

FOCUS

SPRING 2013



AINSTY DIVISION

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.

What A Waste

The biggest mistake by NYCC in the last 4 years was the decision to build a massive incinerator.

- Finance—£1,400 million is too much.
- Environment—burning recyclables is wrong.
- People—less jobs, more traffic, are both wrong.

Now the government has withdrawn its £65 million support —more money for us to find. The North Yorkshire Liberals led the opposition campaign.

Potholes

For the last two years the number of complaints on the state of the roads ‘potholes’ has greatly increased. This is driven by three main factors:

1. The Tory County Council keeping the Council Tax down and accepting the government bribe. As a result there is less money in the budget.
2. Central Government (ConDem) cutting the funding to North Yorkshire.
3. Of course the appalling snow and ice over the last two or three years.

I will continue to push and hassle the highways department. However we must remember the above before shooting the messenger.



Blank Cheque

Next year North Yorkshire County Council’s budget depends on taking money out of reserves. The Tories plan to have a further budget in June. They are asking you to vote for an unknown package.

The question is: “Do you trust the Tories?”

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 the County Council.

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.

Contact John Savage on: 0755 497 8543 John@HarrogateLiberals.org.uk

