

LIB DEMS URGE EARLY START ON NEW CHETWYND BRIDGE

During 20 years of Conservative control, the County Council simply kicked the issue of structural problems with the bridge into the long grass, culminating in possible complete closure by 2022.

Our campaign to stop closure helped win back Mease Valley for the Lib Dems in 2023.

Staffordshire County Council can't simply rely on central government money to build the new replacement bridge.

The Lib Dems will continue to press SCC to prioritise the new bridge as being vital for both Alrewas and the Mease Valley villages and the economy of nearby Tamworth, not to mention for access to the National Memorial Arboretum.

REOPENED RAILWAY VITAL FOR NEW SETTLEMENT

A likely option for a new settlement in the emerging Lichfield District Plan is on land opposite the A38 from Alrewas and Fradley. Lib Dems say that any such development must be conditional on the reopening of passenger services between Lichfield and Burton with one or two stations to serve Alrewas and Fradley.

Lib Dem Cllr Phil Bennion (Mease Valley) has met with County transport officers to stress the importance of the County Council strongly supporting the rail reopening. Without the rail link, traffic on the A38 will be intolerable with rail commuters heading into Lichfield.



TORIES VOTE AGAINST LIB DEM MOTION

Lib Dems win vote calling for research on solar panels and a greener community

In July, Lib Dem Cllr Hugh Ashton (Stowe) introduced a motion to Lichfield District Council calling for an analysis of installing solar panels over Council properties, including car parks.

The motion was eventually passed, with all Conservatives and Independents and the sole Reform member voting against it, with all Lib Dems and Labour councillors voting in favour.

Ashton comments, "I am disappointed that the Conservatives, despite their pledges for a greener and forward-looking Lichfield District, are determined to play party politics when they meet constructive proposals from outside their party. Lichfield deserves better than this."



WE NEED BETTER FROM LABOUR

After 14 years of Conservative chaos, we needed better from the new government

Instead, we have been let down by Labour. Our pensioners have had their winter fuel payments cut. The increase in employers' NI contributions has made it hugely difficult for businesses – especially small businesses – to keep going. The cost of living crisis is not going away.



The Liberal Democrats stand for:

- ♦ improving and reforming our NHS
- ♦ fixing the social care crisis
- ♦ public investment in infrastructure
- ♦ a stronger relationship with Europe. Without that, we will never have the economic growth that the UK needs.

With 72 MPs in Westminster, and strong voices in local government throughout the country, the Liberal Democrats are ready and able to make the changes that other parties seem unable to bring about.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Reform UK is not the answer



Cllr Phil Bennion

Low turnouts in local elections show widespread distrust of politics.

Lib Dem leader Ed Davey is the only major political leader calling out Farage and his followers, pointing out that most British people do not want Trump-style government. We agree that we

need controls around immigration, but Farage has no workable policies to tackle this or other problems. He just has soundbites.

Reform UK are now running many county councils, including Staffordshire – and they are already showing poor management and divisive politics.

Phil Bennion, Lib Dem District councillor for Mease Valley, says, “We will hold them to account. Lib Dems are honest and straight talking and we stand for fairer taxes to pay for our roads, schools, GPs etc, a closer relationship with Europe to boost jobs - and we say that you cannot fix the NHS unless you fix our care system. That will give a better and brighter future for us and our children.”

CITY CENTRE PLAN SLAMMED BY LIB DEMS

The plans for the Birmingham Road Site opposite Lichfield City station are just not right for Lichfield.

We say:

- ◇ they are so **unimaginative**. They create just big blocks of housing in the centre of our beautiful city.
- ◇ the plans involve just **too many homes** on this site: over 300.
- ◇ the original plan was that there would open space where people can meet, have a coffee and relax. That has been replaced with **another block of housing** (edged in red).

The original objective was to make this development a place of impact and style as it is a gateway into the city. These plans just do not achieve that.



The Conservatives and Labour support these plans but your Lib Dem councillors do not. We say that we can do so much better with the Birmingham Road Site.

We are asking you, “Is this really what you want?” and to get in touch with us to let us know your views.

GET IN TOUCH!

Your local Lib Dem team work all year round for local people. If you would like their help or to comment on a local or national problem please do contact us by email or phone.

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Alternatively, contact your councillor directly:



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Visit <https://www.ltlibdems.org.uk/lichfield/lichfield-news>

