



Happy New Year to all our readers, we hope you had a good Christmas and we wish you all the very best for 2009

We welcome new residents to the area and hope you find our regular Focus newsletters informative and helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to know more about the Liberal Democrats in your neighbourhood.

Call on shops to end plastic carrier bags

Sue & Jerry Roodhouse campaigning against plastic bags with fellow Lib Dems and Environment spokesperson Steve Webb MP



Shops in the UK handed out over 12 billion plastic carrier bags last year, that's over 400 for every household!

Plastic carrier bags cause a huge environmental problem. They get caught in trees and bushes not only making a horrible mess, but threatening our wildlife both on land and at sea.

Because we get so many, they have become a large part of the waste problem, costing council taxpayers a fortune to dispose of, usually by carbon emitting incineration.

This is why Liberal Democrats are keeping the pressure on and have launched a campaign to get local shops to use alternatives to plastic carrier bags. We have written to local businesses to ask them to switch to bags made from greener sources, such as recycled paper or re-usable cloth.

Former Conservative Councillor joins Liberal Democrats

Dave Elson, formerly a Conservative Councillor, has joined the Liberal Democrats saying that it is the only local party which puts the community first and allows their councillors to vote without applying party dogma and a whip system.

He is now urging other disenchanted Conservatives to come and join the Liberal Democrats. Contact us at www.rugbylibdems.org.uk



Liberal Democrats demand tax cuts to help beat recession

Liberal Democrats across Rugby have called for a cut in income tax for people on low and middle incomes, to help them beat the recession.

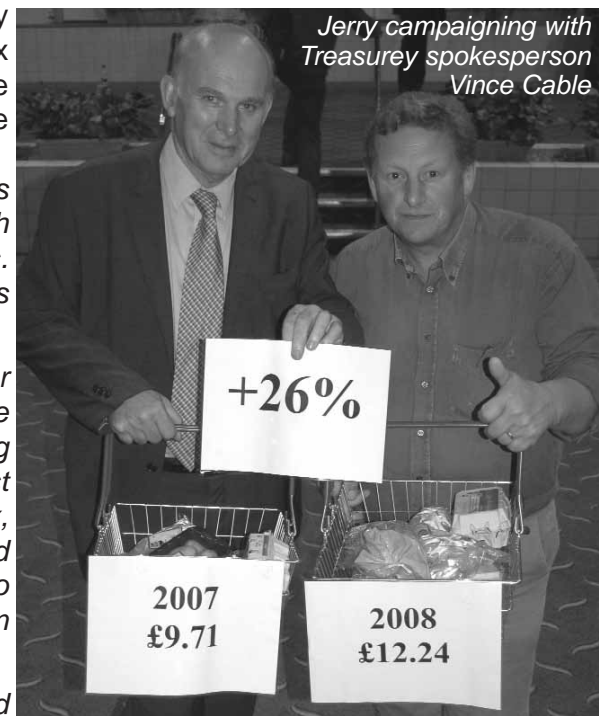
Jerry Roodhouse said "Residents of Rugby are struggling with rising fuel and housing costs. They need money in their pockets now!"

Liberal Democrats are calling for a cut in income tax of 4p in the £1. It will be paid for by closing the loopholes used by the most wealthy to avoid paying tax, cutting government waste and extravagance. We also want to increase the level of tax on heavily polluting activities".

"Far too many people are faced with the prospect of either eating properly or heating their homes. Action is needed now to help residents of Rugby who are struggling with rising prices. "Many residents on low incomes are paying more in tax following the government's decision to double the starting rate of income tax to 20p in the pound. Even though the government was eventually forced to come forward with a package to compensate people for the tax increase, many are still worse off.

"Cutting income tax will therefore give residents and our local economy a boost, at a time when it is desperately needed."

Join our campaign by using the freepost address on the reverse or e-mail info@rugbylibdems.org.uk



Liberal Democrats in Action

Cllr Noreen New successfully campaigned to stop a pen which looks like a syringe filled with fake blood, being sold to young children; this came about following a security alert at a local primary school. Councillor New says, "We are constantly warning our children not to pick up syringes or sharp objects, because of the risks associated with HIV and Hepatitis, then we find a retailer selling this 'replica syringe' pen to impressionable young children."

Trading standards have been informed and following complaints from Cllr New, the Clock Towers security staff promptly went along and advised the shop to remove the pens from sale in the Rugby precinct.

The pen will no longer be sold to children under 16.

