

Why you should vote for the Lib Dems



After 14 years of Conservative chaos, we now have a Labour government. They must deliver change – the country is in desperate need of a functioning government, and the Liberal Democrats are ready to work with them to achieve that.

But Labour have already made some very disappointing decisions: the increase in National Insurance contributions which hits the businesses we need to generate economic growth, the axing of the Winter Fuel Payments from many pensioners who rely on it, and proposed reforms on social care delayed until at least 2028! Liberal Democrats will:

- ◆ **Ensure** that everyone entitled to a benefit will receive it, following a compassionate review of the current system.
- ◆ **Push** for a fair taxation system for individuals and for companies – those with broadest shoulders pay more.
- ◆ **Fight** to keep the NHS free at the point of care and to introduce a care system that works properly.
- ◆ **Oppose** Putin and support Ukraine, standing up to Trump.
- ◆ **Set** realistic targets and policies for climate change control
- ◆ **Work** to rebuild a more friendly cooperative relationship with Europe.

We are a party which aims high, while keeping our feet on the ground.

What is a unitary authority and how will it affect you?

The local government reorganisation plan started under the Conservatives and continued by Labour aims to cut down the layers of local government above the parish council level from two (district and county) to one (unitary) which will combine the powers of both. Note that Lichfield City Council and Burntwood Town Council are both at the parish council level, so they will be largely unaffected by this.

Most District councils, including Lichfield District Council, are too small to take on this extra responsibility, and this means that we will have to merge with at least two other councils. The government's wish is that a unitary authority should contain about 500,000 residents, and our opinion is that is too high for our area.

A Southern Staffordshire authority (Lichfield, Tamworth, Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire and South Staffordshire) would be manageable, unlike the "Staffordshire minus Stoke" approach favoured by the current Conservative Staffordshire County Council at the time of writing, which we oppose, as this would distance local authorities from the communities they serve. A Southern Staffordshire authority would have a natural "gravitational" pull towards West Midlands, which we support because many of our residents work in that region.

As far as the number of councillors and the role of larger parish councils such as Lichfield, Burton, Tamworth, Burntwood, etc. are concerned, there is no specific guidance. Lib Dem councillors at all levels will continue to work with other groups in and out of the district to acquire the best possible outcome for all – a council that is close to and connected with the residents..

Lib Dems in Lichfield Rural East

Whittington & Streethay



Cllr Andrew Rushton (District), andrewr@lichfieldlibdems.org.uk
0788101901

Your Candidate

Mease Valley



Cllr Phillip Bennion (District), Haunton Manor Farm, Main Road, Haunton B79 9HN
01827373274

Liberal
Democrats

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
MAY 1ST 2025

LICHFIELD RURAL EAST

FOCUS

Liberal
Democrats

Andrew RUSHTON



Andrew Rushton was elected to Lichfield District Council for the Whittington and Streethay ward in May 2023 and was elected by the Council to serve as Deputy Chair of the District – the youngest person on record to hold that office. He has lived in Whittington since he was six years old and attended local schools: Whittington Primary, and King Edward VI.

Andrew says, "Since graduating from De Montfort University in 2023, I worked at St Giles Hospice, and where I saw at first hand the

struggles local care providers are facing. I will fight for a fair deal to support health and care providers across the county.

"I am currently working for the national charity The King's Trust (previously Prince's Trust) helping young people get into education, launch enterprises, or get into employment.

"My main passions include providing better transport links for rural communities, improving the roads which are in dangerous condition, and balancing budgets wisely to ensure the people of Staffordshire get good quality services and ensuring no wasteful spending. If I am elected as your County Councillor for the Lichfield Rural East District, I will be in a position to achieve these goals."

Lichfield district Lib Dems



We continue to campaign and work closely with other political and neighbourhood groups for Lichfield district that is:

◆ **Safe** – not just by improving policing, but by education and proactive responses to emerging anti-social trends.

- ◆ **Healthy** – we know there are not enough medical facilities in the district, and we work hard to improve this situation. Health is also a matter of eating and living healthily, and we do what we can to assist these goals.
- ◆ **Inclusive** – the Lichfield district should be a place for everybody. Lib Dems continue to work to ensure that we can all, regardless of origin or ability, enjoy the benefits of living here.
- ◆ **Prosperous** – encouraging local businesses, as well as promoting Lichfield and the communities surrounding it as an attractive place for national companies to invest.
- ◆ **Inviting** – Lichfield and the surrounding area attract tourism, and the Lib Dems work with local businesses and groups to make the area even more attractive to visit.

For a better Lichfield: **Support your Lib Dem candidates!**

GET IN TOUCH!

The 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 them by email, phone, or post.

01543 523707

The Liberal Democrats, locally and nationally, may use information you provide, including your political views, to further our objectives, share it with our elected representatives and/or contact you in future using any of the means provided. Some contacts may be automated. You may opt out of some or all contacts or exercise your other legal rights by contacting us. Further details are in our Privacy Policy at [libdems.org.uk/en/privacy](https://www.libdems.org.uk/en/privacy).

<https://www.libdems.org.uk/lichfield/lichfield-news>
email: help@lichfieldlibdems.org.uk



Want to be part of the winning Lib Dem team?

We welcome new members. Contact us if you are interested. Even if you don't want to commit to membership, you could consider helping us, for example by delivering Focus leaflets in your own local area for up to an hour for each Focus issue. Please let us know how you could help.