

FOCUS



ON EMSWORTH

Edited by

Chris Maple

ELECTION SPECIAL

www.havant-libdems.org

“Good to be home,” says Chris



Chris Maple is the choice of Emsworth Lib Dems as their candidate in the Borough Council elections on May 1st. Chris was born in Emsworth and educated at Warblington School where he was head boy, before moving around England and eventually living in Cornwall. Now back in Emsworth, Chris, a former District Councillor for Penwith (which includes Lands End), is looking forward to the campaign.

“Emsworth is a fragile environment facing threats from more development in our green fields, pressure on our small businesses and our unique coastal setting. We need the widest range of opinion - not just one party - to manage the challenges of the future.”

A graduate in architectural technology from Southampton University, Chris is a Project Manager. He is married with a young family.

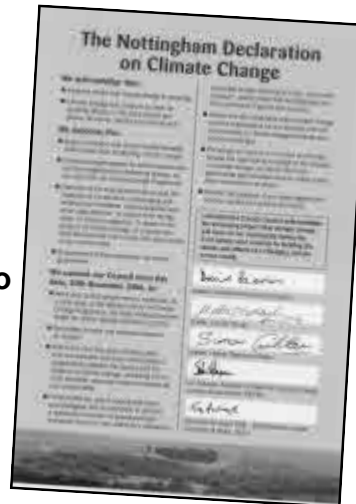
NEW CHARTER WELCOMED

Lib Dem councillors have welcomed Havant Council's decision to sign the Nottingham Declaration.

Chris Maple said:

“The Declaration was published in 2000 so why has it taken the council so long to join the hundreds of councils with policies already in place?”

The Charter commits the council to producing policies to reduce its greenhouse gases from travel, waste, transport and purchases.



Eau Dear

A recent BBC programme revealed that Hampshire 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 least convincing on record. Bottled water wastes energy, costs a fortune and creates a mountain of plastic waste.

Everybody's on the bag wagon

Congratulations to Emsworth Business Association and everybody who worked on the campaign to reduce the use of plastic bags in the town. This initiative was funded by the town's business people to the tune of £4000 - an incredibly generous gesture.

Since being launched by a young BBC film producer, the campaign has spread all over the country with stores falling over themselves to look greener. Plastic bags symbolise the bigger and more serious menace of excessive packaging. Reduce, reuse, recycle is the message but the greatest of these is to reduce.



Still more waste

Hampshire's County Council are wasting even more of our money by spending £70,000 advertising for a new council boss.

No wonder they put up our council tax by almost 5% again



Printed on recycled paper

Promoted by Hugh Benzie on behalf of Chris Maple (Liberal Democrat) and printed by HLD Press all at 78 Havant Road, Emsworth.

New homes put pressure on Emsworth's green fields

Havant Council plans show three potential green field sites for new homes in Emsworth over the next 20 years.

The sites to the west of Horndean Road, south of Havant Road and along Redlands Lane form part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) being prepared by the Council. If the sites are approved, they will be part of Havant's contribution to the 80,000 homes the Labour government say Hampshire must build.

Lib Dem, Chris Maple, said. **"We all thought that the council would defend our strategic gaps instead of proposing to build houses in them."**



Emsworth Hospital site must serve the community

The process of bidding for the Emsworth Hospital building is set to begin soon. There's a long way to go and the outcome is far from certain as the cash-strapped Primary Care Trust - an unelected quango - aims to maximise its asset. Lib Dems say that the

hospital has served Emsworth for over 100 years and that it should continue doing so as a community resource.

Budget cuts hit bus users

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

"It means people waiting outside in bad weather with no access to the Bus Station's toilets," said Lib Dem, Chris Maple.

Lib Dem councillors, led by Emsworth resident, Faith

Ponsonby, 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.

They should be fighting, along with residents, for better services, not putting people off using buses.



Bike path disgrace

Chris Maple is urging Havant Council to get serious about cycling in the town. "Instead of a proper extension to the Havant Road route we got blobs," said Chris.

Meanwhile, the original stretch is breaking up as the Council says the choice is between better footpaths or repairs to cycleways. **"Safety must come first and that should include clear signage, distinctive road marking and shared pavements where it does not pose a danger,"** he added.

Have your say to Chris Maple

Please return to: Havant Liberal Democrats. FREEPOST PT635 Emsworth, Hants PO10 7BR email: emsworth-libdems@live.co.uk



Chris MAPLE



Name.....Address..... email/phone no.....

The Lib Dems may contact you to keep you informed on issues you may find of interest. Please tick here if you do not wish to be contacted.

