



**PICKERING DIVISION**

**APRIL 2015**



## Pickering Town Bus

John Clark opposed the cuts to our bus services. However the real campaign was waged by the people of Pickering. There were more Pickering people at the North Yorkshire County Council meeting than from the rest of North Yorkshire put together.

## First Friday

Pickering Liberal Councillors will hold a 'surgery' at the **Memorial Hall at 7pm on the 1st Friday of each month.** Please come along to discuss any subject you would like us to consider.

## Pickering Library

The ConDem government has savaged the financial support to North Yorkshire. Big savings have to be made. Liberals have proposed the abolition of Ryedale District Council and replacing it with a North Yorkshire Area Committee for Ryedale. This would make a big saving (£20million to £40million per year) by the reduction of senior managers across the county. A fraction of the savings would keep the bus services and the libraries intact.

## What is the point of a Local Plan?

Liberals did not oppose the new development of the **extra-care provision** on the Malton Road. We did however strongly oppose the bolt-on retirement village. Only 14% of these bungalows are to be affordable. The vast majority of the people who buy these will not come from the Pickering area. It will create 'in-migration'.

The Ryedale Local Plan states:

- 35–40% affordable.
- We will oppose in-migration.
- We will resist retirement villages.



Tories, LibDems and Independent councillors all supported the application. They totally ignored the Local Plan and voted for this retirement village. **ONLY THE LIBERALS** voted against the bungalows.

### YOUR LIBERAL CONTACTS

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# NOT THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

We underline we are not the Liberal Democrats. The Liberals have a long history behind many social improvements. 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 austerity policies are hurting the poor, the sick and the young. This is not a Liberal approach – it is the destruction of our social fabric.

## Living Wage

Ryedale Liberals proposed that the lowest paid on the council should receive ‘at least the Living Wage’. The Tories said that the cost (a total cost of £5,000/year) was too high a risk for the Council. The Liberal motion was defeated.

However for the highest paid the approach is very different. After a two year wage freeze, local government employees have, from the 1<sup>st</sup> January, received a 2.2% award over 2 years. The National Agreement was for the lowest paid up to those on £42,032. In Ryedale the pay increase was continued up to £70,000. No debate, no discussion, just an extra cost to the council. No mention of risk – at a cost of £6,000/year between the higher paid managers.

## Green Waste

For 3 years Conservatives, LibDems, and Independent councillors all voted to accept the government ‘bribe’ to keep the council Tax down. As a result Ryedale District Council now has less money for services. The Tory council voted to charge for green waste. All the Liberal councillors voted to increase the Council Tax by £3 per year and NOT charge for green waste collection. Meanwhile more waste will go to landfill and Ryedale’s recycling levels will fall dramatically from over 50%.

Our national taxes are used to pay for a freeze - so we pay anyway. Those wishing to have their green waste collected will end up with a 20% increase in payments to RDC. Should anybody trust the ConDems again?

## Fracking

The Liberals on Ryedale District Council Proposed:

*“Ryedale District Council completely opposes all fracking in Ryedale.”*

We also tried:

*“Oppose all fracking until 90% of scientists believe there is no harm to health, climate and the environment.”*

and *“A five year fracking freeze.”*

Every Tory councillor opposed these options. They are clearly prepared to risk:

- Water quality.
- Damage to farming and tourism.
- Climate change.
- Health of Ryedale people.

Your Liberal councillors are not willing to risk any of the above. The benefits would be for big business. All the negatives would be for the people of Ryedale.