

FOCUS



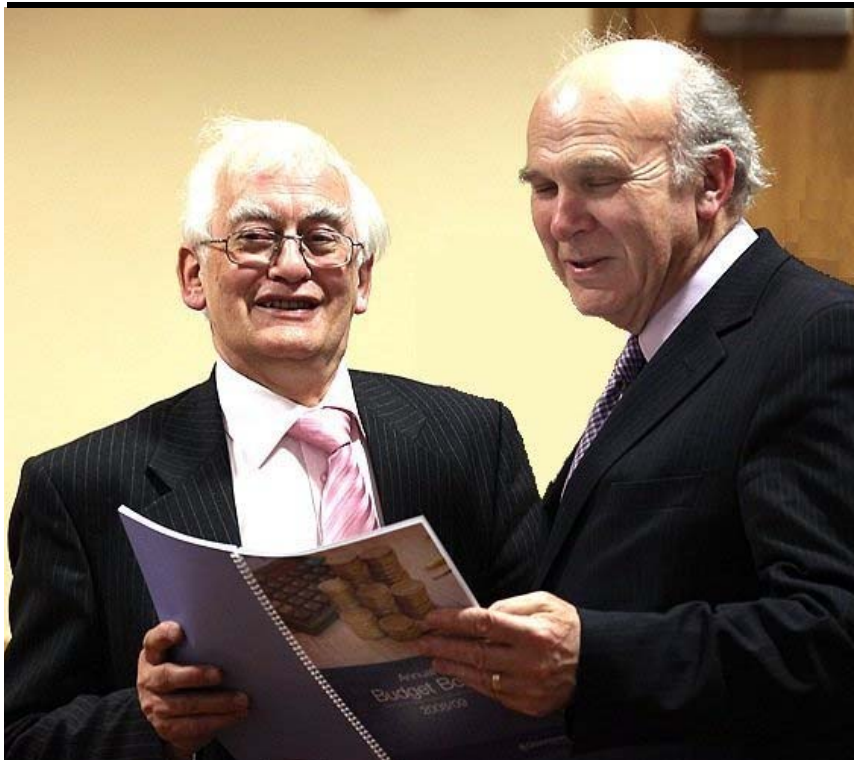
WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE
NORTH NIBLEY
KINGSWOOD
HILLESLEY
ALDERLEY
TRESHAM

Editor: County Councillor John Cordwell

No. 127: Liberal Democrats - keeping in touch with you *all year round*

Telling you what the papers don't print and other parties don't want you to know.

County Elections: Thursday June 4th Time for a change at Shire Hall



County Councillor John Cordwell and Vince Cable, Liberal Democrat Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, take a look at Tory budget proposals for Gloucestershire. Dr Cable recently addressed business leaders in Cirencester.

The quality of County Council services in Gloucestershire is in decline under the current Tory administration. This opinion is backed up by two key independent inspectors.

The Audit Commission has downgraded the council from its previous four-star category and the Commission for Social Care Inspection has rated the council as "poor" for its safeguarding of vulnerable adults.

Four years of Tory control has seen none of the promised reduction in the £130M backlog of road repairs. The potholes are clear for all to see and in parts of Coombe, for example, there is little road left.

What's more, spending on roads is increasingly being paid for by borrowing, which has helped the county's debt to rise to £1,444 per family, breaking another promise, to reduce council debt.

In seeking Government funding to deal with waste, they have put forward a proposal for a single massive incinerator to serve the whole of the county. This would end up burning waste that could otherwise have been recycled or composted.

Let Liberal Democrats Reinvigorate Gloucestershire!

- We need to tax people less. Liberal Democrats proposed a council tax rise this year of just 1.8%. The Tories forced through a 2.9% increase.
- We will cut the almost £1M a year now being spent on public relations and scrap the position of a senior councillor in charge of "spin".
- We will stop holding luxury conferences. Meetings will be held in council offices rather than in expensive, taxpayer-funded conference centres.
- We will aim to pay our suppliers within 10 days, and encourage others to do the same, and act responsibly when recovering arrears.
- We will raise the target for recycling waste to 70% and through efficient energy use reduce the council's carbon footprint.
- We will oppose Government plans for massive greenfield house building and encourage sustainable communities with affordable housing and accessible jobs to go with it.

●The full Lib Dem Manifesto can be found at: www.cordwell.clara.net/LibDemManifesto2009.pdf

EnergyNeighbourhood

John Cordwell was instrumental in getting an Energy Neighbourhood scheme set up in Wotton with backing from the Town Council.

Households involved in the local scheme, under the name Wotton Energy Watch, have been monitoring their home energy consumption for six months and seeing by how much they can reduce it.



The Wotton group have been making some amazing savings, which will be compared to those made by other groups in Gloucestershire and across nine European countries.

Photo: Severn Wye Energy Agency.

Cut our carbon footprint: subscribe to Focus in colour on line. Tell us at: cordwell@clara.net

- **Concerned about green issues? So am I.**
Look at www.cordwell.clara.net/green.pdf



Do away with plastic bag waste!

Gloucestershire's residents use a total of 94 million plastic bags per year. (DEFRA: April 2009.) Photo: Gazette.

What do you expect of your County Councillor?

- Lives in the area they represent.
- Available and easy to contact by phone, e-mail and in person.
- Responsive when you do contact them, and happy to take up your problems.
- Gets things done.
- Knows the area they represent, down to where every house is.
- Knows the local issues.
- Involved throughout the local community.
- Keeps you informed through regular newsletters and occasional e-mailings.
- Experienced in the workings of the County Council and of the Town, Parish and District Councils.

I think all these are important. Do you? Have I missed any? Let me know! John Cordwell

cordwell@clara.net; 13 Haw Street, Wotton-under-Edge, GL12 7AG; Tel: 01453 842439

Attendance at Wotton Town and Nibley Parish Council Meetings* by County and District Councillors

Attending these meetings is essential to support local issues at county and district councils.

Living within the area is also very important:

The Tory prospective county council candidate lives in Minchinhampton and has openly admitted to not knowing Wotton. The only Tory district councillor lives in Wickwar.

**In the Kingswood ward, Liberal Democrats Paul Hemming and John Cordwell regularly attend meetings of Kingswood and Hillesley & Tresham parish councils.*

