

FOCUS

Best Wishes for 2007

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|--|-------------------|
| Lib Dem 46% | Con 39% |
| Votes cast at the last District Council elections. Labour have no councillors left here. | |

Only the Lib Dems can beat the Tories in Uttlesford!

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Lab just 5% | Green 1% |
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Jan/Feb 2007

Edited by Councillors Mike Hibbs, Keith Crook and David Rhodes

www.saffronwaldenlibdems.org.uk

Legal Challenge To Tory Street Light Switch Off

Conservative-controlled Essex County Council is backtracking away from its threat to switch off Saffron Walden's street lights after midnight. The climb-down follows a threat of legal action by Lib Dem-controlled Uttlesford District Council and the Town Council.

Lib Dem Councillor Mike Hibbs comments "The Conservatives' plan would make part of the town centre CCTV system inoperable and might encourage some people to drive instead of walking, so the effect on crime and energy consumption may well be bad."
"The Conservatives have made no effort to research the best way to reduce energy consumed by street lighting. No wonder the Institute of Lighting Engineers does not support their poorly thought out plans."



● Lib Dem councillors Keith Crook and David Rhodes discuss the Conservatives' climb-down from their threat to switch off street lights after midnight.

Value For Your Money



In addition to having the lowest Council Tax in Essex, Liberal Democrat-controlled Uttlesford District Council has reserves of £6 million.

In stark contrast, Conservative-controlled Essex County Council has recently announced plans to slash mobile library services. This follows draconian cuts to the County Council youth service. When it comes to meals-on-wheels for our senior citizens, Conservative-controlled Essex is the highest-charging County in England and Wales.

Recycling Rate Reaches 50% With Wheelie Bins

In November 2005, 24.7% of waste in Uttlesford was recycled. In November 2006 the figure was 50.1% - more than double what it was before the introduction of the new three wheelie bin system.

If the present rate of recycling continues, Uttlesford District will become one of the top ten Councils in the country for recycling.

According to the Audit Commission, the overall effect of introducing the new wheelie bin system is a £1,000,000-plus saving in the cost of sending waste to be buried in the ground, which represents "a significant reduction in future revenue costs."

Councillor Mike Hibbs comments "The new system and the enthusiastic support of local residents has doubled the amount we recycle. This helps the environment and represents a big saving on your future Council Tax. Liberal Democrats care for the Environment and your pocket."



● Lib Dem councillors Keith Crook and David Rhodes discuss the savings on your Council Tax resulting from the huge increase in levels of recycling after the introduction of wheelie bins in this area.

More Room To Play Needed



Liberal Democrat-led Saffron Walden Town Council has pledged itself to finding more playing fields for the town. Currently, we have less than half of the recommended amount of play space for a town of our size.

Cllr. Keith Crook, chairman of the Town Council's Recreation and Playing Fields Committee, writes "We have ring-fenced the £100,000 for this purpose, and we have a working party to identify suitable farmland on the edge of the town. Soon we expect to be entering into negotiations with landowners, to buy or to lease. We also have the mandate to purchase land by compulsory order if necessary, although this would only be as a last resort."

Liberal Democrats - Standing Up For Our Town



Councillor David Rhodes, who chairs the Town Council's Planning Committee, is campaigning for better facilities for the disabled.

Working with Uttlesford Council's Access Group and Essex County Council, David Rhodes has succeeded in getting the kerbs dropped at road junctions in the town to create crossing points.

Housing Need

Local Lib Dems are committed to tackling the need for more affordable local housing. There are 2,000 people on the Council's waiting list looking for housing. Whilst there is a need to build some new housing to meet local needs, there is also a great need to use the housing that is already available. Empty houses attract crime and devalue neighbouring properties.

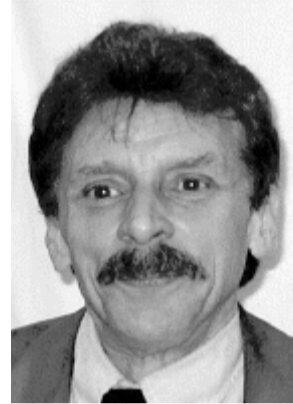
In order to tackle the problem, Liberal Democrat-controlled Uttlesford Council has launched a scheme to enable empty homes to be leased to a housing association, who in turn could access regional housing money to renovate the property and rent it out.

Liberal Democrat Councillor Mike Hibbs says: "We are also looking to see if there is any unused Council-owned land that can be released for lower cost housing."

- Uttlesford's council housing is due to reach the government's Decent Homes standard by this April, three years ahead of the government's target. This was driven forward by the late councillor Chris Bayley.

Here to help

Cllr. Mike Hibbs
☎ 525205



Cllr. Keith Crook
☎ 500847

Cllr. David Rhodes
☎ 502678



Cllr. Hilary Shibata
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Please call us if you think we can help.

Save Money And Help Save The Planet



Liberal Democrats are working to promote energy conservation to cut CO2 emissions. There are many simple things that you can do, which will save you money, and help to reduce global warming.

Join us to fight climate chaos



Climate change threatens everyone, from polar bears to humans alike. We are the last generation that can stop climate chaos from reaching a catastrophic tipping point. The Liberal Democrats are determined to make sure our politicians do not let us down. Join our campaign today by returning this form.



Name/s _____
 Address _____
 Postcode _____ Phone _____
 Email _____

Help us fight to protect our planet from climate chaos

- I enclose a donation cheque to the "Liberal Democrats" for:
 - £100 £50 £25 Other: £ _____
- I can help deliver some leaflets in my area.
- I will display a poster for the Liberal Democrats at election time.

A donation of £6 or more entitles you to membership of the Lib Dems. Please tick here if you are already a member or do not wish to join:

Return to: Liberal Democrats,
 Freepost CL2702, Stansted
 CM24 8BR.



- Replace your old boiler. It could reduce your water heating bills by between £190-£240 per year. It could also reduce your carbon emissions by as much as a tonne.
 - Insulate your hot water tank with a jacket at least 75mm (3 inches) thick. Doing so could save you between £10-£20 a year, and reduce your carbon emissions by 150 kg a year.
 - Fill your cavity walls with insulation. It could save you between £70-£120 per year, and reduce your carbon emissions by up to a tonne.
- A British Gas-funded scheme offers Council Tax rebates worth up to £75 each to local residents who install energy-efficient measures in their homes. Call Uttlesford District Council on 01799 510510 for more details.
- The Council has been declared a highly commended runner-up in the prestigious National Energy Efficiency Awards.



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