



# Liberal Democrat FOCUS

## on Guild & Hathaway ward

From your local Liberal Democrat Councillors



Above: the site at Ettington that will be used for sorting the re-cyclable household waste. Neither this site nor the one at Ufton - to be used for the 'in vessel composting' of kitchen and green waste - were ready for the start of the new waste contract. So in the meantime waste for re-cycling is being hauled to Walsall for sorting.

The County Council said the reason the Ufton site wasn't ready was because they hadn't been told it would be needed at the time the Conservatives agreed to the new waste contract!

# Rubbish!

'FIASCO' AND 'AN UTTER SHAMBLES' were just a few of the words used by a local paper to describe what happened with the changes to the Council's household waste collections. The Lib Dems have demanded an enquiry by the Council into why things went so badly - and expensively - wrong.

Cllr Hazel Wright, Leader of the Lib Dems on the District Council, said, 'we welcome increased re-cycling but it doesn't help when changes are introduced with so many problems'.

Problems included -

- three changes of plans in as many months.
- both the units intended to take waste for re-cycling - at Ufton and Ettington - weren't ready.
- not enough wheelie bins, with thousands of households having to wait to move on to the new system.

The Lib Dems believe residents should have been consulted before changes were made. But the Conservatives thought they knew best. Even simple suggestions from the Lib Dems were voted down - such as asking someone from Warwick Council to come and talk to Stratford about the lessons they had learnt when they changed to wheelie bins earlier this year.

And there are more changes still to come:

- in November green garden waste collections will stop
- in April the weekly collection of the grey bin will become fortnightly and the fortnightly collection of garden waste will start again, with kitchen waste to be added to it in alternate weeks.
- smaller bins will be made available in the new year - but only 'small' households with no more than two residents can have them!

If you want to register to have your bins changed for smaller ones (120 litre, versus the 240 litre current bins) please call the Council on 01789 260925. Please note that whilst to start with this swap will be free, after March the Conservatives have decided to charge £15 for each swap.

Fiasco really isn't too strong a word to use when it comes to the new refuse collections...

...the constant uncertainty on the Council's part, the persistent changes, the total confusion, the sheer lack of public communication displayed throughout, it is an utter shambles.

*Editorial in The Stratford Observer, 17th July 2008.*

## Parking plans slammed

Lib Dem Councillors have refused to back proposals put forward for parking in Stratford. The plan included higher parking charges for residents and had as one of its main aims 'to improve the financial viability of the Stratford Park and Ride'.

Parking charges for both on and off street parking could rise considerably, with the number of parking spaces in the centre of Town being significantly reduced. Proposals include increasing the Park and Ride charge to £1-50 per passenger and off-street parking to 70p per 30 minutes.

Lib Dem District Councillors voted against the proposals because they felt the parking needs of local residents and businesses had not been properly addressed. The whole approach had been a revenue raising exercise, without properly consulting local people.



Left: not everything in the new plan was wrong. The Lib Dems have been pressing for a long time for Arden Street to be made a short term car park. This would make it easier for residents to use it for the hospital, avoiding the heavy charges in the hospital car park.

## £317,000 goes on bridge

Now that the bridge over the Avon is not going ahead, the Lib Dems have been told that £317,000 was spent on costs that will have to be written off.

The Conservative Leader said that the bridge had been cancelled on cost grounds. Several Tory Councillors are claiming that, 'at long last your local Conservative councillors have been listened to'.

We'd hoped that it had been cancelled because at long last the Conservatives had decided to listen to what residents wanted!

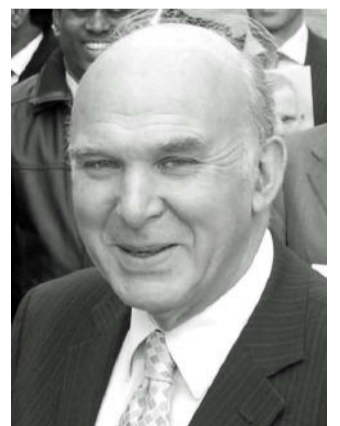
## Lib Dems call for tax cuts for hard pressed families

Tax cuts for ordinary people would be the Lib Dem priority, promised Nick Clegg at the party's national conference in September.

His aim is to boost the economy by cutting taxes from the bottom up - ordinary people first. Identity Cards and some defence spending no longer relevant to the needs of today's armed forces would be cut and there would be a switch to green taxes.

Locally the Lib Dems have always been the party pressing to keep Council Tax low. The Tories took over the running of the District Council in 2000, since when they have more than doubled the district's Council Tax.

'With inflation at its present level, times are hard for many people. The Council has a duty not to make things harder. Council Tax should be kept as low as possible', said Cllr Hazel Wright, Leader of the Liberal Democrats on the District Council.



Above: Vince Cable, Deputy Leader of the Lib Dems. Ex Chief Economist at Shell and according to many commentators, right on all the economic issues.

# Stratford's 'historic spine'

The Lib Dems believe that one of the best ideas to come forward for phase 2 of World Class Stratford is the 'historic spine' being promoted by the Stratford Society, supported by others.

This would highlight and improve the central area between Shakespeare's Birthplace in Henley Street and Holy Trinity Church. This route contains many of Stratford's finest buildings. With historically appropriate shop-fronts, more sympathetic lighting, de-cluttering and better pavements and pedestrian access, we believe this could be a striking feature – benefiting both residents and visitors. And it shouldn't cost too much and some parts could be done quickly.

**Below: the walk from the Birthplace to Holy Trinity passes many of Stratford's historic buildings.**



**Harvard House  
The Garrick**

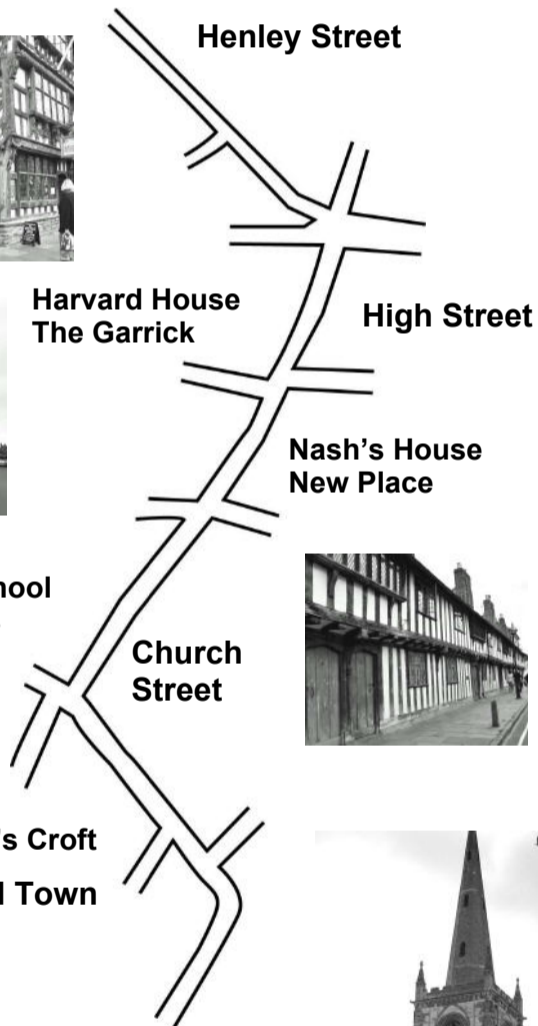
**Harvard House  
The Garrick**



**Nash's House  
New Place**

**Guild Chapel  
Grammar School  
Alms Houses**

**Church  
Street**



**Above:** the 'historic spine' of Stratford. Simple changes could result in a much improved walk that could be enjoyed by residents and tourists.

## Your local Lib Dem Councillors



**Ron Cockings**  
District Councillor  
292715



**Jenny Fradgley**  
Town & District Cllr  
266369

**Town Councillors:**

**Bill Dowling**  
266192

**Clive Thomas**  
551648

**Sheila Sandle**  
268322

**Kate Dill-Russell**  
205819

# Where now for Phase 2 of World Class Stratford?

Phase 2 of World Class Stratford is now being planned and the local Lib Dems are pressing hard for lessons to be learnt from Phase 1. The Bancroft and the bridge clearly show how things shouldn't be done.

The Lib Dems believe that the proposals so far do not address the long term issues facing the Town, such as traffic and over-development.

Advantage West Midlands has provided money towards re-developing the theatre, which is a key part of the Town's tourist attractions. However, we mustn't lose sight of the need to attract long term, well paid employment. With the national economic picture growing worse the Lib Dems believe it's essential for the District Council to re-launch its Economic Development Unit, abolished under recent Conservative cuts.

### One single, simple plan

For the next phase the Lib Dems want all the proposals pulled together in a single, simple plan, so that residents can see the whole picture in a joined up way. We're keen to see the energy and experience of local groups used productively. It seems a waste to keep paying for consultants when local voluntary groups could be used. Why not let 'Stratford in Bloom' provide planting schemes? The Stratford Society, the Town Management Partnership

and our arts organisations have a wealth of talent to draw upon.

For Phase 2 residents must be properly consulted and invited to play their part – especially on any plans put forward for the Recreation Ground. The Town Management Partnership, the RSC and others are doing excellent work looking at festivals and activities to enliven the Town. We're determined to make sure these happen without over-commercialising the Rec.

### Don't concrete the Town

The Town's Urban Design Framework sets out long-term proposals and contains some good ideas but much of it depends on attracting developers. We don't believe that should be taken as a license to concrete the Town or allow unlimited development in unsympathetic design.

But ultimately whatever happens must be acceptable to the majority of residents. It looks as though the money from the cancelled bridge project could still be available to the Town. What would you like to see done as a priority? If you have views please let us know by filling in and returning the coupon below.

## Let us know:

What do you think World Class Stratford should be tackling next? Lucy's Mill bridge and traffic were mentioned by many people in the Lib Dem's survey of views on the 'bridge', but do you have any other suggestions?

From: \_\_\_\_\_ address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send to Lib Dems, 55 Ely Street, Stratford CV37 6LN or reply through our website: [stratfordlibdems.org.uk](http://stratfordlibdems.org.uk). Thank you.**

The Liberal Democrats may contact you from time to time with information that we think may be of interest to you. Some of these contacts may be automated. Please write to us if you don't want to be contacted in this way.

## Maples climate U-turn

Local MP John Maples has made a dramatic U-turn, stating that he no longer feels that climate change is an urgent issue and not as drastic as many scientists and environmentalists claim.

His comments came as he announced that he no longer supported the Government's Climate Change Bill, despite previous promises that he would 'push to make it stronger'. He cites former Tory Chancellor Nigel Lawson as his main reason for changing his mind. The U-turn has astonished local environmentalists. Martin Turner, Stratford Lib Dems' parliamentary spokesman, described the change as 'baffling'.

On the District Council the Lib Dems have persuaded a Council meeting to reiterate the Council's aim of reducing its carbon footprint and supporting the inclusion on the Council's website of a link to allow residents to find out their own carbon footprint.

**(Go to: [www.stratford.gov.uk](http://www.stratford.gov.uk) living in the district / environment / carbon footprint)**

## Fence 'within planning laws'



**Above: the new fence has proved unpopular with residents.**

Residents in the Shottery Road area are unhappy with the fence that has been put up around the land next to the Shell site on Evesham Road - and so are Ron and Jenny.

It appears that the fence complies with planning laws: it can be up to two metres high provided that it is two or more metres from the edge of the highway. Checks have shown that this is the case. But nobody seems to think it's appropriate for a gateway to Stratford.

Ron and Jenny have asked the District Council, through its Planning and Regulation Committee, to see what powers it has to bring about improvements.