

Axe The Tax !

Lambridge Liberal Democrats are calling on the Government to abolish the Council Tax and replace it with a fair local income tax.

Bath MP Don Foster's successor as Liberal Democrat shadow spokesman for local government, Ed Davey MP, said:

" The Council Tax is an unfair Tory Tax made worse by New Labour "

Don Foster added that the double-digit Council Tax increases of recent years have hit pensioners and those on low, fixed incomes hardest:

"The poorest fifth of society now pays around 7.8% of their income to local councils. The richest fifth pay less than 2% of their income in Council Tax"

The Lambridge Focus team ask:

"Why should pensioners and others on fixed, low incomes continue to subsidise top-earners?"

The Council Tax is unfair because you are charged according to the size of the property you occupy not on how able you are to pay the tax. A fair local income tax would be collected by the Inland Revenue, usually by PAYE, saving up to £500M per year; savings that will help pay for better schools and hospitals and more police.



Reporting back...

LONDON ROAD SAFEWAY

Thank you to all who replied to our last survey by telling us which store you want to see replace the London Road Safeway when its parent company is sold in the near future. You opted for increased choice through competition.

Your most popular replacement for Safeway stores would be Morrisons, a northern supermarket chain which currently has no stores open in our area.

Your Focus Team passed your wishes on to the Competition Commission, which has agreed with you, demonstrated that making your views known can influence government decisions. Morrisons is the only supermarket that may now buy Safeway.



BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL ACTION LINE

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actionline@bathnes.gov.uk

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INTRODUCING YOUR FOCUS TEAM



Cllr Mike Kelleher (centre) lives in Larkhall and has represented residents of Lambridge ward on Bath and north east Somerset Council since 1994. Mike works at a government office in Bath city centre.

Phil James (left) lives off the Gloucester Road in the east of Lambridge ward and works for a Bath-based high technology company. He has lived in Bath since 1995 and Lambridge since 2000.



Ken Drain (right) has lived in the Fairfield Park area of Lambridge ward for many years and is trained as a hospital nurse.

With the backing and support of the Liberal Democrat members and supporters in Lambridge,

this is **Your Lambridge Focus Team**.

Reporting back...

Residents fight MOBILE PHONE MAST

Hutchinson 3G applied for planning permission to put a mobile phone mast at the junction of Bay Tree Road and Croft Road.

Mike consulted widely and early with local people. Mike soon grasped the strength of objections felt about the siting of a mast so close to houses, period residences and local schools.

An action group was formed to contest this wholly in-appropriate exploitation of a technicality in the planning regulations. The result of this community action is that the phone company appears to have just about abandoned any hope of erecting a mast in the area.

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for again putting your trust in me and electing me for a third time as your Liberal Democrat Councillor for the Lambridge ward of Bath and North East Somerset Council.

We face many issues and problems in Lambridge. I shall do my best to put the views and interests of all ward residents to council officers.

With my best wishes

Mike

Reporting back...

More Traffic Calming Wanted Say Ward Residents

In our last survey, two thirds of you who replied wanted to see traffic calming in their street. Nine out of ten wanted to see a 20mph limit near schools and 74% of you wanted to see a 20mph limit in their own street, showing how concerned you are at the speeds at which modern cars are driven in residential areas.

Less Traffic Calming Needed Says Tory Ward Councillor

"The anti-road vehicle mob is still out there ... misguided environmentalists and the totally off-the wall Reclaim The Streets brigade. Why were streets constructed in the first place, dummies?"

— Cllr Bryan Chalker,
Conservative, Claverton Down,
Letter to the Bath Chronicle, Fri, 9.1.2004



EU tackles air misery...

A new EU law passed by the European Parliament will see big payouts for all passengers, including charter-fliers, left stranded by airlines through cancellations or overbooking. Graham Watson, Liberal Democrat MEP covering Bath commented "These rules should make airlines think twice before overbooking or cancelling flights. Fewer passengers will be 'bumped' off flights. Those facing the inconvenience of long delays will receive the care and attention from the airlines they deserve, whatever their ticket cost".

COMMENT: ON THE BUSES

Are you concerned about the bus services for Larkhall, Fairfield Park and London Road?

We are.

All Lambridge Focus Team members travel regularly to and from work on local buses No's 6, 7 and 13.



We are angered by how unreliable service has become in recent months. Timetables have been cut. Yet prices have risen, sometimes by four times inflation.

If you too are angry, write, with details of missing or unreliable buses to:

Philip Brown, Traffic Commissioner, Western Region,
2 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EH.
Tel. 0117-800-8577. Fax. 0117-929-8352.

Copy your letter to us if you want us to follow it up.

Why is it so bad? In the 1980s, the Tories created an unwelcome split between private bus companies, which operate the buses, and local authorities which provide bus stops, bus lanes and subsidise some services.

Each points the finger of blame at the other. New Labour has done nothing since taking office in 1997 to reform local public transport.

We have put our concerns to Firstbus managers. We are seeking answers from Tory Councillor Sir Elgar Jenkins, BANES executive member for highways and transport.

We want to see timetable cuts restored and investment in modern buses —perhaps then we will be happier about paying higher fares.

We want to see investment in bus lanes and road-side information systems so that more people will want to make more city trips by bus and not by car, cutting road congestion.

We want to see the bus gate continue to operate in the rush hour, so bus passengers get to work or home without excess delay.

If you agree with us, let us know. Want to tell us your bus-gripes? Write or e-mail us.



LAMBRIDGE

Liberal Democrats

Contact us!

We welcome your feedback.

Bath 789 838

Lambridge@tenerus.demon.co.uk



Bath	Don Foster MP	31 Street West BATH, BA1 2BT	Bath 338 973	fosterd@parliament.uk
Larkhall area	Cllr Mike Kelleher	26 Salisbury Road Larkhall BATH, BA1 6QZ	Bath 334 720	Cllr.K@mjkfinance.clara.co.uk
Gloucester Rd & London Rd area	Philip C James	24 Pitman Court Gloucester Road BATH, BA1 8BD	Bath 789 838	lambridge@ tenerus.demon.co.uk
Fairfield Park area	Ken Drain	26 Whitewells Road Fairfield Park BATH, BA1 6NZ	Bath 447 379	kendrain@talk21.com



AXE THE TAX! PETITION

We the undersigned agree that the Council Tax is an unfair tax which should be scrapped

We call upon the Government to replace the Council Tax with a fair Local Tax based on the ability to pay...

NAME (BLOCK CAPITALS)	SIGNATURE	PHONE	E-MAIL OR ADDRESS

Please return to: Philip James, 24 Pitman Court, Gloucester Road, Bath, BA1 8BD.

If you do not want to receive related information from us, please tick the box ☐