

# St Faiths Focus

News and views from Havant Liberal Democrats

Happy  
New  
Year



January 2008 [www.havant-libdems.org](http://www.havant-libdems.org)

## Tesco splits Tories



The massive new Tesco approved by the council has left local Tories in disarray. One St Faiths' Tory councillor eagerly pushed for it while the Tory chair and his vice chair of planning opposed it. In the end an alliance of just two Labour and five Tory councillors made it a perfect day for the giant multinational.

Lib Dem councillors, Ann Buckley and Susan Stocker, joined residents, traders and environmental groups plus the 2000 petitioners and six deputations who said NO to the new store. They reflected the huge concern over the impact the superstore could have on the troubled centre of the town.

Ann told Focus:

**"The council has ignored expert advice and public opinion and pinned all its hopes for reviving the town on a mammoth Tesco."**

**"The white tidal wave building is out of all proportion with anything in Havant."**

If approved by the Government South East Office work will begin after further road works are completed to deal with the surge of traffic around the store due to open 2009

### They love elephants

The Tories seem to love elephants. There was the Meridian Centre that many think turned out to be a lighter shade of pink. More recently came the Wickes building, looming over Havant Park. Now a Great White one is on the way to stand by the main gateway to the town.



### Stand up for Havant

It was left to groups from Emsworth and Hayling Island to protest against Tesco. The only resident to speak in favour also lived in Emsworth. Over 400 residents from St Faiths petitioned against Tesco. They too were represented, as were the others, by a speaker from Emsworth. It must surely be time for Havant to speak with one voice and elect councillors who listen to the people they represent instead of running their own agendas.

If you are that person and want to stand up for Havant please contact the Lib Dems ( see over).

### What will it mean for Havant ?

Nobody knows how the huge store will change the town. Optimists predict days of plenty with people coming from far and wide to visit Tesco and other shops 300 metres away. The council's own experts say the store will be more of a threat than an opportunity with trade draining out of the town and into Tesco's tills. Council officers have predicted a negative impact on 31 businesses throughout the town. Only time will tell.

### and for the environment?

The new store will increase its traffic by up to 60%. This will worsen the already marginal air quality in Park Road South and lead to it becoming an Air Quality Zone that requires special management. The site is a flood plain and a protected area for surface water. The new store's carbon footprint is 70% greater than the present one.

Verdict: not a good day for the planet.

**Clegg is new leader** See over ➔



Printed on recycled paper because Lib Dems care about the environment.

Promoted by R. Cobbett on behalf of Havant Liberal Democrats, and printed by HLD Press all of 78 Havant Road, Emsworth, PO10 7LH

## Nick Clegg takes over



Local Lib Dems have welcomed the election of Nick Clegg as their new leader after narrowly beating Hampshire MP, Chris Huhne.

Havant Lib Dem Chair, Ray Cobbett, said, "Nick's drive and passion will make the Lib Dems the real alternative to two parties that look more and more the same."

**40-year old Clegg won his**

**Sheffield seat in 2005 with an 8500 majority over the Tories. Before then he was an MEP. Married with two young sons, Nick speaks five European languages and is an expert skier and mountaineer.**

## Councillors press for action on new hospital

Lib Dem Councillors are pushing for clarification on the Oak Park Community Hospital site. Outline planning consent was given for a 90 bed community hospital. The hospital will be a replacement for Havant War Memorial Hospital and the Emsworth day hospital. Services will include minor injuries, out-patients, endoscopy, diagnostics, and a day centre and rehabilitation for older people. The hospital was to include 25 beds for older people with mental health problems, but these have been suddenly dropped, leaving just 25 beds.

**Lib Dems are concerned that the hospital will be too small to provide services for Havant Borough, the 6000 new homes as well as residents of Clanfield, Horndean and Rowlands Castle in East Hants.**



Typical small hospital

### TIME OUT FOR STREETS

Havant's oldest retail shop, Streets in East Street, will close for good soon.



**"Havant now has only one petrol station and that's Tesco"**

Cllr. Ann Buckley speaking at Havant Council planning meeting

## The bins are still there



**The recycling bins** at the eastern entrance to the town outside the former post office are an eyesore. For years residents have asked for them to be re-sited.

'KEEP OUR COMMUNITY TIDY' says the nice new green sign in Emsworth Road.

**The council should set a good example.**

## Lib Dems hit out over pay hike

**Attempts by Lib Dems on Havant Council to defer increases in the basic allowances of councillors were slammed by the ruling Tory group.**

Lib Dem, Faith Ponsonby, had urged members not to award themselves increases costing £23,000 over a year. "We must avoid putting a burden on the borough council tax payers. The money could be spent

elsewhere in the Borough", she said.

Under the Tories, the Tourist Information Office has closed, the Museum is under threat for lack of funding and car parking charges have increased. More cuts are likely to fund free bus travel for pensioners.

Lib Dems want a much better deal for Havant from central government.

## Bus service saved

Lib Dem Councillors led the way in attacking County Council reductions and cuts in local bus subsidies. One of the largest services



affected was the 30/31 service passing through Langstone to Hayling. St Faiths resident and Leigh Park county councillor, Ann Buckley, spoke against the cuts and urged members to keep the weekday evening service. Conservative councillors didn't even attend the meetings in Winchester.

## Bus station disgrace

Bus users are complaining about the state of Havant Bus Station. **The floor is disgusting and the makeshift fencing and signs should have been removed months ago.**

**Conservative councillors fill over four fifths of the 38-seat council. Help us provide a healthy opposition.**

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

Tel: 023 9247 5833

Email: [Havant-libdems@gmail.com](mailto:Havant-libdems@gmail.com)

