

# FOCUS



ON **BEDHAMPTON**

Edited by  
*John Sawtell*

**ELECTION SPECIAL 1**  
[www.havant-libdems.org](http://www.havant-libdems.org)

## “We can do better,” says John



**John Sawtell**

### **Ann’s action makes Hulbert Road safer**

In the January issue of Focus we reported that after pressure from Cllr Ann Buckley, action would be taken on improving safety in Hulbert Road. Ann had found out that money earmarked for this work remained sitting in the Council’s coffers for 10 years instead of being spent. The work has been completed and Ann would like to thank residents for their support.

Lib Dem, John Sawtell said,

“This is an excellent result and came about because Ann asked the right questions and uncovered the money.”

“Speed remains a problem throughout our area and, if elected, I will work with local councillors to push for effective measures.”

Bedhampton Lib Dems have chosen John Sawtell as their candidate in the Havant Council election on May 1st. John has lived with his family and worked in the Borough for over 40 years.

John told Focus, “this election comes at a critical time as Havant Council prepares a new blueprint for the development of our area over the next 20 years.”

“Many of the changes thrust on us have not been for the better. That makes it important we have a vocal and effective opposition to the Tories’ almost complete dominance of Havant Council.”

Bedhampton Lib Dem councillor, Ann Buckley said, “I’m delighted that John has come forward for this challenge and, if elected, it would be good news for Bedhampton, Havant and the Lib Dem team.”

The election on May 1st sees over a third of the council seats up for grabs. 31 of the 38 member council are Conservatives.



### **Progress in the Park**

Working as a team, Bedhampton Councillors have delivered various improvements to the local Recreation ground in Scratchface Lane. It followed a Bedhampton resident contacting Ann Buckley. Ann opted for a team approach and this has resulted in new goal posts, a new barrier at the entrance and other measures. Ann said, “Partnership pays off and benefits the community.”

# Goodbye to green spaces?

Havant Council is consulting on the preferred sites for new homes and other developments in the proposed Local Development Framework. A total of 6301 new homes have been allocated to the Borough to be built over the next 20 years.

**Many of the proposed sites are in Bedhampton on green open spaces. Among those listed are:**

- ◆ Crossways - War Memorial Hospital.
- ◆ Hooks Lane playing fields
- ◆ Land W. of Brooklands Road and Hillmead Gdns
- ◆ Littlepark House (S. of Asda)
- ◆ S. of Portsdown Hill Road
- ◆ S. of Lower Road
- ◆ Former Rec. N. of Harts Farm Way
- ◆ Kingscroft Farm
- ◆ and in St. Faiths Ward, Portsmouth Water Co. land in West St. and Palk Road.



The exhibition is in Havant Library and the Civic Offices until 25th April. On the website you can zoom in on the maps, and get detailed information.

Lib Dem, John Sawtell, told Focus: **"It is vital that everyone looks at the maps and the documents to see the massive extent of housing and other development that is proposed, and then send their comments to the Council by April 25th."**

Ann Buckley said "Bedhampton seems to have more than its share of these proposed sites. There are very real concerns about the lack of infrastructure to support all these new buildings. **Please do not miss this opportunity to make your views known.**"



## Havant Museum funding threat

Hundreds of residents have signed a petition opposing closure after a Havant Council decided to withdraw funding after March 2009.

Bedhampton County Cllr Ann Buckley said,

"I am very disappointed about the delay with the consultants report. I feel that Havant Council are not giving this sufficient priority."

### Ann & John want to hear from you



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**Can you help them e.g by delivering some leaflets?**

## 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, John Sawtell, said

"Some Bedhampton 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.

**Bedhampton 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."**

## Council Tax comparison is an own goal

The latest issue of the Tories 'In Touch' leaflet compares council tax in Havant with councils run by Labour and Lib Dem councils. It suggests that Havant is the lowest. Focus did some research of its own and, based on official county council figures, Havant Council now has the, er, **second** highest tax in the county. All questions please to the Tory candidate.

### District CT element (rounded) BAND D

Gosport	£463
<b>Havant</b>	<b>£414</b>
Rushmoor	£399
New Forest	£369
Eastleigh*	£356
Winchester	£326
East Hants	£308
Hart	£297
Test Valley	£291
Fareham	£283
Basingstoke	£271

\* Lib Dem controlled



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