



Liberal News Summer 2011

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Election Round up May 2011

Liberal Councillors HELD

John Clark— Rydale (Cropton)
Sue Cowan—Pickering TC (East)
Andrew Montgomerie—Eyam PC
Mike Price—Wyre Forest (Offmore Comberton)
Bella Saltmarsh—Peterborough (Dogsthorpe)
Hazel Williams—Liverpool (Tuebrook and Stoneycroft)
Tommy Woodward—Pickering TC (East)
Tommy Woodward—Ryedale (Pickering East)

Liberal Councillors LOST

Sue Cowan Ryedale—(Pickering East)
Margaret Danks—Exeter (St.Loyes)
David Munkley—Slough (Haymill)

Liberal Councillors GAINED

Donna Marsden—Kirbymoorside TC
Luke Richardson—Rydale(Pickering West)
Jenny Roach—Mid Devon (Silverton)
Sarah Ward—Kirbymoorside TC
Sarah Ward—Ryedale(Kirby moorside)

This is a Net Gain of +2

Lifelong Liberal honoured by the City of Exeter

Former Liberal Cllr David Morrish recently received the highest and one of the rarest honours that a city can bestow on one of its residents. David was made a Freeman of the City of Exeter in recognition of his fifty years continuous service as a councillor in the city. At a special ceremony, surrounded by family and friends, he was sworn in as a Freeman of the City.



The Lord Mayor, Councillor Stella Brock, presented David with a commemorative scroll and the ceremonial keys to Exeter. The Lord Mayor paid tribute to the hard work, dedication and commitment and time that he had put in to framing the way our city has and will continue to be run.

The Freedom is an honorary title which includes the right to herd sheep down the High Street or to go about the City with a drawn sword!

David said that it had been a privilege to have served the city. He recalled that in his early days as a Councillor the city was a unitary authority and was able to be self governing. He regretted the loss of unitary status and also that the recent bid to return to a unitary status was unsuccessful. He feels sure that in time it will once again be on the agenda. He recalled his first council meeting when he had been advised not to speak and not to challenge the Mayor, he did both!

David's advice to Liberals on councils has always been clear, know your standing orders and know them better than anyone else in the chamber. Many Liberals reading this will well remember having been given that advice and know the value of such wise words.

This honour is not only well deserved, it is a measure of David's integrity and standing in the city that he has ended his long service to the community as a Freeman.

On April 14th NEC Chair, Cllr Fran Oborski had presented both Cllr David Morrish and Cllr Joan Morrish with certificates commemorating their Life Vice Presidencies of The Liberal Party.

The 126th Liberal Party Assembly will be held on Sat. October 1st at: The Friends' Meeting House, 8B Summerfield Rd, 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, 6, Osborne Close, Kidderminster DY10 3YY

Notices of Motion by August 12th to: danielwood24@hotmail.com Daniel Wood 26, Archers Green Rd, Kingswood, Warrington.

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The Ryedale Story, May 2011

Ryedale Liberals had an interesting campaign in the 2011 elections. Our executive met in February to confirm our strategy and appoint an agent. The strategy was to increase the geography of Liberal representation even if it cost the seat of a sitting councillor.

The message was: "Liberal, radical, to the left of the three main parties and green."

We made only three promises:

Work hard

Honest – no perks or fiddles

- say what we mean

Ask the questions the public want asked and Ryedale District Council don't want to hear.

Our biggest problem was the Lib Dems. Not their opposition or campaigning; just the fact that they exist. We countered this with the first leaflet headline: 'WE ARE NOT THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS'. This was also made very clear on the doorstep.

We achieved our strategy. Although we lost Sue Cowan and my own victory was minute. Sarah Ward topped the poll in our new area, Kirbymoorside.

Nelly Trevelyan, who was unable to canvas for most of the campaign, missed out by only 100 votes (out of a total of 2715).

On Ryedale Council the Tories increased from 14 to 20 councillors. The Independents went down from 4 to 3. We increased from 3 to 4 and have become the official opposition. Liberal Democrat councillors plummeted appropriately from 8 to 2.

This story has a moral:

WHERE WE WORK WE WIN.

John Clark, Leader of Liberal Group on Ryedale District Council

Liberal Party Nominating Officer, Cllr. Jenny Roach, newly re-elected to Mid Devon DC has wasted no time in putting pen to paper on a crucial issue.

Dear Editor,

In the early 1990s Graham Pink was fired from his nursing post on the grounds that he had breached confidentiality, his crime being that he wanted to expose the poor care that older people were receiving in hospital.

Year after year, Government after Government, report after report, we hear appalling statements about older people not only being deprived of basic nursing care but also not being given respect or treated with dignity. What use are outcomes, policies, guidance notes or legislation when there appears to be a lack of understanding of what constitutes care? It isn't difficult and it isn't complicated, it's how we would all wish to be treated and it doesn't change with age.

Just how many more decades must pass before action is taken to address this disgraceful state of affairs? Is there anyone in Government who has the ability to deal with this problem, now, not in another ten years time?

Jenny Roach.

The Government's Proposed Benefits "Cap" will force families into poverty.

By Cllr. Fran Oborski, Chair, Liberal Party National Executive .

This week the £26,000 Government's Proposed Benefits Cap is once again in the news.

The claim by the Department of Work and Pensions is that £26,000 is the "average wage" and by capping the Benefits any family can receive at this level they will make sure that no-one who does not work can get more than the average family.

This policy, at face value is quite popular with the public and the "Right Wing" press really love it!

There is only one problem, this policy and the claim of "fairness" underlying it is predicated on a total lie.

The whole point is that a family with 2 adults and 2 children, with a family income of £26,000 would themselves be ineligible to be in receipt of benefits!"

If you earn £26,000 you pay about £5,000 in tax and national insurance. But – if you have a family – you are eligible for in-work benefits.

Indeed if a family had one wage earner with a non-working partner, 4 children, and lived in central London, then the DWP's own online benefit checker says that they would get around £8,000 in tax credits, £16,000 in housing benefit and £3,000 in child benefit. Their benefits would total £27,250, and their total income would be £48,000 net.

If that sole wage earner were to lose their job, then under the current system their income would fall by £15,000 a year, to £32,800 a year – surely a big enough fall to create an incentive to look for a job! The coalition government wants to slash that family's income further, to £26,000.

Cuts of that size will force families out of their homes. It will produce the effect which Boris Johnson referred to as "ethnic cleansing of the poor". Worst of all it will PUNISH children because their parents are not working

The unemployed family is already 33% worse off than the employed family, and has less than half the disposable income once you subtract housing costs. Isn't this enough of an "incentive to work" without punishing innocent children?

What has happened to the concept of a "Fair Society"? How on earth can anyone, elected as a Liberal Democrat vote for such a policy?

Obviously we need to "make work pay" BUT to do that we need a Government committed to creating jobs NOT one hell bent on punishing the poor!