

# FOCUS

Summer 2023



Your local newsletter for Stubbington and Hill Head



++Stop press + Lib Dems win Somerton and Frome by-election + majority more than 19,000 + 29% swing to Lib Dems + see also great local results overleaf ++

## Off yer bike! No room at the beach

Fareham Council spent thousands installing ticket machines at seaside car parks - but did nothing to encourage users to leave their cars behind and cycle or use the bus instead.

Teenagers flock to the beach in summer, but have nowhere safe to leave their bikes.

At Salterns Beach, this means bikes are often left on the footway near The Wheelhouse, making it difficult for wheel-chair users, or on the wall above the outflow, blocking the path along the beach.

At Meon Shore, swimmers who want security for their bikes sometimes chain them to the benches, so that they can't be used by pedestrians.

Chances to install bike stands

were missed, when boulders, bollards and timber barriers were installed to stop parking on the grass verges. Simple tubular steel bike stands like those in the village would have done that job just as well.

Another missed opportunity was the failure to subsidise the 21 bus through Stubbington and Hill Head, which now runs only three times a day, with no weekend service.

Some of the income from parking charges could have been used to improve the 21 route and make it a Summer Beach Bus to enable Fareham residents to enjoy a car-free day at the seaside.

\* Sign up to our online eFocus (details overleaf) for news of campaigning to win back Hill Head's Blue Flag.



Salterns car park:  
You can't chain a bike to a boulder ...



Meon Shore:  
Bollards will take a chain, but not the more secure D-lock many cyclists prefer



Result: Bikes are often left in places where they cause a nuisance or obstruction

**Parking charges should be used to fund improvements, not just as a cash cow**

## Roads revamp needs more thought

The effects of changed layouts at the village roundabouts will take time to assess, but one dangerous flaw is already obvious.

The "Get In Lane" sign is far too close to the Red Lion roundabout so that drivers unfamiliar with the area who want to go straight on into Stubbington Lane often have to switch lanes at the last minute.

We've asked Hampshire Highways to re-site the sign (perhaps near where Gerry Drabble is standing in our photo).

And while there has been a welcome reduction in volume of traffic through the village since completion of the Bypass,



speeds have increased. Many residents have suggested 20mph limits are needed, and it certainly seems astonishing that there isn't a 20 Zone in Gosport Road at school opening and closing times.

**SQUELCH:** Another example of sloppy thinking: The welcome resurfacing of Stubbington Green has removed a lot of nasty potholes. But at the Zebra crossing, instead of smoothing out the gutter at the War Memorial end where puddles form, it's created another obstruction at the Wishing Well end, with an even bigger puddle.



### Is Twenty Plenty?

Tell us if you'd like to see 20mph limits - and where. Email us at: [croftonld@gmail.com](mailto:croftonld@gmail.com)

# Lib Dems win big in local elections

May 2023 saw the Liberal Democrats' best result in decades. Across England, Liberal Democrats gained an extra 407 councillors. Lib Dems gained majority control of 12 councils and tightened control in all 17 councils we were defending.

These results followed sensational Lib Dem by-election wins in supposedly safe Tory seats

Rishi Sunak is running scared of a General Election, because he knows the Liberal Democrats are set to take swathes of Tory seats. Tory infighting over Boris Johnson's refusal to admit his faults makes it even clearer - It is time for a

## Council Success all around us



**PORTSMOUTH:** Lib Dems gained a seat from the Tories and saw off a Labour challenge. With 18 seats to the Tories eight and Labour's seven, Lib Dems continue to run the city with the help of a few independents.

In **EAST HAMPSHIRE** Lib Dems made sweeping gains, particularly in Petersfield. And in **HAVANT** we regained a presence on the Council with victories in Hayling Island and Bedhampton.

### LIB DEMS MAKING HUGE GAINS IN LOCAL ELECTIONS ON THE SOUTH COAST

Net seat gains and losses for main parties in May 2023 council elections in councils around Fareham\*

<b>LIB DEM</b> <b>+ 37</b>	<b>Green</b> + 10	<b>LAB</b> + 8
<b>CON</b> <b>- 59</b>	<b>Only the Liberal Democrat can beat the Conservatives here at the next General Election</b>	

\* Havant, Southampton, Eastleigh, Winchester, East Hampshire, Portsmouth, Chichester, Test Valley, New Forest

\*\* Data from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-64966933>

**WINCHESTER:** Lib Dems won 13 of the 16 seats being contested this year, including our near neighbours in Whiteley and now hold 30 of the 45 seats on the Council. **EASTLEIGH** Lib Dems have controlled the Council for many years and now hold 34 out of 39 seats on the Borough Council. Lib Dem controlled Eastleigh Borough Council was named Council of the Year in 2022.

## Brune Lane crematorium given go-ahead

Plans have been approved for a new crematorium at Brune Lane, near Lee-on-the-Solent Golf Club.

We publicised the proposal earlier this year in our online eFocus, after Jim Forrest of the Focus team met the promoters, Mercia Crematoria, and raised residents' concerns about issues such as road safety and impact on the countryside.

Jim says: "Mercia have refined their plans to meet local concerns and are offering a sensitively-designed site which will ease pressure on the busy Portchester facility and offer local residents a more accessible location for these poignant occasions.

"The site is on the edge of the Strategic Gap, but its landscaping will enhance views."



Left and above: How our eFocus\* gave residents first news of the plans

\*See below to receive eFocus regularly by email

## Your Lib Dem Focus Team - working all year round for Stubbington and Hill Head



Gerald Drabble  
16 Elsfred Road  
07419 753000



Bob Seymour  
7 Halletts Close  
07715 814736

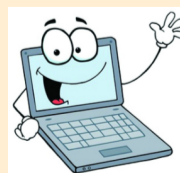


Jim Forrest  
4 Hill Head Road  
07816 264573

To report a local issue, Drop a note to one of the team, or email us with your name, address and phone/email details. If you'd like to receive eFocus, a monthly online supplement to our regular newsletters, include the message: Yes please, I'd like to be sent eFocus (see our privacy policy below).

Email us at: [croftonld@gmail.com](mailto:croftonld@gmail.com)

The Liberal Democrats will use any personal data we collect for the purpose it was collected in accordance with our privacy policy at: [libdems.org.uk/privacy](http://libdems.org.uk/privacy). To exercise your legal data rights, email: [data.protection@libdems.org.uk](mailto:data.protection@libdems.org.uk). Published and promoted by Fareham Liberal Democrats at 220 Fratton Road, Portsmouth PO1 5HH. Printed by Solopress, 9 Stock Road, Southend-on-Sea SS2 5GF.



### It's your future - Own it!

Student or under-26 and interested in politics? The Young Liberals are for you.

As the Liberal philosopher, John Stuart Mill said, "One person with a belief is equal to a force of 99 who have only interests". Well, the Conservative Party's only interest is to serve themselves, rather than the people and the communities of Fareham Borough.

The recently-launched local Young Liberal branch is here to give you a voice and a chance to meet like-minded young people in Fareham and the surrounding area. If you'd like to hear more, contact me at: [youngliberals@farehamlibdems.org.uk](mailto:youngliberals@farehamlibdems.org.uk)



Aaron Drabble  
Young Liberal Rep



/Lib Dems for Crofton



@Farehamlibdems

Want to help us? Go to [farehamlibdems.org.uk/get-involved](http://farehamlibdems.org.uk/get-involved)