

FOCUS

SPRING 2012



MARSTON MOOR

WE ARE NOT THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

We underline 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.

ConDem policies are hurting the vulnerable, the poor, the young and now pensioners. This is not a Liberal approach—it is the destruction of our social fabric.

Tax cuts for millionaires

The ConDem interpretation of 'austerity' is tax cuts for millionaires paid for by pensioners. For decades people over 65 have paid less tax than other people on the same income; a larger still allowance for those over 80. This was designed to encourage people to save for retirement and reduce the need to claim benefits. Both tax reliefs are to be removed for future pensioners. For existing pensioners they will not be increased with inflation thus becoming worth less and less. Pensioners will pay more and more tax. Why should pensioners be paying to reduce Corporation Tax for big business or reducing the tax bill for millionaires?

Liberals select John Savage

John Savage has been selected as the approved Liberal candidate for the Marston Moor ward in the Harrogate elections on May 3rd.

Harrogate Council to waste £12.5m

Despite this time of cuts and rising prices Harrogate Council has decided to spend £12.5million on a new Town Hall. What a waste of money. Not a single Tory voted against this grandiose scheme. They were all, of course, 'whipped'. John Savage voted against - it is our money.



YOUR LIBERAL CONTACTS

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JOHN SAVAGE WRITES

Why I left the Tories

I have been your conservative councillor for over a decade. Your issues have been the ones I have taken up at the Council. In 2010 the subject of the Allerton Park incinerator was on the County Council agenda. The Tory whip and regional director tried to make me vote against your wishes. When forced to choose between party and the people in the ward I chose the people in the ward. I left the Tory group on both Harrogate Borough Council and the County Council. I was free to represent people.

Why I joined the Liberals

Liberals are campaigning, radical and green. Very different from the Tories I have left. There is no whip system. I am not told how to vote. As a Liberal councillor I am totally free to represent the views of people who live in the ward.

- ♦ Liberals are more independent than the Independents — the Independents on Harrogate Council invariably vote with the Tories or at best abstain.
- ♦ Liberals are as green as the Greens — we had agreement from the Greens against the Allerton Park incinerator and in favour of increasing Harrogate's abysmal recycling levels.
- ♦ Liberals are more liberal than the Liberal Democrats — many of the actions of the Liberal Democrats in government are illiberal.
- ♦ Liberals are more careful with your money than the Conservatives.
- ♦ Liberals are massive supporters of community politics, i.e. people before politics.

With these policies it didn't take me long to apply to the Liberal Party to become an approved Liberal Councillor.

