

West Hunsbury FOCUS



www.southnorthantslibdems.org.uk

Edited by Jill Hope. Paid for and delivered by volunteers

Borough Councillors in Northampton

Lib Dem
23

Con
16

Lab
Just 5



Bus services 28 and 12 to West Hunsbury both under threat - "This is outrageous" says Jill Hope

Call to Action

We warned you in the last FOCUS leaflet that the number 28 bus was under threat. Now it's been confirmed, and it's even worse than we thought.

According to The Chronicle and Echo on 27 January, not only the number 28 bus is under threat from cuts by the conservative-led County Council, but so is the number 12 service from Camp Hill.

This is outrageous. Clearly a lot of people in West Hunsbury have a car, or even two cars. The bus usage is low. But for those people who rely on the bus to take them shopping, to get to work, to get to

Northampton, this is devastating news.

Even if you don't use the bus currently, you may need to in future:

- What if you're getting older and eventually can't drive any longer?
- What about when your children get older and want to get about without relying on you for lifts all the time?
- What if your husband has to use the car for work and you can't afford a second car, but need to get to work yourself?
- What was the point of building a new estate of affordable houses in West Hunsbury, the West Lake Estate, if you then withdraw the bus service?

I call on the people of West Hunsbury to rise up and protest about this. Write, write, write -

You can email them at highways@northamptonshire.gov.uk or write to John Ellerby at NCC, John Dryden House, Northampton NN4 7DD

When it is clear when and where these decisions are taking place I will circulate details so that those people who care can join me in protest against this totally unacceptable decision.

I accept that hard decisions need to be made in the current difficult times, but this one is a step too far.



We are losing our bus service

Number of people out of work in Northampton is falling

Unemployment in Northampton is continuing to drop at a steady rate.

The latest monthly figures for November show the number of Jobs Seekers Allowance claimants at 5,036, which is only 3.75% of the working population.

Compared with a year ago, vacancies are up by 45%. The biggest number of vacancies are in logistics,

warehousing and HGV drivers, and the most sought after occupations are office based and retail.

Northampton compares well with the rest of the East Midlands region and with the rest of the county.

In terms of change, only South Northants and Daventry councils perform better, and they already have very low unemployment.

Connexions cuts will hurt young people.

Just at a time when young people are finding it particularly hard to get work, it is sad to see the Connexions service facing cuts of a third in their budget by the Conservative-led County Council.

Connexions work with NEETs - young people who are not in employment, education or training.

Local campaigner Jill Hope commented: "I worked for Connexions for a year not long ago, and I was really impressed with the important work they did with young people. I am alarmed that their budget has been cut just at a time when the work they do is needed more than ever."

Your Local FOCUS team

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Saints and Cobblers - the truth about the planning issues



Jill Hope said: "Talking to local residents, I frequently come across people who support our local rugby and football teams. They say to me: 'The Lib Dems don't want to help these clubs do they?'"

"Nothing could be further from the truth. I doubt if you could find keener rugby and football supporters than many of our Councillors, including the Leader and several Cabinet members.

"The Clubs say we oppose their development plans. We say 'send in applications and we will consider them.'

"One fan in West Hunsbury told me the Saints wouldn't submit a plan unless we agreed in advance to pass it. That would be against the law.

"For goodness sake let's get this moving now, and stop the silly games."

Youth shelter in Camp Hill - stay or go?

In last month's FOCUS, in a special Camp Hill edition, we asked local residents whether they wanted to keep the Youth Shelter at the back of the Camp Hill shops or not. The

FOCUS team has received lots of calls, but opinion is divided. What do YOU think? Call or email Jill Hope.



ACTION ALL YEAR ROUND - NOT JUST AT ELECTION TIMES!

Lib Dem Northampton

Cutting Waste, not Services



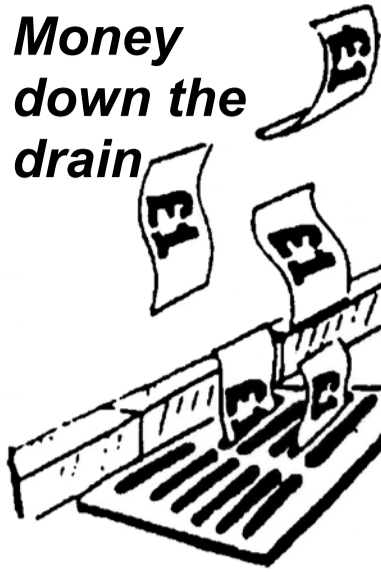
Lib Dems are cutting over £5 million out of the Councils budget this year, and they are doing it without cutting services!

Council Tax is frozen- helping hard pressed taxpayers.

Car Park charges are frozen. The last time shoppers parking charges went up was when the Tories ran the council 5 years ago.

- Spending on homeless people is being increased- supporting the most needy.
- Funding for volunteers is protected- while the Conservative County Council is cutting grants.
- Private expertise is being brought into refuse collection, cutting costs while improving the service.
- Our leisure centres are to be managed by a charitable trust, just like the award winning Royal & Derngate theatres.
- Cliftonville House has been sold and staff moved to the Guildhall, saving running costs, and freeing up money to invest in parks and other improvements.

Conservative Northamptonshire



£2 Million on new County Quango

Conservative County Council bosses want to sack lollipop people, close libraries and cut care for the elderly and infirm, but then they are planning to spend £2 million on setting up a new Quango.

The 'Northamptonshire Economic Partnership' quango will duplicate the work of the West Northants Development Corporation (WNDC) which is about to be disbanded and its work handed over to local councils like Northampton Borough.

Leader of the Lib Dem opposition on the County Council, Brendan Glynane said: "It is scandalous that the Conservatives want to spend £2 million on this, when frontline services to the most needy people are being cut. The last thing we need in these difficult times is another expensive quango."

Europe improves your rights to hospital treatment

MEPs have passed new European rules allowing people to receive medical treatment in other EU Member States.

They mean that if a patient from Northampton is unable to gain access to essential medical care within a reasonable time,

they would be allowed to have their treatment in another Member State, fully paid for or with the ability to claim back the money spent.

Bill Newton-Dunn, your Lib Dem MEP commented: "**The new rules provide a coherent and clear legislative framework for UK patients seeking treatment in another EU Member State and are**

a real milestone for cross-border healthcare in Europe. I think we have found the right balance between protecting national health systems and strengthening patients' rights."



Five key Lib Dem achievements in Government:

- Scrapped Labour's intrusive ID cards plan ✓
- £2.5bn "pupil premium" to benefit schools ✓
- Reclassified gardens to curb "garden grabbing" ✓
- More low earners to be taken out of income tax ✓
- No more Post Office closures ✓

We want to hear from You

Have your say

What are the most important things Northampton Borough Council should be tackling?

Before the May Council elections, the Lib Dems will be publishing their plan for the next four years of the Council. We want to make sure that our top priorities are yours too.

Please rank in order of preference (1,2,3 etc.) what you think are the most important jobs for the Council.

- Promoting jobs, cutting unemployment
- Building homes people can afford
- Saving energy, being green
- Cleaner streets, beautiful parks
- Tackling crime, making places safe.
- Improving the Town Centre, protecting our heritage
- Cutting waste- keeping the council tax down
- Leisure and recreation for people of all ages
- Involving people, supporting volunteers
- Other (please list) *Note: Schools, social care, roads, pavements & public transport are the responsibility of the Conservative run County Council*

Choose 1,2,3... A fairer way to vote

Any problems?

Write your problems and ideas here!



Name/s:.....
 Address:.....
 Tel No:.....
 Mobile:.....
 E-mail:

The Lib Dems may contact you using the information above, about issues and campaigns you might be interested in. To opt out, please tick here

Can you help us?

- I will be supporting the Lib Dems at the next local election.
- I can help deliver a few leaflets each month in my road.
- I'd like more information about becoming a Lib Dem member.

Return to: **The Focus Team, FREEPOST NH0482, Northampton, NN1 3BR**
 (No stamp required but if you use one it saves our costs)