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The political  
make-up of  
BathNES council

29	26	10
	CON	OTH
LIB DEM		

# Oldfield FOCUS



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2004

[www.bathlibdems.org.uk](http://www.bathlibdems.org.uk)

[www.donfoster.co.uk](http://www.donfoster.co.uk)



Shaun and Ruth took the 'Axe The Tax' petition to Moorland Road in December—more than 250 of you signed.

## AXE THE TAX

**Local Lib Dems are backing the new 'Axe The Tax' campaign, launched to scrap the Council Tax.**

Since 1997, average Council Tax bills have increased by over £455, equal to 70%. Liberal Democrats want this replaced with a fairer system because they believe it is unfair and takes no account of ability to pay.

Local Councillor Shaun McCall says "People are fed up with seeing their Council Tax bills soar, and want a fairer system. Council Tax was supposed to be the answer to the Poll Tax, not a worse one. It is time to scrap this tax and replace it with a

fairer local income tax".

Liberal Democrats would like to replace Council Tax with a Local Income Tax.

This would see about 70% of people paying a lower tax, and would particularly

benefit pensioners and those on lower incomes.

Do you want to see the Council Tax axed? If so, sign our petition on the back page.



## Do Your Bit For The Planet



The Lib Dems have recently launched their latest initiative to help the planet and increase recycling in your area. The Council will now offer to compost all of your garden waste, cardboard, and food packaging.

Councillor Ruth Griffiths said "We all need to do our bit to protect the environment and the Lib Dems are working hard to ensure our Council offers excellent recycling facilities. Because of Lib Dem initiatives we are already recycling 30% in Bath and North East Somerset, the highest in the South West

area. If you want to recycle more, make sure you sign up for the new scheme.

Collections are every two weeks and are separate to the normal waste and recycling collections already in operation.

'Householders can buy either a special green waste bin or special paper sacks, both provided by the Council, both have a small charge Cardboard can also be put out for collection, completely free of charge, on the same day.

For more details, including collection dates, or to sign up to the service:

**CALL THE ACTION LINE**

**01225 394041**



## New Homes For Moorfields Estate

Somer Community Housing Trust has submitted two planning applications to B&NES Council:

- **Construction of two houses at Hillside Road, alongside Linear Way**
- **Construction of eleven houses at the Moorfields Rd garage sites**

Residents who would like to express an opinion about the developments should write to the Planning Department, B&NES Council, Trimbridge House, Trim Street, Bath, BA1 2DP or ring 01225 477000 for further details.

## DIRTY DIESEL HOTLINE

To report a bus, tour bus or commercial vehicle that is polluting the environment, call **0870 606 0440**. You will need the company name, registration number, time and date spotted.



*Working for you—all year round.*

# Don Foster MP writes...



Whether it's schools, hospitals, police or public transport, the government just seems to want to meddle in it from Whitehall—why don't they trust local people, such as doctors, teachers and policemen to do their own jobs?

This flabby government needs to slim down. Lib Dems would scrap five government departments. This would mean saving the equivalent of £5billion each and every year—money that would be well spent on schools, hospitals, pensioners and the fight against crime. We would also give more power to local people.

Tony Blair has turned his back on people's anger about his decision to go to war with Iraq, about the imposition of university top-up fees, and about his half-baked plans for foundation hospitals. It's now up to me and my Lib Dem Colleagues, as the only real and effective opposition, to stand up in Parliament and hold the government to account. Let me know what you think.

**You can contact Don Foster at:**  
31 James St West,  
Bath, BA1 2BT.  
Tel: 01225 338973  
E-mail: [bodled@parliament.uk](mailto:bodled@parliament.uk)

## Stem Tide Of Sales Calls With TPS

TPS stands for Telephone Preference System. It is a free service that allows anyone with a private telephone number to register so that you no longer receive unwanted telephone calls from commercial businesses, registered charities etc.



The number to call to sign up is 0845 0700707 or visit [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk)

## ALLEYGATER PROGRESS

**In Oldfield Ward, new alley gates have been made and are ready to go in at St. Kilda's Road.**

Problems with the supplier of the gates for the alleygater scheme have caused a backlog of work.

Schemes currently waiting for gates are at Third Avenue, Beckhampton Road, Canterbury Road, Crandale Road, Stanley Road West, Livingstone Road, Junction Road, Junction Avenue, and Oldfield Road.

It is possible that a public meeting is needed for the scheme in Beckhampton Road and Third Avenue. Stanley Road West is also proving to be problematic for PC Rob Saunders, who is the Community Safety Officer at Bath Police Station responsible for the Alleygator scheme.

He can be contacted on 01225 842415 for any updates and further information on the schemes.

## Shopping Areas To Be Audited For Disabled & Pedestrian Accessibility



Over the next couple of months, Moorland Road as far as Oldfield Park Railway Station and the areas where there are shops in Shaftesbury Road and Third Avenue will be subject to a 'Living Streets' audit. This will identify all of the problems associated solely with Pedestrians and the Disabled.

Representatives of the local community will be included in the consultation process. The results including ideas for solving the problems will be fed in to the Oldfield Outlook Traffic Study.

## Residents Before Party

Following the local elections that once again left Bath and North East Somerset Council with no political party in charge, Lib Dem Councillors have put residents before party politics and formed a multi party Executive to run the Council.

This new Executive is made up of Lib Dem, Conservative and Independent councillors who will together be making decisions for the benefit of all residents.

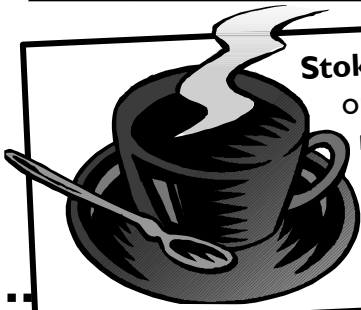
Local Councillor Ruth Griffiths said "By working with other parties we hope to achieve improvements to our services and communities that will be endorsed by everyone.

As Lib Dems we shall be campaigning on issues that are priorities to us. These are new care homes for the Elderly, improved street cleaning and a blitz on graffiti and safer communities."

The Labour party chose to oppose the other parties in Council.



Cut Gits



**Stokes Fruit & Vegetable shop** on Moorland Road has been refurbished, and a **new coffee shop** has recently opened on the corner of Third Avenue. Both are well worth visiting!

### Over To You

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Name	Address	Signature

- ☐ I would like to deliver Focus up my street
- ☐ I would like to be kept informed of news from the Lib Dems

Return this form to:

Oldfield Liberal Democrats,  
c/o Bath Lib Dems, 31 James St West,  
BA1 2BT

The Liberal Democrats and Don Foster MP may contact you from time to time to keep you informed about subjects we think you may find of interest. Please let us know if you do not wish the information you have provided to be used to help with this.