

Rusty Cutter rumbles on as Tories blame each other



There have been numerous problems with the Bedhampton Teardrop junction but it has now been agreed that the lanes will be re-painted. Meanwhile, Havant Council's deputy Tory leader, David Guest, recently attacked the Tories running Hampshire County Council for causing the problems.

Lib Dem, John Sawtell, said,
"I'm amazed the two authorities don't work more closely together. After all, the Havant Council Leader serves on both councils." The junction project was funded by SEEDA, an unelected quango, as part of opening up Broadmarsh Industrial area.

FOR ALL CYCLISTS

Work is well ahead on a new cycle path connecting Broadmarsh with Havant and Eastern Road in Portsmouth. The £118,000 project, funded by Hampshire County Council, will provide a vital link between the two towns.

"I'm delighted we've managed to go forward with this scheme," said Ann Buckley, Bedhampton's Lib Dem County councillor. "More and more people are re-discovering the joys and benefits of cycling and there's the added plus of our lovely coastline along the way." The work will be completed by the summer



Police: high profile to beat vandals

Bedhampton will have increased police out on the beat and a regular monthly surgery for all residents under the new neighbourhood policing scheme.

Cllr Ann Buckley said 'I welcome this change: everyone in the area, including residents in the West Street, part of Bedhampton area, and Chidham Park, can now attend the

meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 6pm at the Bedhampton Social Hall and meet with the Police team and Neighbourhood Watch.



Slow progress on Broadmarsh future

Over two years ago an all-party group of councillors, chaired by the Lib Dems, recommended action to make the whole area more welcoming to locals and visitors. Not a lot has happened since, although there have been talks with Hampshire Wildlife Trust.

Without funding, talk is about as far as it gets. The council latest plans show the area as leisure but details are sparse. Lib Dems say the council was given an action plan and should now get on with it.



Labour's tax shock

Bedhampton's lower paid people - many who voted Labour in the past - have said they are disgusted by the recent tax changes.

Experts say the main losers from the scrapping of the 10p tax band are pensioners, young soldiers and couples with no children earning less than £18500 a year.

For many it means losing up to £230 which on top of spiralling energy and other costs is causing real hardship. Lib Dems think the 10p cut was a cheap stunt so Gordon Brown could take 2p off the standard tax rate.



Liberal Democrats have:

- * fought hard to keep our open spaces
 - * been praised by green groups for their policies - it was the Lib Dems who pushed for Fair Trade and action against plastic bags across Hampshire and low energy bulbs
 - * uncovered thousands of pounds of unspent money to improve road safety
 - * opposed councillors raising their own pay
 - * led the campaign to stop building in Broadmarsh
 - * spoken up for the 2000 people concerned about the new mega Tesco
 - * publicised unclaimed Council Tax benefits
- AND MORE

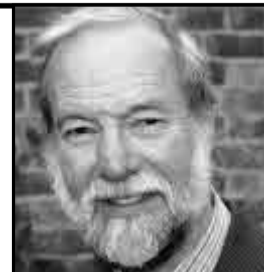
Just a few reasons to Vote Lib Dem on May 1st



A Great Team

For a lift to the polls, or to contact John, please phone: 023 9279 0401

John SAWTELL



Bedhampton Ward FOCUS

**ELECTION
SPECIAL**

Edited by

John

Sawtell

www.havant-libdems.org

Our green fields are NOT safe in their hands

Bedhampton residents have discovered that hundreds of new houses could be allocated to green sites in the area.

Plans published by the Tory-run Council show potential new housing sites in Lower Road, Bedhampton, West Bedhampton and on land adjoining the A3M near Hillmead Gardens as well as Hooks Lane Recreation ground.

The new homes are part of 6300 Havant Council has agreed to create over the next 20 years. The homes are included in the Local Plan, being prepared by the Council covering jobs, transport, shopping and much more.

Some Tories are claiming that the Labour government told Havant how many homes to build but Lib Dem, John

Sawtell, said: "Havant Council linked up with ten other Hampshire authorities who agreed to build 80,000 dwellings."

"Havant came away with 6300 of them knowing that 1500 - about a quarter - would have to go in green field sites in Bedhampton, Emsworth and St Faiths wards."

Bedhampton County Councillor, Ann Buckley, agreed, "It has the feel of being a done deal but I urge everybody to make their views known to the Council before the 25th April by writing or sending in the forms available in the Library or on the council's website."



Three of the larger sites in Bedhampton

A personal message from John Sawtell

Dear Elector,

Many thanks for the messages of goodwill sent to me by residents during the campaign. This is my first time as a candidate in a local election so everything has been quite new and rather challenging.

Many have commented to me on the work being done by my colleague, Councillor Ann Buckley, who serves on Hampshire and Havant Councils.

If you choose to vote Lib Dem on May 1st I'm confident we will make a great team.

Bedhampton, like other parts of Havant, is facing a rising tide of new development. That's why its important we remain vigilant and work together, irrespective of party, to secure our community's interest. If elected, I will to work with everybody to ensure this happens.

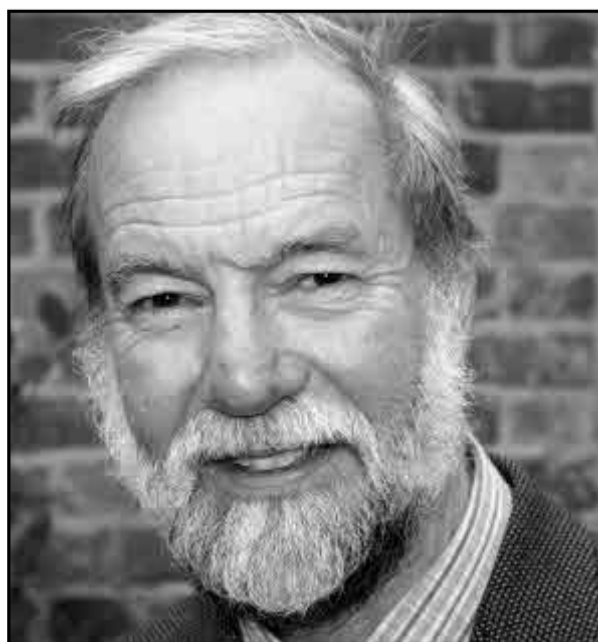
Best wishes, John Sawtell

More about the Lib Dem candidate

John Sawtell and his family moved to Havant nearly 40 years ago. He worked in the chemical industry and then for a major computer services company.

After early retirement he and his wife, Lindie, started second careers teaching English as a foreign language.

John has been a governor at St Alban's Primary School in West Leigh for many years, including serving as Chairman of Governors. John studied Mathematics at university which is where he met his wife. They have three sons and have recently become grandparents.



BEDHAMPTON PO SAVED FROM THE AXE THIS TIME

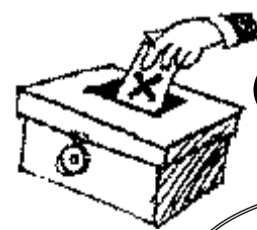


Local Lib Dem councillors joined residents in gathering hundreds of signatures against Post Office closures in Leigh Park.

Havant Lib Dem group leader, Cllr Susan Stocker, got behind the petition while Ann Buckley took the fight to PO bosses and up to the County Council.

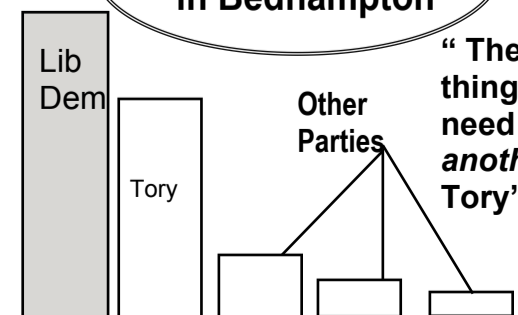
"For many, the Post Office is a lifeline and a cornerstone of the community," said Susan. Meanwhile, in Parliament, Lib Dem MP's backed an opposition motion urging Labour to stop the closures. It was defeated by 20 votes. Portsmouth South Lib Dem MP, Mike Hancock, voted for the motion while Sarah McCarthy-Fry, the Portsmouth North Labour MP, supported the government.

Play up Pompey
Good luck from
The Focus team



A quick guide to this election

2007 election results in Bedhampton



"The last thing we need is another Tory"