

Kenilworth FOCUS



www.libdems.org.uk

Liberal Democrats keeping in touch ALL YEAR ROUND

Spring 2004



John Whitehouse, Vice-Chairman Kenilworth Lib Dems, with Councillors Ann Blacklock and Dave Shilton.

Local Liberal Democrats are calling on the Government to scrap the unfair Council Tax.

The unfair Council Tax has almost doubled since 1994 - largely because the Government has loaded tax on to local councils in an effort to hold down national taxes.

Pensioners and the poor pay more of their income under Labour than anyone else. The Lib Dems are campaigning to axe the Council Tax and replace it with a local income tax based on your ability to pay.

The Council Tax was a Conservative idea when they panicked over how to scrap the hated poll tax. Other parties on the District Council have agreed there is a need for a change from the Council Tax, but are unwilling to support the idea of a Local Income Tax.

The poorest 20% of pensioners pay nearly 6 times more than the richest 20% of non-pensioners, as a proportion of their income. **IS THIS FAIR?**

Council Tax Latest!

Warwick District Council has now set its 2004/2005 increase at 8.1%. Together with the County Council rise of 6.6% and Police Authority increase of 7.9%, this means an overall increase in council tax of about **7%**. Lower than feared, but way above inflation, and hitting those hardest who can least afford it.

If you're a pensioner or otherwise on low income, you may well be entitled to Council Tax Relief — ask for details at the Kenilworth Connection.

Is this fair?	
Prime Minister Tony Blair	Pensioners 'Mr & Mrs Brown'
Income - £175,414 per year	Income - £12,500 per year
Westminster Council Tax Band H - £1140	Warwick District Council Tax Band D - £1095
0.6% of earnings	8.8% of earnings

2003/2004 data

To: John Prescott MP, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

We call on the Government to scrap the unfair and outdated Council Tax and replace it with a fair alternative based on the ability to pay.

Name	Address	Phone / e-mail

Please return to: Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST (MID 15573), Rugby CV22 6BR



'Fireworks Act mustn't be a damp squib' - Ann Blacklock

Councillors Ann Blacklock and Dave Shilton have been pressing the District Council to take a strong line on the misuse of fireworks. Ann said "New Government legislation gives us the chance to reduce the risk of serious injury to children. We need to stamp down on black market fireworks that don't meet British safety standards. The Council must take this seriously and use the powers to the full."

Tuition Fees - the battle's not over

Councillor Pat Ryan, a full-time teacher of sixth-form students, said: "The Government may have won a hollow victory in the House of Commons, but the battle is far from over. Lib Dem MP's and peers will try to amend the bill in its later stages. Only the Lib Dems have policies that are fair to students and most taxpayers."

Find out more on www.scraptuitionfees.com

The "Connection" moves to new premises

In January the Kenilworth Connection moved to larger premises - still at Abbey End - in the former car showroom. All alterations have been carried out at the expense of the property developer, Grewayne.

The Focus team would like to thank the staff for their excellent and unfailingly cheerful work.

Talisman Square

The saga goes on Kenilworth needs better shopping facilities, but not at any cost. All Lib Dem councillors are working hard to ensure that planned developments meet the real needs of the town, and in particular to safeguard the future of the Community Centre. Councillor Dave Shilton said: "This is sacrosanct—until the Youth Centre is moved to good replacement premises in the town centre, nothing else can happen."

Skateboard Park

The site is chosen (Castle Farm), now let's make it happen quickly! Lib Dem councillors are 100% behind the Skateboarders Action Group in their efforts.

Your Lib Dem Team

- Cllr Ann Blacklock (Abbey & Burton Gn.) 853740
- Cllr Doug Golby (Park Hill) 777574
- Cllr Pat Ryan (Abbey)779920
- Cllr Dave Shilton (Park Hill) 864873
- Cllr Haydn Thomas (Abbey & Burton Gn.) 854342
- Kevin Holt 850111
- Shirley Shilton 864873
- Richard Sweeney 854966
- Alison Tyler 748588
- John Whitehouse 512130

WARD SURGERIES

If you need help with a problem then come along to Kenilworth Connection between 10.00am & noon on the 3rd Saturday of the month

Saturday 20 March
Saturday 17 April



Rights for Disabled People

Liz Lynne, Lib Dem MEP for the West Midlands, has welcomed the overwhelming decision by the European Parliament to support her report on development of a UN Convention on Disabled People's Rights.

Liz said "The fact that politicians from across Europe and the political spectrum united in support of this report bodes well for the UN Convention. But Europe must lead by example, which is why we must begin to work on a specific EU-wide disability law.

THERE'S NO BETTER TIME TO JOIN THE WINNING TEAM

I am willing to deliver a round of Focus in my area

I would like more info. about the Lib Dems

Name.....

Address

Phone

Please return to
John Whitehouse,
47 Sunningdale Ave Kenilworth
phone 512130 or e-mail
john.whitehouse@btinternet.com



STOP PRESS:

New Kenilworth Lib Dem Website

You can now visit us at: www.kenilworth.libdems.org.uk