



Let the people decide - one year or four?

Havant Council is thinking of changing the cycle of elections from a third of the Borough Council in three out of four years to the whole council every four years with the county council election in between. Any such change must be ratified by two-thirds of of the present 38 Councillors backed by evidence of public support.

In favour of a third of the council at a time:

- ◆ More frequent opportunities for electors to vote
- ◆ More immediate political accountability
- ◆ Tends to produce less drastic political change
- ◆ Ensures that the composition of the Council changes to reflect the current local political preferences more accurately
- ◆ If controversial decisions are made by a Council, electors will not have to wait up to 4 years to protest at the polls

In favour of whole Council elections:

- ◆ Less frequent elections may create more public interest and raise turnout
- ◆ Opportunity for elections to influence the entire composition of the Council at the same time
- ◆ Could encourage longer-term planning by the Council and discourage continuous election campaigning
- ◆ Would be some financial savings

Where do you stand? (Please make your choice and post the slip to the address shown)

I support voting for a third of the Borough Council each time

I support voting for the whole Borough Council every 4 years?

Do you think Havant should have fewer councillors YES NO

(Leigh Park wards have two per ward, Emsworth and St Faiths wards three)

Name.....

Address.....

Phone..... Email.....

Return to: Havant Liberal Democrats, Freepost PT 635, Emsworth, Hampshire, PO10 7BR

(Using a stamp gives us more money for campaigning)

By giving your contact details you may receive further communications from the Lib Dems. If you do not want to be contacted further please tick this box

Big changes ahead for our schools and college

Hampshire County Council is making a major review of Havant's secondary schools in the wake of the Government's plans to replace every older secondary school in the country. Much of the attention locally is focused on Warblington, and Leigh Park's Staunton and Park schools, as they have high numbers of pupils from deprived backgrounds, and buildings in need of renovation.

Another factor is the outlook for surplus school places, currently 15% but rising to 25% over the next 10 years. Some of the surplus can be put down to migration of pupils from the area to schools in West Sussex (estimated around 500 pupils).

The county council have come up with numerous options. Without change, they say, the new money will never arrive. Their options include, reducing capacity, closing one of the three schools, creating a split site or a through school for all ages. A decision is expected next year, but consultation is taking place.

Lib Dems welcome new investment in education but the county's plans are unlikely to stop migration to out-of-area schools. Bigger schools are not always better and change must be driven by the aspirations of pupils, teachers and parents not politicians.

People must keep homes



Spectator Parliamentarian of the Year

Lib Dem shadow Chancellor, Vince Cable MP, has put forward proposals for helping people threatened with re-possession. Cable says people should be allowed to sell some equity to local councils or Housing Associations and rent back their houses. Councils could also buy up empty properties and rent them back to people no longer able to get a mortgage.



New school for Warblington?



Dramatic 'landmark' feature instead

Havant College is set to be demolished and replaced with a massive, new £50m building on the same site funded by the Learning and Skills Council. The sixth-form college provides further education to 1300 adult students. This is likely to rise to 1700 after re-development. A new hall and other facilities for a full range of sports is planned alongside state-of-the-art lecture and presentation suites in what is described as a 'landmark' low carbon building. Car parking will remain unchanged but the college hopes to promote greener transport initiatives to reduce CO2. A significant number of trees will be axed to make way for the scheme. If all goes to plan the new college will open in 2011.

Thousands of comments on future plans

Over 8000 comments were registered during the Local Plan consultation phase earlier this year of which 40% came from Emsworth residents. The full analysis is expected next year together with the council's assessment of the various local sites for new homes. Of greatest concern to residents in St Faiths and Emsworth is the future of the Strategic Gaps.

Government Inspectors will leave it to councils to decide whether gaps can be used for houses. They will no longer have any strategic protection. Various locations have already been identified as potential sites for new homes.

Time for a change in St Faiths & Emsworth



Whoever wins the election next June to represent Emsworth & St Faiths on the County Council it won't be the present incumbent. The Tories have decided not to re-select their sitting county councillor. The contest in June will be held with the EU elections and the Lib Dems will fight both vigorously.