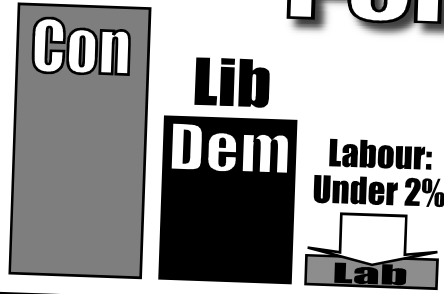


PALMARSH AND HYTHE WEST  
**FOCUS**  
 www.shepwaylibdems.org.uk



**A Clear Choice  
 For Hythe**



In the 2007 local elections, Labour got less than 2% of the vote across Shepway. There are NO Labour Councillors elected anywhere in Shepway. **Only the Lib Dems can beat the Conservatives in Hythe.**

February 2008

Keeping In Touch All Year Round - Not Just at Election Time



Neil Matthews speaks up for Hythe pensioners on bus passes.

See over...



Neil and Darren get action on local street lights and more.

See over...



Hythe Tories hike allotment fees by 66% and Council tax by 15%.

See over...

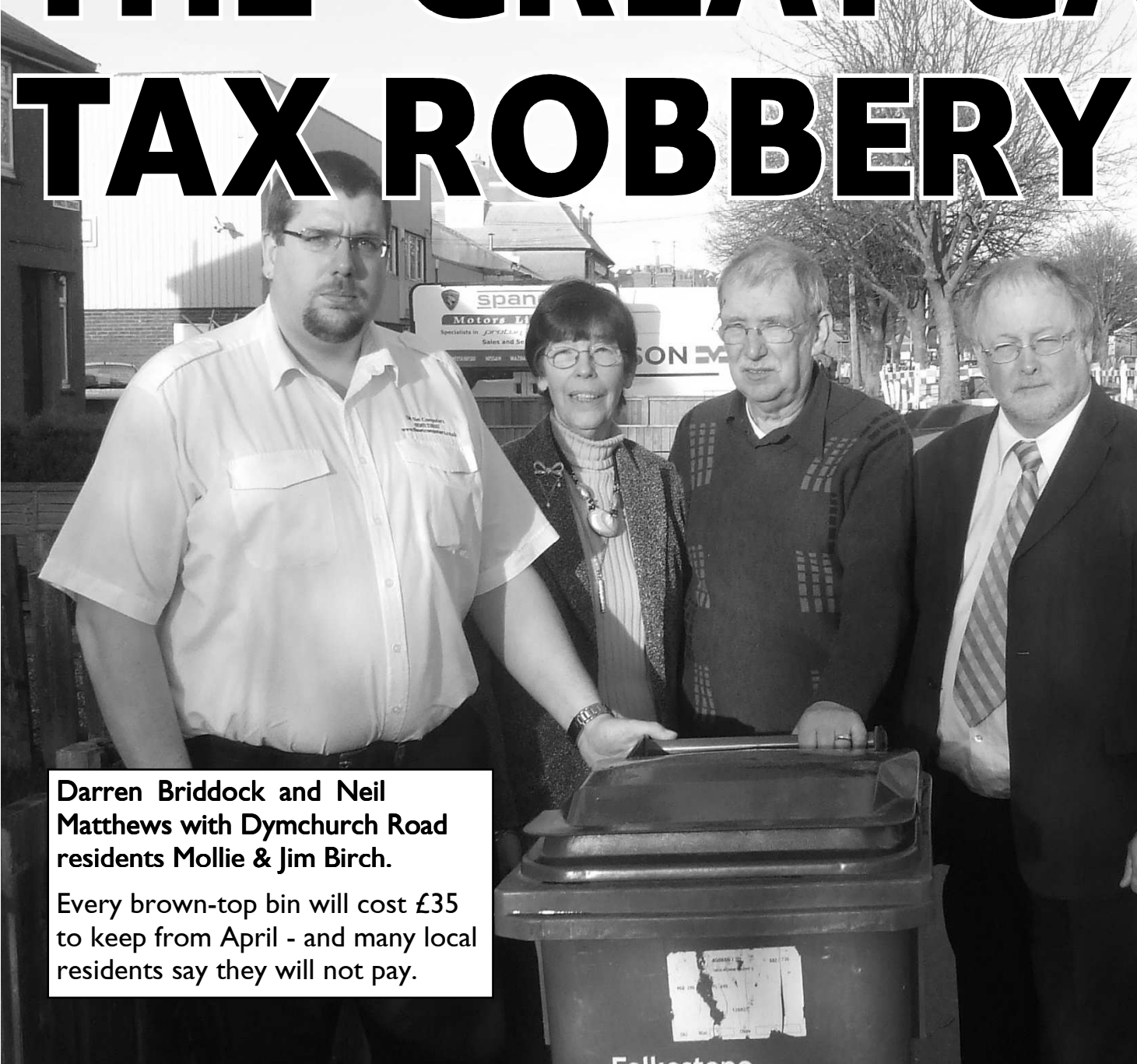
**We Fight for Hythe Pensioners**

**Lib Dem Action to Make Hythe Better**

**Hythe Tory Tax Bomb Explodes**

**New £35 charge from Shepway  
 Tories to use "Brown-top" bins**

**THE GREAT GARDEN  
 TAX ROBBERY**



Darren Briddock and Neil Matthews with Dymchurch Road residents Mollie & Jim Birch.

Every brown-top bin will cost £35 to keep from April - and many local residents say they will not pay.

From this April you will have to pay an extra £35 a year to recycle your green garden waste. Shepway Tories' new Garden Tax means you have to pay more to use your existing brown-top bin.

With a council tax increase to be announced in a few days, a Band D household that keeps their brown-top bin will see its Shepway Council Tax jump from £203 this year to a combined Council & Garden Tax of £247 next year - a HUGE 21.7% increase.

The Liberal Democrats say that the charge is wrong. The charge will cost a lot to administer, and will cut Shepway's recycling rate.

**Neil Matthews** said:

"If you've got a garden, the brown-top bin collection is really valuable. That's why the Government gave Shepway a big grant to launch the scheme in the first place.

"This £35 charge is quite simply an indefensible Garden Tax!"

**Darren Briddock** added:

"Many Hythe residents have told me they send their bins back and take their waste to the tip themselves. Shepway's recycling figures will plummet, which may lead to Shepway paying MORE in landfill tax and getting LESS for its green waste."

**AXE THE GARDEN TAX. GET YOUR OWN HOME COMPOSTER - CHEAP! SEE OVER...**

# Hythe: More Tax, More Charges



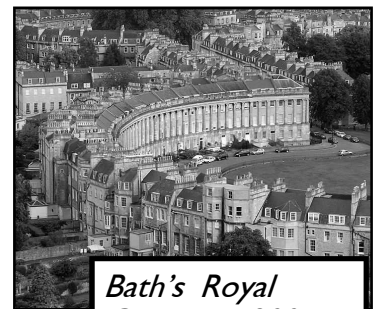
**Darren Briddock at Tweed Terrace allotments in Hythe.** "With a 15% tax rise here, a 66% rise in allotment fees and Shepway's Garden Tax of £35, the Tories are hurting Hythe."

Conservative Hythe Town Council has forced through a 15% Council Tax rise for next year, and a 66.6% increase in the cost of Hythe allotments. The cost of a "10-perch" allotment will rise to £50 a year in April.

Neil Matthews says: "These rises are outrageous. First Tory Shepway Council introduce a 'Garden Tax' of £35 a year by charging for Brown-top Bins. Now Conservative Hythe Town Council slam council tax payers with a 15% increase, and allotment owners with yet more charges."

Darren Briddock commented: "The only thing Hythe Council is encouraging to grow here is their taxes and charges. It's a bad deal for Hythe."

# Hythe Tories: at Home in Bath



*Bath's Royal Crescent: 200 miles from Hythe*

Tory Councillors for Hythe West John and Linda Oliver have STILL not resigned their council seats - despite having moved to Bath over SIX weeks ago!

In November Shepway Conservatives said the Olivers would resign in the "New Year". The Olivers sold their Hythe home before Christmas.

As a District Councillor, Linda Oliver continues to be entitled to £3,600 a year from Shepway Council.

"By not allowing Hythe West to choose new Councillors the Conservatives are showing they care nothing for Hythe West residents." says former Hythe Mayor Neil Matthews.

"The Conservative agent even claimed 'When they can no longer fulfil their elected role in the community we will call a by-election.' The Olivers sold up and moved hundreds of miles away well before Christmas. Despite this, weeks later, the Tories are still clinging to their seats."

Hythe resident Darren Briddock agrees:

"The Conservatives are running scared in Hythe. They know local residents are increasingly angry about the new Tory Garden Tax and huge 15% hike in Hythe's Council Tax."

# Matthews Questions Bus Pass Time Cut

Neil Matthews has written to Shepway Council on behalf of local pensioners. They are upset that Conservatives at Shepway have cut the hours that pensioner bus passes are valid, with the start time moving to 9.30 am - 30 minutes later than now.

Hythe resident Neil has written to Shepway asking them why this decision has been made and how much it will save. He said:

"The report on the new national bus pass system said that there would be 'minimal' savings to Shepway in moving to a 9.30 start.

"This penny-pinching decision will make it hard for many pensioners to make appointments, meetings and even to help in local charity shops.

"The new national pass is a good thing, but Shepway must reconsider their decision to cut the hours it can be used locally."



**Neil Matthews:** "Why have Shepway cut bus pass hours when their report claims they would make 'minimal' savings from doing so? It simply hurts local pensioners."



**Neil and Darren's Action Update:** Damaged pavements in Burmarsh Road reported. Hedges on Palmarsh Avenue reported - maintenance on the way. Dog fouling in Kingfisher Avenue reported - ECO team now making regular visits and clean ups. Bus stops in Pennypot area reported - new bus signs and timetables en route. Faulty street lights across Hythe West reported.

[www.shepwaylibdems.org.uk](http://www.shepwaylibdems.org.uk)

WRAP Offer in partnership with Kent County Council

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## Keep In Touch

If you have a problem, please get in touch with one of our Hythe team (details below) or use the form to the right and send to our FREEPOST address.

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*My View:*

## Your Details

Name: .....

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..... Postcode: .....

Phone: .....

## Could you help us?

I can help the Liberal Democrats by:

- Delivering FOCUS every few weeks to a local road
- Joining the Liberal Democrats and my local action team

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