

Delivered free across the Uttlesford area

Uttlesford's 2 Horse Race

Lib Dem 46% Con 39%

It's so close here!

Votes cast at the last District Council elections show that it's a race between the Tories and the Lib Dems. Labour have no councillors left here.

Labour just 5% Green 1%



Support for New Cinema in Walden PAGE 3



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RUNWAY TWO: ENVIRONMENT UNDER THREAT

The progress of Stansted Airport's proposals for expansion is set to enter a new phase over the next few months.

At the end of September Uttlesford District Council is set to decide whether the airport should be allowed to increase the numbers of flights and passengers beyond the current limits on the existing runway.

In October the Airport is expected to announce which option for a second runway it is going to pursue following its consultation exercise.

Second Runway Threat

"Stansted Airport's application for a second runway is the single biggest threat to the quality of life that the Uttlesford area has faced for years", says Cllr Mark Gayler, Lib Dem Leader of Uttlesford.

"Whichever option the Airport decides on, the effect on our environment will be unacceptable, both locally and globally."

The Liberal Democrats remain the only party with a national policy opposed to the building of any more runways in the South East.

Expanded Use of Current Runway

Uttlesford District Council has spent the Summer analysing all the evidence submitted about the application to increase the use of the existing runway.

A decision to refuse permission that had not involved a proper examination of the material considerations could lead to the Council having to pay for a full public inquiry at Council Tax payers' expense, with a strong possibility that the Council's decision would be reversed by the Government.

Cllr Gayler comments: "Over the Summer the Council has rigorously examined the airport's proposals."

"We have made sure that there has been more opportunity than ever before for people to present their views on the application, and for the evidence to be looked at."

"This will ensure that the decision that the Council takes will be fully defensible and in the best interests of the local community."

Noise and Pollution

"The Council's decision must address concerns about increased noise, pollution, traffic congestion and rail services," says Melvin Caton, Chairman of Saffron Walden Constituency Liberal Democrats.

"If more passengers are allowed, the airport must invest heavily in better train services so that less travellers drive to the airport. Local commuters must also have a decent train service."

"Our community already suffers from the effects of noise. We must ensure that noise is fully monitored and that everything is done to keep it to a minimum. That includes making sure the quietest aircraft are used, and reducing the number of night flights."



● Runway 2 means more pollution, more noise and more traffic on Uttlesford's roads.

"BAA has been accused of - and since admitted - underestimating the additional noise of flights using the existing runway at Stansted Airport if they are allowed to increase to 35 million passengers a year from the present cap of 25 million." writes Uttlesford District Councillor Alan Dean.

"The airport operator would like everyone to believe that the emissions from the aeroplanes are somehow someone else's problem and therefore irrelevant to the climate change debate. They are proud that they have changed the light bulbs at the terminal building, but turn a blind eye to the most

damaging impact of their operations on the global and regional climate.

CO2 Emissions

"The planes using a two runway Stansted airport would produce the equivalent of 30,000,000 tonnes of CO2 every year. That is the same level of emissions produced by all of the homes and cars in the six counties of the East of England. And what about all the extra cars driving to the airport?"

You can read, hear and see how Uttlesford District Council is handling this issue at the special council website www.stanstedexplained.info. This includes blogs by both Cllr Dean and Cllr Christina Cant.

FREEPOST CL2702,

Stansted CM24 8BR

Environment Under Threat

With the threat of more runways and all the extra road traffic pollution associated with airport expansion, Uttlesford's environment is under threat as never before.

The Government's Chief Scientific Adviser David King says that global warming is the greatest threat to mankind, much greater than terrorism.

But what are the politicians doing about it? 'Dave' Cameron wants us to think he has 'gone green', though this is undermined somewhat when his official car follows him on his bicycle, and local Conservatives are luke-warm in their support for more recycling.

And Labour? In the early days, Tony Blair made speeches about the environment but he has gone rather quiet on it recently. He told us tough targets would be set on CO2 emissions, but they are going to be missed.

Which brings us to the Liberal Democrats. At last year's General Election, they told us that a 'green thread' runs through all their policies; and recently their Leader Ming Campbell proposed a cut in the basic rate of income tax, paid for by taxing pollution more heavily. At least that is a new idea.

Having tried the other two parties and been let down, maybe people who care about the environment will consider the Lib Dems next time if they have not before.

Call for night flight ban renewed

Following the news that the government has conceded on the night flight numbers cap, Uttlesford Liberal Democrats now believe it is time to step up the campaign to bring an end to night flights to and from Stansted Airport.

"The fact is that all night flights to and from Stansted Airport disturb the peace," said Cllr Martin Foley of Thaxted. "People in many areas of Uttlesford and beyond are beginning to suffer intolerable noise all through the night, which disturb sleep patterns and does damage to children's concentration in school the next day.

"It is clear that stress levels are affected and there are other health worries associated with this unacceptable night noise from aircraft. The time has come for a massive campaign to stop this horrendous intrusion of our lives."

Noisy Flights

Currently Stansted has over 8,000 per annum with 25 to 35 noisy flights each night during the summer. "I challenge anybody to get a good night's sleep with the window open in the affected areas during these hot summer nights," said Cllr Foley.

Uttlesford District Council's Liberal Democrat administration has made a fresh call for a total ban on night flights because of intolerable noise levels for many local residents and the growing concern of the environmental impact of night flights.



● Uttlesford's Liberal Democrat councillors are calling for an end to night flights at Stansted Airport. New evidence suggests that the effect on global warming of one night flight is the same as 12 planes flying in the day.

£75 Off Your Council Tax

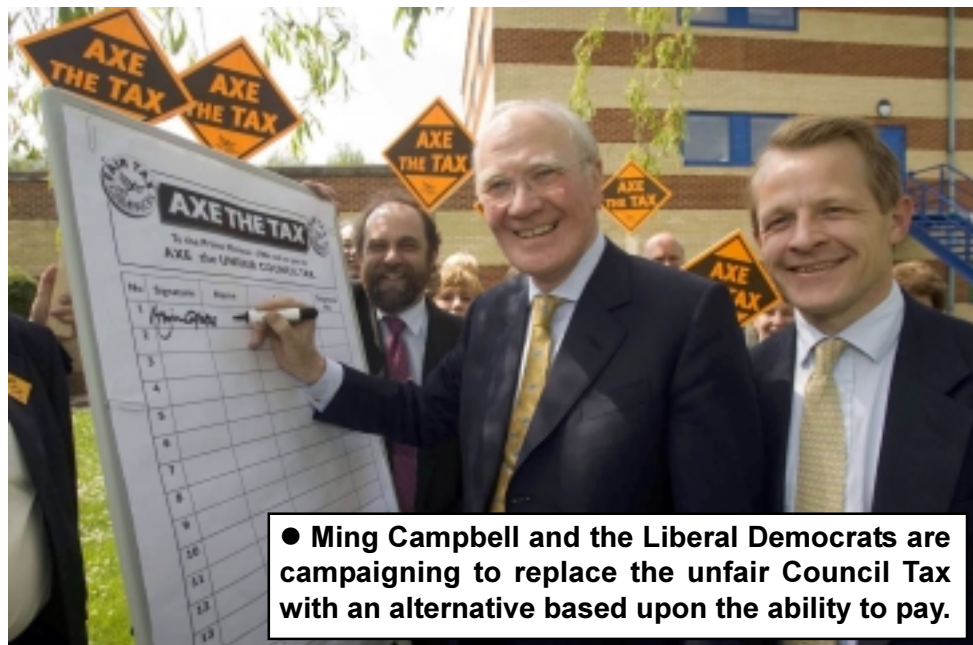
Liberal Democrat-led Uttlesford District Council has launched a new scheme which offers you a £75 rebate on your council tax if you invest in improved roof and cavity wall insulation in your home through an approved scheme.

This is part of the Council's commitment to combat climate change by making council buildings and vehicles more energy-efficient, working with others to protect and improve the local environment, and combatting fuel poverty.

Uttlesford's Record of Achievement

- The Council has launched the Uttlesford Sustainable Energy Network, which helps householders find out more about renewable energy (like solar-powered water heating) and other ways of reducing our impact on the environment.
- The Council is upgrading loft insulation and fitting more efficient boilers in council houses.
- The Council has signed the Nottingham Declaration to commit itself to real local action to combat climate change.

Axe The Tax Campaign Relunched



● Ming Campbell and the Liberal Democrats are campaigning to replace the unfair Council Tax with an alternative based upon the ability to pay.

The Liberal Democrats are relaunching their campaign to axe the unfair Council Tax.

Later this year, when Sir Michael Lyons, who was appointed by the Government to review and make recommendations about Local Government Finance, publishes his report, there may be a golden opportunity to get the Council Tax scrapped.

You Can Help

You can help axe the tax by visiting the website www.axethetax.org.uk, signing the petition on-line, getting your friends to sign or collecting signatures on your own petition. Nobody likes paying tax, but the Council Tax, because it has no link with people's ability to pay, is the most unfair and the most unpopular.

Liberal Democrats Support Saffron Screen



● Newly elected District Councillor for Newport ward, Andrew Yarwood at Saffron Walden's weekend cinema.

Liberal Democrat councillors have actively supported Saffron Screen, which opened in May at Saffron Walden County High School.

Lib Dem-led Uttlesford District Council gave £80,000 to pay for seating, and acoustic and blackout facilities. Lib Dem-run Saffron Walden Town Council also contributed a substantial sum.

You can get more details at www.saffronscreen.com, by telephoning 01799 501091 or from the Tourist Information Centre in Saffron Walden's Market Place. Tickets cost £5 (concessions £3.50).

When Lib Dem Cllr. Peter Wilcock was Chairman of Uttlesford District Council, he used some of his Youth Charity Fund to sponsor seats at Saffron Screen in memory of the late Councillor Bill Bowker, who represented Newport for 11 years. He said "I am pleased to give this money as a lasting memorial to Bill, who was so keen on supporting the young people of this area."

Conservatives would lose Saffron Walden MP on far less than Bromley swing



● Liberal Democrat Leader Ming Campbell MP with Bromley Lib Dem Parliamentary Candidate Ben Abbotts. David Cameron's Conservatives only just held on to Bromley, their seventeenth safest parliamentary seat. While the Liberal Democrats came within 633 votes of victory, Labour plummeted to a poor fourth place behind the UK Independence Party. A similar swing would see a Liberal Democrat MP elected to serve this area.

The 14% swing from Conservatives to Lib Dems in the Bromley by-election on 29 June is far more than what the Lib Dems need to win the Saffron Walden parliamentary constituency.

The 11% drop in the Conservative majority is the worst by-election result for the Conservatives in a Tory seat since Wirral South in February 1997 - in the last days of the John Major premiership.

No to New Nuclear

Commenting on the result of the government's energy review, Lib Dem Cllr. Geoffrey Sell said "What is needed is a decision to rule out an extension of nuclear power. This will allow Britain to focus on cleaner renewable energy."

In its first report, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority estimates that £56 billion will have to be spent cleaning up the UK's existing nuclear power stations.

Cllr. Sell summed up "Imagine where we would be if we could spend that kind of money on clean, safe, renewable energy."



● The Liberal Democrats want more investment in renewable energy - not Labour's proposals for more nuclear power stations.

Essex Meals on Wheels Hike

Conservative County Councillors voted for increases in the cost of Meals on Wheels from £2.30 to £3.50 - the biggest increase in the country! On top of earlier increases this makes a total of 67% increase in the cost of their meals on wheels in just one year.

Liberal Democrat County Councillors put forward plans for a much smaller increase, but the Conservatives voted them down.

Lib Dem Councillor Richard Harris said, "The Conservatives ignored Social Services' own research which showed that over half of the users could not afford such an increase. It is a major blow to our most vulnerable old folk. Many senior citizens are on fixed incomes and struggling to pay increases in council tax, electricity and gas as it is."



"Essex is the highest-charging county in England and Wales"

Sunday Mirror 9th April

Huge Increase in Recycling



● The Liberal Democrats are introducing wheelie bins to boost recycling and save money on landfill taxes.

Early indications are that the new 3 wheelie bin system being introduced by Liberal Democrat-led Uttlesford District Council has doubled the amount of recycling in areas that have the new bins.

Councillor Alan Thawley, Chair of the Environment Committee, says "It was clear that the green and black box schemes were incapable of boosting the proportion of waste being recycled."

"So we did two things in order to devise a new strategy to boost recycling. First we analysed the waste that we were sending to landfill, to understand what material would make the biggest

difference if we could recycle it. That analysis showed that we needed to recycle kitchen waste. Secondly we set out to examine best practice around the country. This led us to introduce a three bin recycling system."

Before implementation the Council undertook an extensive publicity campaign. This included recycling roadshows, regular press releases, articles in the Council magazine *Uttlesford Life* and a questionnaire to every household.

The new system is now being rolled out in phases across the district. The rollout started in June and will be completed by October.

Where do the other parties stand?

Conservatives

"Dave" Cameron says "Vote Blue. Get Green" but his local supporters are split on the recycling issue. Uttlesford's Conservative District Councillors voted for the introduction of wheelie bins at one Council meeting, then abstained at the next. Neighbouring East Herts. and Epping Forest District Councils have successfully introduced similar wheelie bin schemes. Both Councils are led by the Conservatives.

Labour

Labour lost their last District Councillors in this area in 2003, but the Labour government is enthusiastic about incineration.

The New Recycling Scheme

- Smelly kitchen waste is collected weekly in wheelie bins with brown lids.
- Dry recyclable material and any remaining waste are collected separately once a fortnight. On week 1, paper, card, plastic bottles and mixed cans will be collected in wheelie bins with green lids. On week 2, other waste will be collected in wheelie bins with grey lids. Residents will receive a calendar with collection dates on it.
- Alternatives are available for properties unsuitable for wheelie bins.
- Frail and disabled people who cannot cope with moving the wheelie bins can be given extra assistance by the refuse collectors.

- Glass bottles still need to be taken to bottle banks.
- The cost of burying waste in the ground is huge, both financially and environmentally.
- Uttlesford Council aims to increase recycling rates from 23% to 50% over the next three years.
- The black and green box schemes would not have achieved the 50% target. It has been shown that the use of wheelie bins makes it easier for people to recycle.
- The cost of fines imposed on Councils not achieving the targets will be much higher than the cost of the new system.



Uttlesford's Sustainability Champion Cllr. Vanessa Pedder answers your questions about the new three wheelie bin recycling system.

You can get more information from Uttlesford Council on 01799 510344 or at:

www.uttlesford.gov.uk/waste+and+recycling



Ming Campbell says "Join the Lib Dems today"

Your Name

Your address

Phone No./E-mail

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 Dem campaign

£50 £25 £10 £5 Other £

Please make cheques payable to "Saffron Walden Liberal Democrats". A donation of £6 or more entitles you to become a member of the Lib Dems, Please tick here if you do not wish to be enrolled

Please return to: Saffron Walden Constituency Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST CL2702, Stansted CM24 8BR

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