

## Education is at the Heart of What we Stand For

Right now, head teachers across the UK are writing to the Government to protest at the lack of resources for education - while the Conservative Government is squandering money on "free" and "grammar" schools - we want to tell you what we think.

*Education is the key to freedom and opportunity, and a vital part of creating the fairer society our Party seeks to build.*

*We believe in a society where every young person, from whatever background or circumstance, can grow up to achieve anything they set their mind to. It is a tragedy that in 21st Century Britain, the wealth of a child's parents and where they are born are still indicators of how well they will do at school. We strongly oppose the Government's plans to open divisive new grammar schools which will disproportionately benefit children from wealthier backgrounds.*

*To make sure every child gets the support they need, our education system must be properly funded. We were proud to introduce the Pupil Premium - extra money to support pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds - when we were in Government. Our policy is to protect school funding in real terms, from early years to college.*

*Our vision for education is about more than just passing exams. We should give children confidence, creativity and practical skills too. We are deeply concerned that children are increasingly missing out on subjects like art, music and sport. We want to see a broad, balanced curriculum in our schools which includes financial literacy, first aid and emergency lifesaving skills, citizenship, and age-appropriate sex and relationship education.*

*Access to education and new opportunities should not end at 18. We introduced a record number of apprenticeships in the last Parliament, to support people to gain new skills or change career at any age. We want to see greater investment in adult skills training and further education colleges.*

*Fundamentally, we also know that we cannot deliver the best education for all, when our teaching workforce is demoralised and undervalued. We are committed to working with education professionals to tackle the workload and recruitment challenges they face.*

**THE CONSERVATIVES HAVE RUN THE COUNTY COUNCIL SINCE 1999  
Now They Run the Government Too. They are the Problem - not the Solution!**

## Shootersway Improvements Promised

Garrick Stevens and Berkhamsted Liberal Democrats have been pushing for a solution to the traffic problems at the end of Shootersway for nearly 10 years. Now improvements to the road junction, funded by nearby developments have been promised - but these have not yet arrived.

Town Cllr Garrick Stevens said, "Of course we welcome these improvements but understand they will not be in place until later this year. Meanwhile traffic patterns are changing. People are using the lights at the bottom of Durrants Lane to go up to Shootersway, avoiding the congestion in the town centre that way.



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### Elmhurst Ward (Aylesbury Vale)

06/04/17 result:

LDEM: 63.5% (+37.9)

LAB: 12.2% (-10.0)

CON: 11.9% (-9.3)

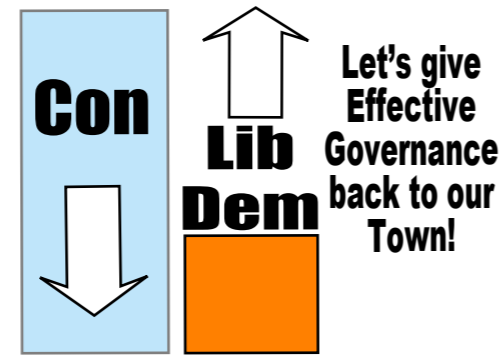
UKIP: 9.0% (-14.4)

GRN: 3.5% (-4.2)

**LIB DEM GAIN FROM UKIP**

**STOP PRESS**

### Berkhamsted Council is Out of Balance!



# Berkhamsted DEMOCRAT



**ELECTION SPECIAL!**

Edited by Nigel Taylor

Website: BerkhamstedAndTringLibDems.org.uk

April 2017  
KBKC ES

## It's Time for a Change! At County Hall, at Dacorum Borough Council and at Berkhamsted Town!

Once again, at Herts County, at Dacorum Borough and at Berkhamsted Town the Conservatives are shuffling around the same old candidates, like crumpled cards from the same old pack.

### It's Time to Change to the Liberal Democrats

**And what a change it would be!** While the Conservatives wilt and stagnate, the Liberal Democrats are enjoying success after success in local government by-elections up and down the land. While the electorate has rewarded the Liberal Democrats with **33 net gains on principal authorities** since 6th May 2016, the same measure shows a disastrous net **loss of 22 seats for the Conservatives** and an equally serious failure at the ballot box by **Labour with a net loss of 13**.

And the Liberal Democrats won the Parliamentary by election of Richmond Park just before Christmas.

But this success should not be surprising. Liberal Democrat membership has doubled in less than 2 years. With half of the Liberal Democrat Party now made up of keen new members this vigour and success is only to be expected.

Of course, the decision on who represents you is yours and yours alone, but the point is this:

**Do you really want to be represented by another Conservative from a party that has been captured by its right wing and no longer represents 'one nation'?**

**Or will you choose a new, fresh team of young Liberal Democrats?**

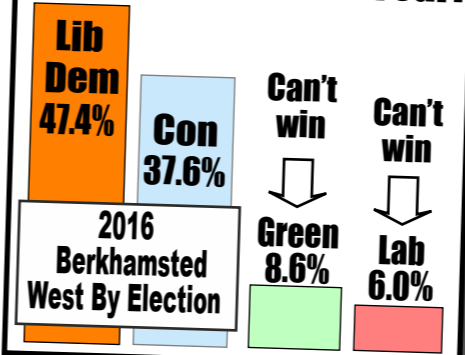
**We say that it's time for a change in the way we're represented. Will you join us?**

*The political representation in Berkhamsted is out of balance. Most of those representing you and the town have the same political standpoint. This is out of all proportion when you consider the real spread of opinion in Berkhamsted.*

*There are 6 Town Councillors who are also members of the Tory Group that runs DBC, and a seventh is a member of the Tory Group that runs Herts County Council.*

*What the Tories decide in Hertford or Hemel Hempstead today, you get in Berkhamsted tomorrow! That can't be right. Let's shake things up!*

### Lib Dems Won Last Year!



Learn more about the Liberal Democrat County Council Candidate inside.



**Liberal Democrat Nigel Taylor is standing for Hertfordshire County Council on May 4th**

**Liberal Democrat  
NIGEL TAYLOR is  
standing for  
HERTFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY on May 4th**



- He is an experienced campaigner in local government and learned his skills in the rough and tumble of London politics
- By training an engineer, Nigel is a well qualified strategic planner in the rail industry, developing and implementing computer systems.
- Nigel strongly supports the Liberal Democrat policy of encouraging good economic management, while caring for the vulnerable or disadvantaged.
- On the county council he will work to improve efficient and affordable transport:- to work, for leisure, for travel and to access healthcare.

**A PROBLEM STILL WAITING FOR A SOLUTION**

Nigel Taylor discusses Berkhamsted's roads with Lib Dem Town Councillor Garrick Stevens. Yes, we know road maintenance is expensive and difficult and we know that since there are so few companies involved, there is not much market competition - but



Herts County Council really must develop a more imaginative and robust approach to the contractors and contract management. Poor communication down a pyramid of sub-contracting is leading to mistakes and slack quality control. All too often sub-contractors cut corners - and get away with it.

The current flurry of pre-election work (these potholes have now been filled in) will not be sustained - and may not have been well done. We need a long term solution to poor quality.

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**SOUTHERN COMMUTERS**

Do you travel from Tring or Berkhamsted on a Southern Rail route? Have you got your compensation yet?



However you might have had difficulty applying.

In the last issue of the *Democrat* there was a link to the Southern Rail webpage that you need to reach in order to apply for compensation. We've just noticed this has been moved by Southern.

You can now find it here:

<http://www.southernrailway.com/your-journey/customer-services/season-ticket-compensation>

If you regularly use the Southern trains calling at Berkhamsted, you could get a one month refund on your season ticket for compensation for disruption during the strike.

But don't leave it too long. The current scheme finishes at the end of April 2017.

**Multi Storey Car Park in Berkhamsted**

The Tories' plan for the Multi Storey Car Park in Berkhamsted has been delayed, but not stopped.



A group of concerned residents are seeking a judicial review on the Borough Council's decision to build their car park.

But the Conservative Council is nevertheless determined to push on, despite serious flaws in their scheme.

Part of Berkhamsted's charm is its historic setting. It is still at heart a small town with a community atmosphere. Yet its narrow streets have led to traffic congestion especially around the junction of the High Street, Kings Road and Lower Kings Road. Putting a multi-story car park in Lower Kings Road will generate a large increase in traffic and add to the already bad congestion.

Delays at the traffic lights will have a knock-on effect on everyone who lives on the Castle side of town, as drivers exiting the car park will inevitably look for alternative routes.

Lower Kings road already suffers from increasing levels of pollution from Diesel engines and the regular traffic jams will put air pollution in breach of acceptable limits.

The cost of some 3½ million is also not justified. The car park is not forecast to be full for 6 years. Although we have not been told what charges will apply, we have been told it will not recover the cost of construction for over 19 years.

Currently Berkhamsted benefits from a lot of free on-street parking, which is flexible for residents, workers and visitors. Although the Borough Council denies such plans, the only way it will be able to make the Multi Storey Car Park profitable, would be to introduce charges for on street parking and force people to use the new car park.

This would cause considerable problems and costs for everyone living in Berkhamsted.

**Gossoms End  
A Local Resource for Local People**

Whenever a review of NHS services is carried out, there is always a recommendation for health services to be made more accessible. The NHS also has a long term aspiration for more treatment, diagnosis and follow-up to be provided away from hospitals and closer to where people live.

One way to achieve this would be for more services to be provided at GP surgeries, but often, either the location is unsuitable or the premises are too small. Now the concept of "Health Hubs" is being suggested as a way to implement these changes either by converting a large enough existing building or by the constructing a purpose built Health Centre.

Liberal Democrat candidate, Nigel Taylor, is shown here discussing with Town Councillors Gordon Yearwood and Garrick Stevens whether the Gossoms

End NHS facilities could provide such a site for Berkhamsted and Northchurch.



At present Gossoms End - which is still described as a "Community Hospital" - provides a 2-doctor GP practice, a base for community health staff and a number of clinics. The building also contains a 24-bed Rehabilitation Inpatient Unit but this is "temporarily closed" and is not expected to re-open in its earlier form.

Nigel said, "Having a valuable NHS asset already right here in the local community is an opportunity. If a Health Centre or a "Health Hub" could be provided on this site, then there would be a number of benefits.

Trips to hospitals could be reduced, local GP practices could expand into new premises and diagnostic tests, minor surgery and post-operative follow up carried out on the spot.

If elected I would work for better local health facilities through the county Health & Wellbeing Board and the Health Scrutiny Committee"



**CUT POLLUTION,  
REDUCE NOISE,  
IMPROVE HEALTH**

From well to wheels, electric motors beat oil-fired ones in energy efficiency.

Add in the fact that wind and solar now

make significant contributions to the UK's electricity supply and you find that electric motoring is a very much greener form of personal transport than petrol or diesel powered cars.

Not only is air pollution dramatically cut, but traffic noise is reduced, the street scene is quieter and calmer and the risk of respiratory disease is reduced.

Lib Dem activist Nick Hollinghurst practices what he preaches. In the picture he is seen with Nigel Taylor at Canal Fields showing how a public charging point is used. Why not join the Lib Dems in cleaner driving?

To contact Berkhamsted Liberal Democrats call 01442 731783 or mail Nigel Taylor on [nigel.t@which.com](mailto:nigel.t@which.com)