



## From Liberal Democrat

### Parliamentary candidate Jonathan Davies & Councillor Jack Cohen



#### LIB DEM COUNCIL BUDGET VOTED DOWN

Cllr Jack Cohen presented an alternative budget at a recent Council meeting. Cllr Cohen proposed a freeze in Council Tax. He identified savings which would make our libraries secure. Money could also be found to cushion the impact of service cuts on our most vulnerable residents. Cllr Cohen proposed cutting councillors' allowances especially the additional special responsibility allowances. Around 30 Conservative Councillors are paid additional amounts. He also proposed doing away with political assistants for the Labour and Conservative groups and cutting money spent on consultants and agency staff. Cllr Cohen said his budget was sensible: "I even found some money to reintroduce the popular neighbourhood skips" **Predictably the Conservatives voted all of this down whilst Labour did not even bother to put forward a budget proposal.**

#### LIBRARIES

Cllr Jack Cohen and Parliamentary candidate Jonathan Davies described the public campaign to save our libraries as fantastic, following the collection of a petition containing almost 10,000 signatures set up by Liberal Democrat, Alasdair Hill. Alasdair presented the petition to a packed council meeting where he spoke on behalf of the myriad of residents appalled by Conservatives' plans to close and decimate our libraries. Here in Childs Hill at a standing room only meeting in All Saints' School local residents made their objections very clear. **Jack said the consultation is flawed, residents are angry and the proposals are badly thought out. The Conservatives should admit defeat and go back to the drawing board**



#### SAVE OUR 13 BUS

Local Lib Dems are working with Lib Dem GLA members to stop TfL axing the 13 bus.

**Our Parliamentary Candidate, Jonathan Davies,** said "No extra buses are planned on the 82 route, reducing the buses along the Finchley Road by 8 an hour at peak times. This is a crucial route for commuters, connecting to the Jubilee Line. The proposed substitute route to the West End using Bus 139 via Abbey Road and Lisson Grove will increase journey times and miss out important parts of the 13 route. **Yet another local public service is under threat.**

#### LIB. DEMS DELIVER £905 INCOME TAX CUT

From April 2016, the personal tax allowance will increase from £10,600 to £10,800. It will go up again in April 2017 to £11,000 meaning millions of workers will keep more of their hard earned cash. A typical basic rate taxpayer will be £905 a year better off in 2017/18 compared with 2010/11. **Jonathan Davies said "Income tax cuts for working people were a top priority for Liberal Democrats when we entered the coalition in 2010. The Conservatives said it was not affordable but Liberal Democrats in government have fought tooth and nail to cut taxes for workers."** We are committed to raise the tax-free threshold to £12,500 by the end of the next parliament.

#### LIB DEM BUDGET



Liberal Democrat Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander outlined how our alternative budget is based on the Liberal Democrat values of fairness and strength and how they will deliver on our commitment to balance the books fairly.

In order to do so we will ensure that those with the broadest shoulders bear the largest share.

The plans are based on a further £6 billion from tax dodgers, and an additional £6 billion of tax rises. We would ask those in high-value properties and the banking sector to pay more, rather than ask those on low incomes to accept less.

This means that there will be more money available for infrastructure investment and public services, increasing to £40 billion. This money could be used to ensure that the NHS has the £8 billion a year that it needs to secure its future and to protect the education budget from cradle to college.

To reduce tax evasion we would introduce a new strict liability criminal offence for off shore evaders, so that pleading ignorance can no longer be used in an attempt to avoid criminal prosecution and introduce a new offence of corporate failure to prevent tax evasion or the facilitation of tax evasion. This would stop organisations from being able to get away with facilitating or abetting others to evade tax.

#### How to contact us.

**Email:** [cllr.j.cohen@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.j.cohen@barnet.gov.uk) [jonathan@barnetlibdems.org.uk](mailto:jonathan@barnetlibdems.org.uk)

**Home phones:** Jack Cohen 020 8446 5390 Jonathan Davies 020 8455 5956

**Website** [www.barnetlibdems.co.uk](http://www.barnetlibdems.co.uk)

or write to us c/o The Town Hall, The Burroughs, NW4 4BG

**Ward surgeries:** Childs Hill Library the first Thursday of each month from 7.00-8.00p.m.

## MORE NEWS OVER the PAGE ⇌

## STREET LITTER



Cllr Jack Cohen, seen here with Jonathan Davies next to an overflowing rubbish bin in Cricklewood, is continuing to lobby the Council to sort out its street cleaning schedule. Cllr Cohen points out that from Golders Green and West Heath Road in the north to Cricklewood in the south, the poor state of road and pavement sweeping is a constant complaint from residents. The Council keeps making promises and things improve for a while, only to revert back after a few months.

The Council will be introducing a new street cleaning regime from April with assurances there will be noticeable improvements. **Let's hope they are right.**

## £650,000 BOOST FOR OUR LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Four local primary schools have received £653,000 through the Liberal Democrats' pupil premium. The pupil premium was introduced by the Liberal Democrats in Government to help children who might otherwise fall behind. In the last year:



- Childs Hill school received £250,900;
- Wessex Gardens School £211,900;
- All Saints £120,900 and
- St Agnes £70,200.

**Jonathan Davies said "The Liberal Democrats are promising in the General Election that we will protect all education funding from cradle to college – from early years education to aged 19."**

## NICK CLEGG HAS ANNOUNCED £1.25 BILLION NEW FUNDING FOR CHILD MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



The money, spread over five years, will help treat 110,000 more children with mental health issues, and also provide rapid access to treatment for pregnant women and new mothers.

As part of the package, Nick also announced that the first ever-waiting time standards for children's mental health will be introduced, and specialists in children's talking therapy will be available in every part of the country by 2018. The funding will also extend access to services for children under five and those with autism and learning disabilities.

Three children in every classroom have a diagnosable mental health condition and research shows that left untreated it can blight their adult lives. But until now, provision of appropriate care has been insufficient to meet their needs. Children and young people with conditions like depression or anxiety, self harm or at risk of suicide will now get access to more therapy, parenting support and care closer to home or in their community. This announcement is just the latest in a series of improvements to mental health services that we have delivered over the last 5 years.

*Childs Hill News is edited by Susette Palmer*

## GRANVILLE ROAD DEVELOPMENT

Residents turned up in force at the Planning Committee to demonstrate their opposition to the proposed plans to develop the Estate. **Cllr Jack Cohen backed residents by calling for the plans to be rejected.** He pointed out that the proposals would take away valuable green spaces, make no provision for community facilities such as a community centre and that the increase in traffic has been underestimated by the planners. The Committee narrowly voted to turn down the application. After the meeting Cllr Cohen said, "It remains to be seen what the developers do next; they could appeal. I hope they talk to local people and come up with a more sensible scheme."

## EQUALITY ISSUES

Lib. Dem Minister for Equalities Jo Swinson says, "As a result of Lib Dem pressure on the coalition government the gender pay gap has fallen to its lowest level, at just under 20 per cent - but this is still 20 per cent too high. **We should value the contribution of women and men in the workplace equally, so our goal has to be eliminating the pay gap completely.**"

The national 'Inspiring Women', campaign launched a year ago by Nick Clegg's wife Miriam, already has 12,500 amazing women ready to talk with girls in state schools about the 'job they do' and the route they took. "Our ambition is to see 15,000 women from a wide range of occupations going into state schools, by summer 2015, talking to 250,000 young women about future careers" she said.



## JOIN THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS AND HELP OUR CAMPAIGN

I would like to join the Liberal Democrats. Please keep me informed about your local work.  
 I would like to help in the general election. ( ) tick here.

Name..... My email is.....

Phone.....Address.....

.....postcode.....

I am able to help deliver the Councillors newsletter (tick here) [ ]  
 Please return to Liberal Democrats at 6 Carlton Close, NW3 7UA

