

FOCUS

SPRING 2011



NORTON WEST

NOT THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

We underline again, we are NOT the Liberal Democrats. The Liberals have a long history behind many social changes. Lloyd George introduced the state pension. Beveridge designed the NHS. Keynes showed that government spending was needed to stop a recession hurting the vulnerable.

The Liberal Democrats are propping up the Tories. ConDem policies are hurting the vulnerable, the poor, the elderly and the young. This is not a Liberal approach, it is a destruction of our social fabric.

The 'Big Society'

The ConDem Coalition Government talks about the 'Big Society'. We already have it here in Ryedale. Liberals fear for the future of what has been achieved by so many, working so hard over so many years. Your Tory/Independent/LibDem Council congratulate themselves on achieving savings saying they only cut the Council newspaper. They are fooling themselves and trying to fool you. More cuts are coming – to the voluntary sector and Council Services. Yet this country's debt is a third of the debt at the end of the Second World War. Then, millions of new homes were built and the NHS was created. Are we that poor? Or is someone else being greedy?

Merging Norton and Malton Town Councils

It's right that the community of both towns should have their say in whether this proposal should go ahead. Norton and Malton are very different – in size and in history. Do you want to lose your local voice? Voting in favour could create a mini-Ryedale Council and who would that serve? Bigger isn't better. We don't need another 'Town Hall'.

No to more development in Norton

The traffic system and schools can't take it. We need improvements now. The Council's failure to get its act together on planning for future local development has led to a 'free for all' for developers not just here but across Ryedale. The development of the town needs to go forward in a planned way.

Norton Library Closure



The Tory controlled County Council has threatened to close Norton Library. The Liberals on NYCC found a way to keep the libraries open but with some reduced opening hours and fewer books – but at least they would be open. Not a single Tory Councillor voted for this fair solution. They have delayed the closures. Was it these local elections that worried them? The Tory candidates for Norton West say: 'we are against any closure' - more hypocrisy.

YOUR LIBERAL CONTACTS

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Ryedale District Council

The Liberal Group on Ryedale District Council is the *only* opposition. At the recent budget meeting the voice for change came from the Liberals. The Tories, Liberal Democrats and the so-called Independents all voted 25 to our 3 against our proposals. We continue to voice your views.



North Yorkshire Bus Services

Conservative controlled North Yorkshire County Council has removed the subsidy to evening and Sunday bus services. 40% of evening use is to and from work. Meanwhile some daytime services with less usage are still supported. How does this help our rural communities? Once again a blunt axe and not a scalpel to make a saving. The Liberals opposed this.



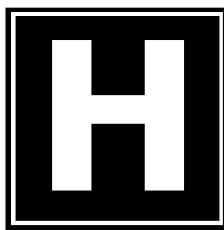
Cuts

The ConDem government has forced draconian cuts on Local Government. Liberals believe that the massive debt should be paid, but like a mortgage, be paid off over a longer period.



85% of the people in Ryedale voted for either the Tories or the Liberal Democrats. To those who supported the Liberal Democrats, are the actions of the present government what you voted for?

NHS Changes



For 60 years GPs have been the 'voice' of the patient. They have challenged the system. The ConDem government is changing the NHS. GPs will become the system. Who will be the 'voice' of the patient now?



Arms Sales

David Cameron going to the Middle East to discuss change is good. Good is not the word for taking 8 arms dealers with him.

NY Times

You should by now have received your *last* copy of the NY Times. The Conservative controlled County Council said it was 'value for money'. They have been forced to cancel it. £240,000 well saved—that is value for money.

Forests

The Liberals submitted a motion to Ryedale District Council calling to:

- Ⓢ Halt the waste of money on the consultation
- Ⓢ Abandon the sale of any forestry land.

Less than a week later, before it was debated, the ConDem Government had done a U turn and stopped the consultation. This is good news. However we need to watch them closely as they have a record of 'selling off the family silver'.

