

# F Battins ward FOCUS

News and views from the Lib Dem Team

Community  
First



March 2008



## Faith pledges to continue working hard for Battins

Eighteen months ago Lib Dem, Faith Ponsonby, won a famous victory in a Battins by-election. In recent elections, Lib Dems have become a strong force on Leigh Park.

Now Faith is bidding for a full four year term as Battins Lib Dem Councillor on Havant Council.

Since her election, Faith has taken every opportunity to make Battins' voice heard. She is still campaigning for half-hour free parking in Greywell, better bus services, action against vandalism. She supports various community groups and helps with residents' concerns.

A retired teacher, latterly at Havant College, Faith has 4 grown-up children, 3 grandchildren and lives in Emsworth. She has worked closely with youngsters through her church and as a former Scout Leader.

## Cheers - Is that Perrier or a Portsmouth Water regular?

A recent BBC programme revealed that the Tory-run county council was gulping its way through bottled water costing an amazing £145,000 last year. The Council Leader says it's because Hampshire is a bigger council and so drinks more. As excuses go this must rank as one of the silliest on record. Bottled water wastes energy, costs a fortune and creates a mountain of waste plastic.

### YET MORE WASTE



Hampshire's Tories are wasting even more of our money by spending £70,000 advertising for a new council boss. No wonder they put up council tax by 5% again this year.

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## 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 Councillor, Faith Ponsonby says Battins residents will be badly hit by the closures. "People will have to wait outside in the cold and won't be able to use 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 for the environment, but their attitude towards public transport shows they don't."

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# Teamwork is key to defeating school vandals



Thousands of pounds of council taxpayers' money is being spent on repairs to windows and roofs of our schools. Trostant Schools and TROSPACC have been badly hit. Pupils have put up posters begging for the money be spent on much-needed equipment instead of on repairs. **Local councillors meet regularly with the police to see what can be done. This has led to locking gates in the evenings and more regular patrols. But the best protection is for local residents to keep their eyes and ears open and keep phoning to report incidents.**

Better news on parking problems near the school. County Cllr, Ann Buckley, has been working with local residents to get better signs and road markings. There could be a Traffic Regulation Order to help control parking - watch out for public notices.

## ...but Tories cut spending on young people

Havant Youth Council is likely to lose out after reductions in support staff to help balance the Budget. This is yet another blow to the Borough's teenagers. Youth clubs have already closed, or opening times cut. The Tory County Council spends less than any other county on youth services.

Battins Cllr Faith Ponsonby said: **"We need our young people to be really involved in decision making. We cannot complain about vandalism and groups of youngsters hanging around on street corners if we don't work together as a community to find outlets for their energy."**

## Rent Hike is daylight 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.

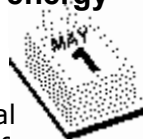
Money from rents and the sale of council houses is grabbed to fill government coffers. **Lib Dems say this is Labour's daylight robbery and unfair on tenants faced with spiralling energy costs.**

### REMINDERS

Anyone can **vote by post**, but you need to ring the Electoral Services Office at the Council (023 9244 6225) **TODAY** for an application form.

**AND** check the library for the plans for allocating **new houses** in the Borough - you need to put your comments in by **April 25th.**

**Don't forget** to have your say on how Leigh Park **Library** can spend its lottery money on **April 3rd**, at 10 a.m. or 6 p.m.



## Hooray for The Hawks

There's never been a prouder moment in the history of Havant than the sight of our football team at the Kop. A dream made magic when the home side had to come back twice to avoid a spectacular defeat.

Leigh Park County Cllr, Ann Buckley, said that Havant Museum will soon feature a display celebrating the Hawks' historic achievement.

Meanwhile,

**PLAY UP  
POMPEY!**



## Lidl site concerns

Pedestrians are being forced out on the road with push-chairs or buggies, and there have been several near misses - apart from the mess and noise. Cllr Faith Ponsonby is monitoring this with the help of local residents. Let Faith know if you have problems with the site.

## We're here to help

[www.havant-libdems.org.uk](http://www.havant-libdems.org.uk)

Telephone 012 4337 2825

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## ... can you help?

Can you join our Focus delivery team, or help Faith with clerical work? Please ring her NOW.