

Two horse race here

Con

42.3%

Lib

Dem

42.0%

How local residents voted in the last General Election.

Lab 10.6%

Elections across Oxford West & Abingdon - are always a close contest between the Lib Dems and the Conservatives.

Voting Labour or Green here just lets the Conservatives in.

FOCUS

Abingdon
East

Summer 2012

Find out more at: www.OxwabLibDems.org.uk

OVERLEAF: Residents' Surveys - what YOU told us 

Plan delay to cost taxpayers £145,000

County Hall & Museum



ABOVE: Abingdon County Hall is now looking fantastic - particularly when lit up at night.

RIGHT: Abbey Barton's Lib Dem councillor Julie

Mayhew-Archer who has seen the successful project through to completion as Chair of the County Hall Museum Committee.



There was a massive turnout for the reopening of the refurbished County Hall Museum.

Horrible Histories actress Martha Howe-Douglas cut the ribbon and signed copies of books for the crowds of excited children.

This major project to expand the museum's provision and improve access was initiated by Lib Dem councillors and museum friends in 2006, has been supported by all three local councils and received most of its funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Local taxpayers are having to fork out £145,000 to pay for consultants because the Conservatives running the Vale District Council have got so far behind with the production of the new Local Plan.

Having wasted a year messing around with housing allocations the Vale Council now risks losing several million pounds of cash for local infrastructure unless it can get the Local Plan process back on track.

"The Conservatives decided to play politics with housing allocations and the result is that taxpayers are having to bail them out," said Councillor Alison Rooke.

"There is now a serious risk that we will face 'planning by appeal' and no cash for the extra facilities we need."



● Cllr. Alison Rooke is concerned about the impact of Tory delays.

What the Tory delay could mean:

- £145,000 spent on consultants;
- Threat of planning by appeal;
- Millions of pounds for local infrastructure could be lost.

Abingdon short-changed again

Conservative councillors running the Vale District Council have put forward plans that will slash the money available to support community groups and activities in Abingdon.

When the Lib Dems were in control the money for Community Grants was shared out fairly - based on the number of people living in each part of the Vale. But the Conservatives proposed to share it out according to the number of Parishes in each area - a method that would have cut Abingdon's share cut by 33% as money was given to the more rural west of the district.

Cllr. Alison Rooke says: "The Lib Dems forced a re-think but even now the Abingdon Area's grant is only 88p per resident compared to the 140p per resident being given to Faringdon!"

"This seems to be a case of the Conservatives on the Vale Cabinet favouring their own areas over Abingdon."

The Conservatives have also changed the grant rules - bodies like Abingdon Bridge, the Carbon Cutters, the Twin Towns Society, and Abingdon Town Band will no longer be able to apply for grants for activities.

The local Lib Dem team feel that this money should be shared out fairly and that Abingdon's Conservative councillors should be standing up for the town.

● Let us know what you think about this Conservative plan to cut funding for Abingdon by emailing us or using the reply slip overleaf.

Abingdon Lib Dems - Keeping in Touch - All Year Round

Abingdon Lib Dems - Listening to you and reporting back

The local Lib Dem team have been calling on residents across Peachcroft and Abbey Barton wards to find out what people think about a number of local issues.

Here is a summary of what local residents have said so far.



"A big Thank You to everyone who has taken the time to respond to our survey."

"We're analysing the results, taking what action we can and will continue to call round."

says Cllr. Alison Rooke.



Invest in play

Only 1 in 7 people support the Conservative decision to slash the Town Council's Play Areas budget.

There is strong support for investing more money in play areas for children and in facilities for teenagers like more youth shelters.

"We'll continue to try to persuade the Conservatives to change their minds on this issue," says Alison.



The Guildhall

Only 1 in 8 people currently use the Guildhall, but there is a lot of interest in what it could be used for in the future.

The most popular suggestions are:

Cinema	65%
Concerts	54%
Theatre	46%
Weddings	44%

"There is clearly a lot of potential for increasing the use of the Guildhall," says Alison Rooke.

"We believe the Guildhall should be at the heart of community activity in Abingdon and will be pressing the Conservatives to take the views of local residents on board."

Town Mayor

6 out of 7 people think the Conservatives were wrong to make the Town Mayor into a party political position.

Many said they feel very strongly about this issue.

"All the Lib Dem Town Councillors voted to appoint Mayors on the traditional, non-partisan basis," says Alison Rooke. "We will continue to do so because we believe the Mayor should represent the whole town, not one political party."

Town Centre Redevelopment

9 out of 10 people support phase one of the redevelopment but views are split on phase two.

Two thirds OPPOSE having a large supermarket as the anchor store and the majority are unhappy about the loss of the canopies and the planned move of the library and doctors' to the first floor.

Unfortunately Conservative councillors ignored local residents over the canopies in the design brief.

Abingdon in Bloom

A massive 9 out of 10 people want to see Abingdon enter Britain in Bloom again.

There is also very strong support for getting the community more involved.

"Local Lib Dem councillors are keen to see us enter Britain in Bloom again and will be looking at how they can get more people involved," says Alison Rooke.

This year the local Abingdon in Bloom contest has been cancelled following poor publicity for the by Conservative run Abingdon Town Council.

Contact the team

Peachcroft Town Councillor
Alison Rooke 522508
alison.rooke@abingdon.gov.uk

Peachcroft Vale & Town Councillor
Pat Lonergan 202784
pat.lonergan@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Abbey Barton Vale Councillor
Tony de Vere 203169

Abbey Barton Vale & Town Councillor
Julie Mayhew-Archer 521626

Abbey Barton Town Councillors
Lesley Legge 520768
Penny McDougall 07854641017

Have YOUR Say ...

Use this slip to let us know what you think about any of the issues in this Focus or any other issues that are of concern to you.

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Return to: Alison Rooke, Abingdon Lib Dems, FREEPOST (SCE221), Oxford, OX1 1YA.

If you return this form the Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you've given to contact you. Some contacts may be automated. You can always opt out of communications at any time by contacting us.

I would like to join the local Lib Dems

I can help deliver local Focus leaflets

I would be interested in hearing about local Lib Dem events