

# Folkestone West FOCUS

www.ShepwayLibDems.org.uk

It's so close here!

Con

Lib  
Dem

Can't  
win



Lab  
Under  
2%

In the 2007 local elections, Labour won less than 2% of the vote across Shepway. Only the Lib Dems can beat the Conservatives in Folkestone.

# Tim Prater says thank you!

Newspaper quote

## Local campaigner Tim Prater says thank you for the support and he will work hard for local people

Tim Prater and the local Lib Dems want to say thank you to residents for their tremendous support in the recent local and European elections.

Lib Dem Tim Prater won sensationally in Folkestone West. Tim beat the sitting Conservative Councillor, Shepway District Council Leader Robert Bliss, by 11 votes after a nail-biting count.

The result in full was:

Liberal Democrats [Tim Prater]	1456
Conservative	1445
UKIP	776
People First	258
Labour	185
Turnout	37.7%

Newly elected Lib Dem County Councillor Tim Prater said:

"I would like to say thank you to everyone who voted Lib Dem on June 4th. Obviously I'm delighted to have won

in Folkestone West and I will do my best for the area.

"We also took seats from the Conservatives on Shepway District Council, Hythe Town Council and Sandgate Parish Council - we're delighted.

"We will continue to campaign to stop waste at County Hall, improve the local environment and improve services which local people rely upon."

Neil Matthews added:

"It is clear that people feel let down by the Labour Government. Labour suffered locally and nationally. However it is clear that local Conservatives have let people down also. They simply waste too much of our money and are out of touch with local people".

Labour and other groups had poor results across Folkestone and Hythe. It is clear only the Lib Dems or the Conservatives can win in Folkestone and Hythe at the next General Election.



• Tim Prater - winning in Folkestone West and Sandgate.

## Street Survey

Got a problem the local Lib Dem team could help with?  
Please fill in the form and post it back to the FREEPOST address.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Tel: .....

E-mail: .....

Tick here to receive occasional news by email

## Postal voting

I would like to vote by post in future

(We will arrange for a form to be sent to you.)

If you return this survey the Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you have given to contact you. Some contacts may be automated. You can always opt out of communications at any time by contacting us.

### • Does your street or any streets you use have a problem with any of the following?

- Litter and rubbish
- Graffiti
- Broken streetlights
- Poor quality pavements

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the space below to give details

### • What would you like to see done to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in our area?

## Your views

### Which political party do you usually vote for?

- Liberal Democrats
- Labour
- Conservatives
- Lib Dems or Labour
- Lib Dems or Conservatives
- People First
- Other (please specify) .....

### I can help the Lib Dems work for our area by:

- Putting up a poster
- Delivering a few leaflets in my street

Contributing some money to cover campaign costs:

£10  £20  £50  Other .....

Cheques payable to 'Shepway Liberal Democrats'. A donation of £10 or more entitles you to membership of the Lib Dems. Please tick here if you do not wish to be enrolled.

**Please return to Shepway Liberal Democrats, Freepost CU592, Folkestone, CT20 3BR**

# Neil Matthews and the Lib Dems working hard for you and our local area

## It's time to do things differently

County Councillors across Kent this year have each been "given" £25,000 in various grants to support local activities, organisations and projects in their divisions.

Generally County Councillors receive bids for these grants from local organisations, and decide which projects should be supported. Newly elected County Councillor **Tim Prater** wants to see a change to that process.

Tim said:

"We have so many organisations and projects out there that could do great things with a grant. Equally, there will be strong opinions and views from local residents as to which projects people want to support - as there should be!

"So I plan to "do" grants differently. This year, there will be a Folkestone West "You Decide" Grants Day (probably in September) where ANY local resident can turn up and have a vote

on projects that have come forward for a grant. We're currently working on the details, but basically local groups will be able to tell the audience why THEY should get a grant.

The majority of the money will be decided by the people who turn up to vote on the day (some money may be set aside for projects that need fast support before September). I hope in future years (if the "You Decide" days work!) that ALL grant money for Folkestone West will be decided this way - I'm keen to hear views."

The finer details are still being developed, but the day will be publicised widely as soon as they are confirmed.



## News in brief...news in brief...news

**Joanna Lumley joins Folkestone Gurkha Celebrations:** Joanna Lumley joined thousands of people in June to celebrate the Gurkhas being given the freedom of Folkestone.

Reports suggest around 10,000 people lined the streets and were treated to a parade by 630 members of the 2nd Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles.

All Gurkha veterans who retired before 1997 with at least four years' service were given permission last month to settle in the UK. The government decision followed a high-profile campaign by Joanna Lumley and Lib Dem Cheriton Cllr Peter Carroll - and was an embarrassing Commons defeat for the government.

**Rainbow Centre Tin Appeal:** The Rainbow Centre offers a range of support for parents, children, the lonely, the isolated and the homeless, as well as a fully professional counselling service. **However, they have recently run out of tins, and therefore cannot give out food bags.**

If you have any spare tins, preferably ring pull, please drop them to the Rainbow Centre at 14-18 Bourverie Place, Folkestone.

## Loss of Direct Trains to Charing Cross?

Lib Dem Councillor **Tim Prater** has welcomed news that **SouthEastern** are reconsidering their draft timetable.

This comes after he raised concerns with them over the loss of the peak hours direct Charing Cross services in their draft timetables.

South Eastern said "We do not lightly dismiss the needs of those commuting to Charing Cross. Our timetable team is endeavoring to find a solution and if we are able to go some way towards meeting local residents' commuting needs, we will."

Tim says: "Many people work near Charing Cross and indeed moved to Folkestone because it was possible to commute to



Peak Folkestone direct to Charing Cross - a thing of the past?

Charing Cross. Although the new service to St Pancras is welcome, and will build up a customer base over time, southeastern simply cannot leave those who need to get to Charing Cross in the lurch.

"I will continue to lobby southeastern to revise their timetables."

### Your local Liberal Democrat Team: Here to help you

**Parliamentary Campaigner Neil Matthews**  
 67 Brockhill Road, Hythe CT21 4AG  
 01303 268043  
 Neil@ShepwayLibDems.org.uk

**Morehall District & Town Cllr Tom McNeice**  
 19 Beachborough Rd, Folkestone CT19 4AA  
 01303 278791  
 Tom@ShepwayLibDems.org.uk

**County & Cheriton District Cllr Tim Prater**  
 98a Sandgate High Street, Sandgate CT20 3BY  
 01303 210300  
 Tim@ShepwayLibDems.org.uk

**Other Important contacts Sandgate Parish Councillors:**  
 Season Prater - 07956 135845  
 Ann Rimmer - 07767 711975  
**Shepway Lib Dems**  
 01303 851251  
 Mail@ShepwayLibDems.org.uk

**Problems with a local issue? Please give get in touch with us**



Local campaigner **Neil Matthews** is launching a campaign to give power back to local people.

The five step plan has been launched by Neil Matthews and Lib Dem leader, Nick Clegg MP, in a bid to clean up British politics.

Local campaigner Neil Matthews said, "It's no surprise people are angry with politicians of all parties right now. When people are caught fiddling the system they are sacked or face criminal prosecution. MPs seem to be going unpunished. It's just not on".

Lib Dem leader Nick Clegg added, "The expenses scandal is only the tip of the

## Neil Matthews: Let's cancel MPs' summer holidays

iceberg. Our whole political system is broken and in need of radical reform to give power back to people and make Britain fairer".

The Lib Dems pushed for freedom of information when it came to MPs' expenses. They believe there should be greater transparency. Both Labour and Conservative MPs voted against this.

Local campaigner Neil added, "MPs should have their summer holidays cancelled, and they should work day and night to clean up the system. People deserve better and should expect a personal pledge from every candidate about what they can expect from their representative".

You can add your voice to the growing call for reform by signing the petition or by visiting the web site below.

I, the undersigned, back **Neil Matthews'** and the **Liberal Democrat** plans to improve how **Britain** is governed.

I back **Neil's** pledge and ask candidates of all parties to sign up to it.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to : Shepway Lib Dems, Freepost CU592, Folkestone CT20 3BR



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# www.TakeBackPower.org

The Lib Dems may use the information you provide to contact you about issues you may find of interest. Some of these contacts may be automated. You can opt out of some or all contacts at any time by contacting us.