

Hythe 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.

Run-aways Finally Quit

Hythe West Run-Away Councillors finally resign

18 months after moving almost 200 miles to Bath, Conservatives Mr & Mrs Oliver have finally resigned as Councillors for Hythe West. Hundreds of local residents signed petitions calling on the Olivers to quit after it was revealed they had moved to Bath in late 2007.

Conservative Councillor Linda Oliver has received around £5,000 in councillor allowances from Shepway despite living almost 200 miles from Shepway are rarely attending Council meetings.

Shepway Conservatives claimed on their own web site in 2007 that there would be a by-election in early 2008 to elect new Councillors for Hythe West. They went back on that promise to the fury of local residents. Many local people feel that the Conservatives have let down Hythe West by not

insisting the Oliver's resigned their seats after they moved away from the area.

Last year, the Hythe Herald called Mrs Oliver's non-resignation "political mischief", adding:

"Mrs Oliver claims that despite living hundreds of miles away she can remain involved in local matters and properly represent the people who live in her ward. This is hogwash and she knows it."

On June 4th, Hythe West residents will elect a new District Councillor and two new Hythe Town Councillors to represent them.

Longstanding Campaigner for Hythe **Neil Matthews** said:

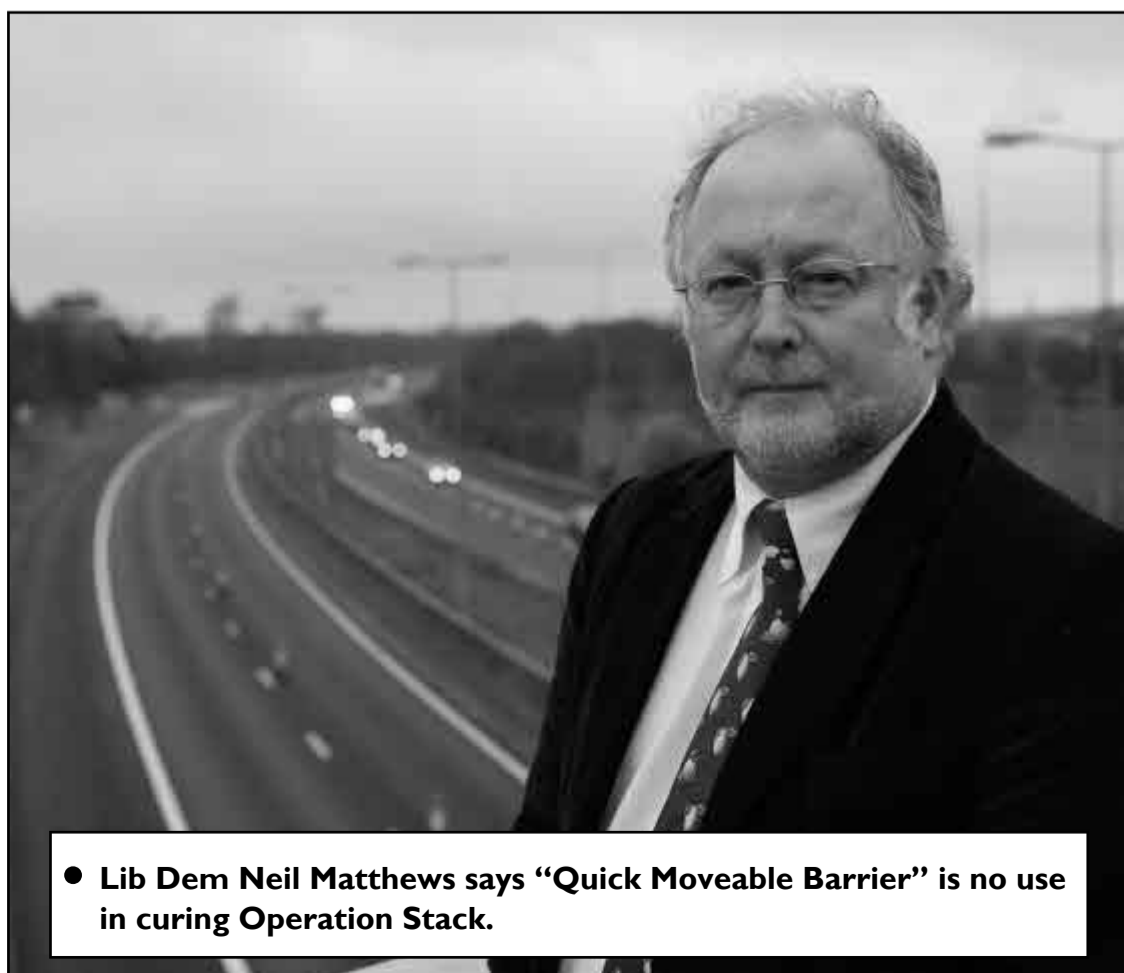
"As the Hythe Herald says 'big majorities can breed laziness, arrogance and contempt.' The Conservatives have treated Hythe West with contempt. The Liberal

Democrats are the only opposition to the Conservatives locally. The Liberal Democrats will stand up for local people over big decisions like Nickolls Quarry.

"Shepway's Conservative dominated Development Control Committee granted planning permission for 1050 homes on the Nickolls Quarry site despite massive opposition locally. The Conservatives have stopped listening - they need a big wake up call."



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"A Concrete White Elephant": Operation Stack is Back

In 2008, the Highways Agency installed an expensive "quick moveable barrier" on the M20 to deal with Operation Stack problems.

The recent closure of ferry services led to Operation Stack being put in place. The new barrier was not used, with the M20 being closed from J8-9 causing huge disruption to traffic travelling to Folkestone.

When questioned by local Lib Dem campaigner Tim Prater why the barrier had not been deployed, Kent Police said that the barrier section "would have been to capacity in a couple of hours" making it no use for a delay longer than that.

Hythe campaigner **Neil Matthews** says:

"We were told the barrier would reduce Operation Stack problems, and the M20 near Folkestone suffered months of delays as it was installed and then left in the road for months. Now it is needed, the Police say its 'the wrong kind of Stack' for the barrier to have been useful.

Hythe resident, **Sam Matthews** added: "Local residents are entitled to know actually when the barrier can be used - how many delays are actually only a couple of hours? If it is of no use for most problems then we need a different solution to Operation Stack - not a concrete white elephant."

• Lib Dem Neil Matthews says "Quick Moveable Barrier" is no use in curing Operation Stack.

Got a Problem locally? Tell us!

Can you help us?

My View:

- I can help deliver Focus in my area
Focus is delivered by volunteers. We aim to produce one every 6 weeks and it should take no more than an hour.
- I will have a garden poster at election time. A good display of posters is really important for our campaign.
- I want a postal vote for elections
You can arrange a postal vote for all elections. Tick the box above, and we'll send you an application form.

Name:

Address:

.....

Postcode:

Phone:

Mobile:

Email:

I would like to receive regular email news from the Lib Dems (please add email address below)

**Please return to: Shepway Lib Dems
FREEPOST CU592 Folkestone CT20 3BR**

The Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you have provided to contact you from time to time about issues we think you may find of interest. Some of the contacts may be automated. You can opt out of some or all contacts at any time by contacting us.

Contact your Lib Dem team in Hythe

Neil Matthews
67 Brockhill Road,
Hythe, Kent CT21 4AG
01303 268 043
07977 208 584
neil@shepwaylibdems.org.uk



Darren Briddock
Flat 5, 20-22 Marine Parade,
Hythe CT21 6AJ
01303 238 557
darren@shepwaylibdems.org.uk



Sam Matthews
Sam@shepwaylibdems.org.uk



It's time for a change

Shepway Lib Dems have launched a six step plan to improve Kent County Council.

Campaigner **Darren Briddock** said, "These six steps will really help to improve Shepway. Local residents need a council to help them during these hard times - that's why stopping the waste is our top priority".

"I hope local residents will have a look at our record. We've been fighting to get road repairs, street lights

fixed and improving our general environment.

Local campaigner **Sam Matthews** added, "The Conservatives have been running County Hall for far too long. In every one of the last four elections, Council tax rises fell in the year before an election. After the elections in 1997, 2001 and 2005, Council Tax rises went back up again immediately afterwards - sometimes by a huge amount. It's really time for a change".

OUR SIX TO FIX

STOP THE WASTE OF MONEY - and spend it on YOUR priorities.

FIX THE ROADS & PAVEMENTS - Fix the potholes and broken kerbs in your street.

A GREENER KENT - Better public transport, and improving recycling.

BETTER LOCAL SERVICES - Improve youth services.

SAFER STREETS - Work with the police to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

SAFER ROADS - improve road safety schemes and stop the cuts



Conservative Let-Down over Nickolls Quarry

Conservative Shepway District Council have given the go-ahead to the Nickolls Quarry development of 1,050 houses and other development - despite local residents anger at the decision.

Hythe Campaigner Neil Matthews was furious at the decision. Neil said:

"The Conservatives really let us down badly over the Nickolls Quarry planning application. Many Hythe West residents let their feeling known to Shepway District Council. Despite that, they voted for the development of 1050 houses on the quarry site - completely ignoring the representations of the people.

Only one District Councillor voted against - Lib Dem Tom McNeice.

"Hythe West residents are rightly concerned about the traffic problems. They experience them now and voiced how the new buildings would generate more problems. Conservative Kent County Council's Highways Department failed to address their problems - yet the Tories still voted for the development.

"There are many problem areas with this development including flooding and noise. Even the Ministry of Defence filed objections. **Darren Briddock** and myself kept residents informed of all the meeting dates."



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