, and she even voted for her Government's house-building plans. Once again she has put party loyalty before the interests of our town."

The Conservative Leader of the County Council has also come under fire for signing off the planning documents which paved the way for Labour's plans.



Cllrs Andrew Simpson, Trini Crake and John Yates have been campaigning to save countryside areas such as Buckton Fields from Labour's imposed housing figures. If you want to have your say or join Andrew's campaign please visit www.andrew-simpson.org.uk.



"It's time to clean up politics" - Andrew Simpson

Trust in politicians has never been so low. But one of Northampton's budding MPs plans radical reforms to help regain confidence in our political system.

Andrew Simpson who is a strong favourite to win Northampton North for the Liberal Democrats, has set out his own 'Election Covenant' setting out 10 key commitments to Northampton

residents.

These include the fact that if elected his home would remain in Northampton, he would publish an annual report of all expenses incurred, he would not employ members of his family with any jobs being advertised locally and be a full-time MP and not take any other paid employment.

"Northampton needs an MP who lives here and is committed to the

town" said Andrew.

"We need a fresh start and a new system that treats MP's like any other job with expenses and funding clear and transparent for all to see".

PICTURED ABOVE: Andrew Simpson and Northampton Liberal Democrats have been out and about explaining their plans to clean up British politics.

Andrew's 5 steps to clean up politics

- ✓ The right to sack your MP
- ✓ An end to party donors funding MP's
- ✓ Open Government with an end to excessive secrecy
- ✓ More power for local people and less for central Government
- ✓ A fairer voting system

For details of the proposals and Nick Clegg's 100 Day Plan see www.takebackpower.org

Labour out of the race in Northampton North!

Liberal Democrats are once again celebrating election success in Northampton North.

In this years County Council elections the Lib Dems continued their winning ways and topped the poll.

Labour were completely wiped out in the constituency, losing their once stronghold seats of Thorplands and Lumbertubs to jubilant Lib Dems Dennis Meredith and Richard Giddings.

These results are yet more

evidence that Labour-loyalist Sally Keeble's days as our local MP are numbered.

With Gordon Brown's Labour Party certain to lose, the key question is who is the best choice to be our new MP?

Questions over Tory choice

People are beginning to ask questions about the Conservative choice in this election.

Only last year he sensationally quit as the Conservative

candidate saying that he could not dedicate the time to fighting for the area because of "pressures of work and the need to travel."

Eye-brows were then raised when he suddenly back tracked and announced he was back in the race. This caused local residents to dub him the "Hokey-Cokey" candidate and raises serious questions over his commitment to our town.

Lib Dem Andrew Simpson will be a strong contender to be our

next MP. He is an experienced local councillor with a strong record of action.

He has lived in Northampton since moving here as a student over 25 years ago.

Andrew has gained a reputation for standing up for our town.

On saving our Post Offices, protecting our green spaces and fighting cuts to our services, Andrew has lead from the front. No wonder more and more people think he is the best choice for our next MP.

**Con
32%**

**Lib
Dem
35%**

**Lab
Just
19%**

Labour will not win again in Northampton North.

The key question is who is the best choice for our next MP?

More and more people are backing hardworking local campaigner Andrew Simpson as the only candidate with a powerful record of fighting for our town.

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Help the Lib Dems win here

The Lib Dems work hard all year round for our area. If you would like to help our campaign, please complete and return this form.

Your name-

Your address-

Postcode-

Email-

I will vote Lib Dem at the next election

I would like to vote by post in future

I can display a poster at election time

I can deliver leaflets in my area

I can make a donation to the Lib Dems

£50 £20 £10 Other £___

Please make cheques payable to the Liberal Democrats. A donation of £10 or more entitles you to become a member of the Lib Dems. Please tick here if you do not wish to be enrolled

The Liberal Democrats would like to use the information above to contact you from time to time to keep you informed of campaigns we may think of interest to you. Please write to us if you do not wish to be contacted in this way.

Please return to: Liberal Democrats FREEPOST NH0482, Northampton NN1 3BR

Visit our website www.andrew-simpson.org.uk

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