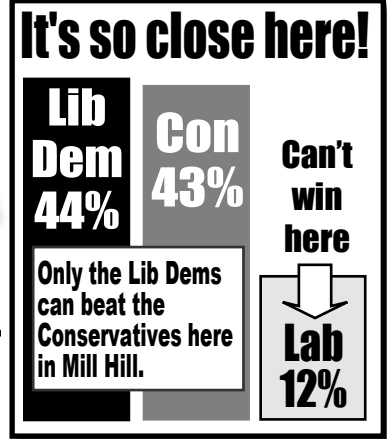


FOCUS

On Mill Hill ward



Jeremy Davies - Kim Checchetto - Matthew Harris - Roger Tichborne

Green belt 'up for grabs!'

Publicly-owned green belt land could be handed over to private sector 'management' under plans by Tory-controlled Barnet Council.

The cash-strapped council lost millions in failed Icelandic banks and is now looking to the private sector to help it make money from the council's assets – including the green belt.

Says Focus Team member **Kim Checchetto**: 'The green belt already makes a huge contribution to the quality of life in Mill Hill. It shouldn't be exploited to fill a financial black hole.'

Adds **Cllr Jeremy Davies** 'We know the green belt is not a priority for the Tories. By their own admission their local green belt policies are weak. Green belt protection isn't even mentioned in

the new three-year plan. We couldn't support these proposals without cast iron guarantees that there will be no building on the green belt.'

What do you think? Contact Kim on kim@barnetlibdems.org.uk.

UPDATE

The Lib Dem search for the council with the best approach to protecting the green belt – the 'green belt gold standard' (see Focus 81 and 76) - may be close to completion – More in the next Focus.

When found we will be fighting for the same approach to be adopted in Barnet.



Enjoying a walk in the green belt

Lib Dem ACTION in Barnet's 'Pothole Paradise'

Following our report in Focus 81 about Barnet's crumbling roads, the Mill Hill Focus team have been inundated with reports from people about potholes in residential roads.

Says Focus team member **Roger Tichborne**: 'We have passed on every complaint to Barnet Council and we will continue to pursue them until action is taken.'

Pot holes are unsightly and dangerous. The Lib Dems believe the council should be doing a lot

more to find and repair these pot holes before there is a serious accident.

Adds **Roger**: 'The council shouldn't be waiting for the public to report a pothole. We want the refuse teams – who cover all but the most inaccessible roads in the Borough – to photograph and record the exact location of every pothole on their route. Each pothole could be listed on Barnet's Council's website until it's repaired. Residents with access to the internet could check

the list regularly to make sure progress is being made.'



www.barnetlibdems.org.uk

Free Parking Campaign

Mill Hill Broadway will be the 'pilot' for a scheme to allow all shoppers one hour's free parking - if Lib Dem budget proposals are accepted by Barnet Council. Says Focus team member **Kim Checchetto**: 'Now that M&S have

felt it necessary to charge for parking, our campaign for one hour's free parking in the Broadway couldn't be more timely. If the council adopts our scheme it will be a shot in the arm for all the independent traders.'

Older savers hit by tax overpayments

Older people in Mill Hill could have paid too much tax on their savings income, warns **Matthew Harris**, the Lib Dem Parliamentary candidate for Hendon. Matthew's concern follows a Parliamentary report warning that more than two million older people have been hit in this way, and this could include many older savers in our area. Matthew has emailed the Permanent Secretary for Tax, Dave Hartnett, asking what steps older people should now take if they fear they might have overpaid. Matthew said:

"After a lifetime of paying their taxes, older people should not now have to pay more than they really owe. These overpayments are very worrying and unfair. I have asked HM Revenue & Customs to tell me what people should do if they fear they have overpaid, so that I can pass this information on to local people." For more information contact Matthew on matthew@barnetlibdems.org.uk or write to Barnet Liberal Democrats FREEPOST, LON 12459, London NW7 1YE.

Contact us

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The Liberal Democrat councillors hold a weekly advice surgery in the Library, Hartley Avenue, Saturdays from 10 am to 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

All Problems Great & Small

Mill Hill Lib Dems are here for problems of any size.

A Tithe Walk resident recently complained to Cllr **Jeremy Davies** about an overflowing bin in **Watford Way**. Jeremy was happy to help.



The overflowing bin pictured on the left was soon cleared after Cllr Jeremy Davies took action.



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Would you like to know more about the Liberal Democrats?

Please return to Barnet Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST, LON 12459, London, NW7 1YE

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- I would like to help deliver Focus Newsletter
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