



# **LIBERAL**

## **News**

### **Summer 2010**

Edited and Printed by Cllr. Fran Oborski , 6 Osborne Close,  
Kidderminster, DY10 3YY

#### **In this Edition**

- **Arrangements for the 125th Liberal Assembly October 16th**
- **Local Elections 2010**
- **Lord Mayor Hazel Williams**
- **The Coalition and the aftermath!**
- **To AV or not to AV that is the question.**

#### **The 125th Liberal Party Assembly will be held on:**

**Saturday October 16th 2010 at:  
Society of Friends Meeting House,  
8B Summerfield Road,  
Wolverhampton**

**( If there is enough interest there may be an informal session on the  
Friday night).**

**Registration: £10 waged, £5 unwaged**

**To Register please send a cheque made payable to The Liberal Party  
to: Liberal Party Assembly Registrations,  
C/O 87, Allesley Old Rd. Coventry, CV5 8DB**

**Notices of Motion by September 3rd to: danielwood24@hotmail.com  
Daniel Wood 26, Archers Green Rd, Kingswood, Warrington. WA5 7XS**

#### **To AV or not to AV?**

When it was last discussed at Liberal Assembly the Party decided that it did NOT accept AV other than as a very tentative step towards Proportional Representation, OUR Policy is, and always has been, to Campaign for STV!

Liberals facing local Elections against Tories next year could be faced with the choice of either backing AV (much against their better judgement) or Campaigning on the SAME SIDE as the Tories in the Referendum whilst trying to defeat them in Local Elections.

This is yet another reason for wanting Local Elections firmly separated from ALL National Elections (including Referenda).



# LIBERAL News Winter 2010

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Kidderminster, DY10 3YY

## In this Edition

- Assembly Round-Up
- Arrangements for Presidential and National Executive Elections
- Party Ballot Paper Descriptions
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**The 125th Liberal Party Assembly  
was held on:  
Saturday October 16th 2010 in Wolverhampton.**



**The 126th Assembly will  
be held on Saturday**

**October**

## To AV or not to AV?

This Party does NOT accept AV. OUR Policy is, and always has been, to Campaign for STV!

Liberals facing local Elections against Tories next year will be faced with the choice of either backing AV (much against their better judgement) or Campaigning on the SAME SIDE as the Tories in the Referendum whilst trying to defeat them in Local Elections.

This is yet another reason for wanting Local Elections firmly separated from ALL National Elections (including Referenda).

Liberals in some Cities will also be faced with Referenda on Directly Elected Mayors.

## **Liberal Party NEC**

Whilst only NEC members may vote, all party members are very welcome to attend, as Observers, our NEC meetings, which will be held at the Civil Service Club, Westminster from 11am on Saturdays 19th February and 25th June 2011. NB. Observers may NOT speak except by agreement with the Chair,

Meetings tend to finish around 3 -4pm.

## **Liberal Party NEC Elections**

Every Member of the Liberal Party is entitled to vote in the elections for our 15 person National Executive and for our Party President (an ex- officio member of the NEC). These elections take place every two years.

If you want to stand for election to the NEC, please sign an acceptance form and secure two supporting nominations. You should, at the same time, also submit 40 words as to why you think that you should be elected.

Candidates for election as Party President, should obtain 40 nominations from party members and submit an A4 single side manifesto.

All nominations should be returned to the address below no later than 18th December 2010.

Jim Halcrow, Election Returning Officer  
Flat 1F4  
15 Rossie Place  
Edinburgh  
EH7 5SE

E-mail: [jimhalcrow@waitrose.com](mailto:jimhalcrow@waitrose.com)

Please include a name, address and contact telephone number if e-mailing your nomination. If you wish to nominate by post, please use the form on the reverse.

***I wish to stand for election to the NEC.***

Signed.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Contact telephone number.....

e-mail address.....

***I wish to stand for Party President.***

Signed.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Contact telephone number.....

e-mail address.....

***I wish to nominate for***

***NEC.....***

***Party President.....***

Signed.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Contact telephone number.....

e-mail address.....

## **Assembly Disgusted at Liberal Democrat "U Turn"!**

This was passed at the Liberal Party Assembly on Saturday 16th October 2010 in Wolverhampton.

### **Tuition Fees.**

Assembly notes that the desire that

"none shall be enslaved by ignorance ,poverty and conformity"

appears in both the constitution of The Liberal Party and the Liberal Democrats.

Assembly believes that the proposals of the coalition Government in respect of university tuition fees are likely to foster at least two of the above maladies if not all three.

For this reason amongst others, assembly is resolved to fight the government's proposals by all means available .

The Liberal Party restates its belief that higher education tuition fees should be free to students and funded out of general taxation .

Assembly is fully aware of the present economic climate, however it believes that the education of future generations should not be fettered by the ability to pay or pay back tuition fees but rather should be prioritised ahead of spending billions on nuclear weapons, ahead of cuts in corporation tax and ahead of bankers bonuses

Assembly condemns the continued expression of the above desire in the constitution of the Lib Dems as being wholly inconsistent with the actions of their leadership and further condemns the breaking of their direct pledge to the electorate not six months after obtaining a share of government.

The Liberal Party Assembly resolved to campaign alongside students to fight the coalition plans.



**The Liberal Party-NOT the  
Liberal Democrats, Fighting Co-  
alition CUTS**

## **Time to review the Party's approved Ballot Paper Descriptions.**

Apart from "The Liberal Party" we have 10 other approved (up to 6 words) Ballot paper descriptions.

NEC wants these reviewed.

Assembly instructed us to register "Liberal Party-Fighting Coalition Cuts" and there is also a need to register "The Liberal Party Candidate" so we MUST lose 2 of the others.

If YOU want to comment please send details to: Cllr Fran Oborski,  
6 Osborne Close,  
Kidderminster, DY10 3YY or via [franoborski@btinternet.com](mailto:franoborski@btinternet.com)

The Registered Descriptions are:

1. Liberal Party –FOCUS, Save Our Hospital (This is used in Wyre Forest ONLY and the Constituency wishes to replace it with: Liberal -Keep The Local Liberal Team)
  2. Liberal Party-Save Our Parks
  3. Liberal Party-Steve Radford's Candidate
  4. Liberal Party-Stop Demolishing, Start Renovating
  5. Liberal Party Candidate and Local Resident
  6. Liberal Party in Cornwall
  7. Liberal Party in Scotland
  8. Liberal Party in Wales
  9. Liberal Party-Abolish Council Tax
  10. The Official Liberal Party Candidate
- Numbers 2,3,4 and 5 are used in Liverpool.

### **Ex-Conservative Councillor joins LIBERALS**

While we have been busy "e" mailing Liberal Democrat Councillors up and down the Country suggesting that the appalling policies being put in place by the coalition government mean they should come home to the Liberal Party, in North Yorkshire Cllr. John Savage, elected as Conservative County Councillor for the Ainsty Division has had enough of the Conservative Party and is now sitting as a Liberal Councillor. He joined the Party just before Assembly and was welcomed by Cllr John Clark with whom he now sits.

Let's see how many other coalition "rejectors" we can now recruit!

## **Other Assembly Resolutions passed**

The following topics were amongst those dealt with at our recent Assembly in Wolverhampton:

### **1.VAT and Fuel**

The Liberal Party notes with concern that the pending increase in VAT from 17.5% to 20% will hit the poorest sections of the community.

(This motion went on to call for funding of a nationwide home insulation programme to protect people from fuel poverty).

### **2. The Obama Presidency**

This motion criticised Obama for failing to deliver on so many of his promises.

### **3.Modern Foreign Language Teaching**

This motion deplored the state of MFL Teaching in state schools.

### **4.Campaigning Strategy.**

This motion commits the party to campaigning to emphasise our differences from the Lib Dems and while admitting the need to cut the deficit calls for more money to be raised through income tax.

### **5. Drugs Policy**

### **6. Leasehold Reform and Low Rent Leasehold**

This motion reaffirms Party Policy and commits us to campaigning for easier ability for the owners of leasehold flats to obtain Freeholds via management companies made up of the freeholders.

### **7. Registered Social Landlords, Starter Tenancies.**

This motion calls for all new Social Housing Tenancies to initially be 6 month starter tenancies to minimise serious ASB issues.

### **8. The Big Society**

This motion calls on the Government to implement its “Big Society” via devolution of Local Authority powers down to Parish and Neighbourhood Level with recognition of the role of Councillors as Elected Leaders of their Communities.

# The Coalition Government

## The Liberal Party Response

by Daniel Wood, Chair of the Liberal Party Policy and Assembly Committee.

We in the Liberal Party are disappointed but not surprised by the path followed by some of our former colleagues in the 'Liberal' Democrats in entering into a coalition with the Conservative Party.

The voice of liberalism, which has long been muted in the 'LibDems' has now finally been silenced, as the LibDems choose to prop up a half baked (and electorally unsuccessful) Conservative Government.

In so doing they have turned their back on any claim to be the voice of liberalism. They have chosen to support the party of privilege and patronage over liberty and equality. They have treated with contempt the voters who chose to vote LibDem in direct rejection of the Conservative agenda. They have disowned those who made a positive choice to vote LibDem in order to see their policies implemented. They have betrayed the party workers who have worked hard promote the centre left of politics by rushing to the rescue of the political right.

We in the Liberal Party are resolved to maintain a Liberal voice in British politics. We will have to shout a bit louder now. We have resolved not to do deals with socialists or Tories but to maintain our liberalism. As our 2010 manifesto stated:-

***'All of the major political parties reflect, to a greater or lesser extent some degree of liberalism, after all we live in a LIBERAL democracy. Such a reflection is insufficient for liberalism to be effective. Liberalism should not be diluted, it needs to be applied on a broad front to the whole spectrum of problems facing the individual, the nation and the world today. We need the substance of liberalism, not the reflection. The Liberal Party aims to provide that substance.'***

**We invite liberals in all parties and none to join with us in our fight for a liberal society; to help us inform the political debate with Liberal policies, Liberal philosophy and Liberal solutions.**

We want to help create a liberal society in which every citizen shall possess liberty, property and security, and none shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity.

We do not want to live in 'Con – Dem – Nation'

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**Meeting just after the original Coalition Agreement was published the National Executive Committee of the Liberal Party thought that there were several points in the Coalition Agreement with which we agreed. However the actions of the Coalition Government in recent weeks show an almost total abandonment of Liberal Principles.**

**We are aware of some voices of Liberal dissent within the Coalition and we urge those Liberals to come home!**



## **Local Elections 2010**

Despite their being held on the same day as the General Election, Liberals across the Country did remarkably well on May 6th. losing only one seat, in Slough, to the Conservatives. With the exception of Liverpool, most Liberal Council seats are held against Conservative opposition.

### **Liverpool– Tuebrook & Stonecroft**

Chris Lenton, Liberal	3523
Lab	2041
Green	190
Con	190

### **Peterborough—Dogsthorpe**

Chris Ash, Liberal	1776
Con	643
Lab	620
Ind	120

### **Slough—Haymills**

Con	1618
Lab	1420
Brian Hewitt	1038

### **Wyre Forest—Greenhill**

Tim Ingham	1567
Con	1181
Lab	762
Green	248

### **Wyre Forest—Offmore and Comberton**

Rose Bishop	1649
Con	1046
Lab	489
Health Concern	465

At the General Election, Steve Radford, achieved an excellent third place, pushing the Tories into fourth place in Liverpool, West Derby whilst in the delayed Election in Thirsk and Malton John Clarke increased his % of the vote!

## **Liberal Lord Mayor**

Since the election we are delighted that Liberal Councillor Cllr Hazel Williams has taken her position as Lord Mayor of Liverpool.

During her speech she dedicate the Lord Mayor's Charity to be shared between the work of Mencap and "Help For Heroes" the rehabilitation services for our injured servicemen returning home.



Our picture shows Hazel waving to the crowds during the Lord Mayor's Parade.

## **How successful Liberals coped on May 6th**

### **Liverpool**

Liverpool Liberals were aware that the prospect of a double local and general election would bring out additional Labour Voters who do not normally vote in local elections and "confuse" some voters who may have cast a Liberal Vote in Local elections into voting Labour, believing both ballot papers were for the General Election

To combat this we started a campaign the previous summer ensuring we did a personal visit to every household in the ward, we left a personally addressed letter to the residents if they were not in and went back to many a second time

We also sent our usual street letters and encouraged the voter registration for postal votes. This year our Tuebrook Stoneycroft Ward postal vote more than doubled from 600 to 1300.

A postal voter is at least twice as likely to vote than the walk down on the day voter, we delivered an election appeal to them two days before they received their ballot papers

During canvassing we signed up over 100 postal and proxy voters prior to the deadline

On the polling week with the talented assistance of Mike Butler we produced a first class gloss A3 leaflet which in an letter spelt out the nature of the two different ballot papers and promoted positively why residents should keep the Liberal Party team spelling out we provide more advice centres than any other councillors in the city and fund Community Advice and Home Security kits for thousands of local homes

On polling day Chris Lenton organised three excellent special letters targeted to key polling stations to push our voters out and challenge potential Labour supporters

Across the city we polled 6%, the Lib Dems dropped below 30%. The Green vote dropped back a little and our Conservatives did not come anywhere within striking distance of winning a seat. Labour took 9 seats from the Lib Dems who ran a standardised bland city wide campaign which was very anti-Labour and said little of what their ward councillors had done locally

### **Wyre Forest**

In view of the double election we took the decision that this year we would not bother with "name on the ballot paper" Candidates but would simply target the two Wards which we held as both Wards were facing changes of Candidates. Siri Hayward was standing down after 14 years in Offmore Comberton, where we were lucky to have Rose Bishop a well known Community Campaigner as Candidate, whilst in Greenhill Rachel Akathiotis (Lewis) was also standing down.

The Greenhill Campaign also had the extra problem that Paul Harrison, elected as a Liberal, had gone Independent last year and subsequently defected to the Tories, whilst Rachel's poor health and family responsibilities had meant she had been unable to do more than the minimum of Council work in the last two years, Tim Ingham is the son of a much loved former Lib (and Lib Dem) Cllr. but that was no guarantee of success!

Wyre Forest with the unique Independent MP also had the problem of "his "Independent Health Concern Councillors. Once we realised that the two elections would be on the same day, we calculated that a Liberal in Broadwaters would ensure that the Tories defeated the Health Concern Leader, whilst Health Concern in Greenhill would get in OUR way; we therefore did a deal not to oppose each other and to endorse each others Candidates in the two Wards.

We kept up our monthly A3 FOCUS Newsletters until March 28th and between then and Polling Day , we delivered 3x3 leaflets, 2xA4 leaflets and a personalised letter to every household PLUS an addressed letter to every Postal Voter (around 1,500 in total). In addition in Offmore Comberton every household received an A6 dayglo orange poster and we sent about 500 personal letters to voters who sent Focus reply forms in. We had Tellers on every Polling Station and resisted the Tory onslaught well holding BOTH seats. The Lib Dems failed to gain the seat they hoped to win, Tories gained 3 from Health Concern and Labour made no progress!