

Focus

on Barncroft ward



Edited by
Liam Hutchings

ELECTION SPECIAL

www.havant-libdems.org

TIME FOR A CHANGE

Liam Hutchings, Barncroft's Lib Dem candidate in the May 1st election, says its time for a change on Havant Council.

"The Tories have 31 seats out of 38. They are ruining the town, cutting services and doing little for Leigh Park." he said.

Liam has lived in Havant nearly all his life and was a former councillor for the town. He served for 10 years as a Trustee of Havant CAB and retired as chair last year. He is a governor of Barncroft Junior School and a committee member of the local horticultural society.

Liam has a fine record of serving the community and he will make a difference for Barncroft, if elected.

Bus station shock



Havant Bus station has only been open for a year but is already under threat from Tory budget cuts. It will close on weekday evenings and Sundays so the Tories can save £24,000.

Lib Dem, Liam Hutchings, said Barncroft residents will be badly hit by the closures.

"It means people having to wait outside in the cold with no access to the toilets."

Lib Dem councillors had wanted the council to defer increasing councillors' allowances. This would have given the council £20,000. But it was thrown out by Labour and Tory councillors. Meanwhile, Havant Council has signed a new Green Charter

pledging action to improve the environment.

Leigh Park County Councillor, Ann Buckley, said the Tories were saying one thing and doing the opposite.

"They want us to believe they care about the environment, but their attitude towards public transport shows they don't."



Cllr Ann Buckley



More pressure on local open spaces

Future plans for the area could see many more homes being built on local open spaces. The Labour government insists Havant must build 6300 more homes over the next 20 years.

Liam Hutchings said,

"Obviously Hooks Lane is going to be among the open spaces at risk. The council must make sure we've got the services that go with more houses and that includes local shops, doctors and support services."

The plans can be viewed for public comment, by April 25th, in local libraries and the council's website: www.havant.gov.uk.



Goodbye green spaces

Labour's daylight rent robbery



From April council rents will rise by 5% locally. A large slice of the increase will go to the Labour government. Tenants everywhere are very angry and plan a march in London.

Money from rents and the sale of council houses is grabbed to fill government coffers. Lib Dems say this is Labour's daylight robbery and unfair on tenants faced with spiralling energy costs.



Park policing success

Lib Dem councillors have praised police and local volunteers for their success in the battle against crime.

Figures for last year show a reduction of 9% in Leigh Park against 7% borough-wide.

News that the Pride of Place drop-in centre in Greywell is to shut on 16th May has been met with anger from local residents. Lib Dem Battins Councillor, Faith Ponsonby, has been working with volunteers to explore how the

centre could be saved. Faith told Focus:

"I've met the landlords and they would assist moving to a smaller unit if some money could be found to help with rent and running cost."



CONTACT LIAM:

Write to: Liam Hutchings, Havant Liberal Democrats, Freepost PT635, Emsworth, PO10 7BR (you don't have to use a stamp, but using one saves money for campaigning) or **phone** 9247 3512

Time for a change in Barningcroft Ward

Liam HUTCHINGS		
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Stop wasting(our)money

The Tory-run county council was recently exposed in a BBC programme for spending £145,000 on bottled water. They spent another £75,000 hiring a new council boss and then refused to disclose his salary to the press.

Havant council's portion of the council tax on Band D property makes it the second highest in Hampshire.



ACTION **FILE**

Ann Buckley reports back

Footpath action

I was told about the need for a new footway in Purbrook Way as passengers cannot get out of cars because of a steep bank. This has now been agreed and work will start shortly.

Pitch clear-up

It's good to see the Prospect School in Woolston Road is being well used by the local community, particularly the sports pitches.

There are plans for new homes on the former playing field but in the meantime the field has become a dumping ground and I have arranged for people doing their Community Service to clear the site.

Local support

I'm delighted to have been able to arrange county council grants to Malmesbury Lawn and Lawns Day Centre (£500), Relate (£500), Arthritic Care for days out (£500), Neighbourhood Watch for new signs (£500), Park Media Group for recording equipment (£1000), SSAFA - for ex-service people and their families - (£1000) for office equipment, Royal British Legion for a new flag pole and Havant Over-55 group (£500).

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REAL SUPPORT FROM
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COUNTY COUNCILLOR**