

FOCUS



FROM YOUR LIB DEM TEAM

Hastings & St Leonards Liberal Democrats

VOTE FOR REAL CHANGE ON MAY 2nd

There is only one way to vote for change on Hastings Borough Council on 2nd May. Vote Liberal Democrat. The Tories have been a failed opposition in Hastings for years, no matter how good and hard-working individuals might be, they are tainted by association with a failing government, whose policies have brought Britain to the brink. They have long since ceased to be the one nation party which is why many former Tory voters have turned to the Lib Dems.

The Tory government's failure to fund local councils is central to the problems of Hastings – visibly, pot holes, and a care services, education and health services that are creaking with the strain. Labour will do nothing about this, local councils are not the priority of a Labour government, whilst locally 14 years of running the borough have contributed to our financial worries. The so-called Hastings Independents cannot dissociate themselves from this – their councillors were the Labour party that brought us to this position. Furthermore, their planning decisions have been appalling – the sheer hypocrisy of the Harrow Lane playing fields is still raised on the doorsteps. What hope does this give us for Sandrock if Labour in whatever guise, remains at the helm?

The Green Party are equally culpable, propping up Labour or Hastings Independents over the last two years, despite being badly treated by them nationally. Remember, the Liberal Party was a green party long before they came into being, and today, only extremists on the right of the Conservatives and beyond can ignore Climate Change. For Hastings, and indeed Conquest, there can be no denying; the evidence is around us.

Stewart Rayment, your Lib Dem candidate in Conquest, has a long track record in environmental politics as a former councillor, ranging from woodlands through to highways management. Planning policies and public consultation have always been central to this.

Lib Dem councillors would vote on an issues basis rather than as part of any coalition and would seek a balanced budget for the Borough, despite the difficulties the Conservatives and Labour, whatever they call themselves, have brought us.

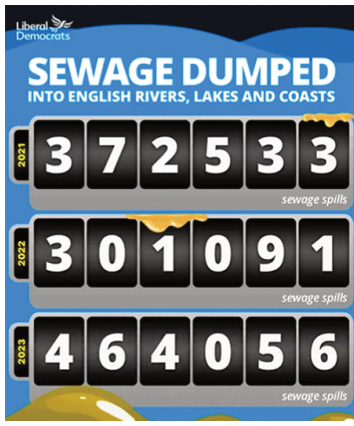
STEWART'S PRIORITIES FOR CONQUEST

- 1) Keep Sandrock Hill as green open space for the community.
- 2) Work hard for all residents all year round, not just at election time.
- 3) Bring council decisions closer to the people.



STEWART RAYMENT

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RAW IN THE ROTHER

Whilst our attention has primarily been coastal sewage dumping and Old Roar Ghyll here in Hastings & St Leonards, our River Rother was the 19th worst effected river in 2023, with 1,237 sewage spills over 15,730 hours.

Guy Harris joins Ed Davey in calling for a new Blue Flag status to protect our rivers from sewage dumping. Sewage was dumped into English rivers a shocking 4.5 million hours last year, with 559,546 spills in total – an average of around 1,500 a day. Southern Water dumped sewage into our rivers and seas on 16,668 occasions – for a total of 146,829 hours according to the Environment Agency. Yet 292 Tory MPs voted to block action on sewage dumping, with disastrous consequences.

Police Community Support Officers in Sussex cut by 91

We're getting a lot of flannel from the Tories about their performance on crime. Typically, they only tell half the story.

The number of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) on the streets has actually fallen dramatically by 27.8% since 2015.

Analysis of new Home Office statistics commissioned by the Liberal Democrats from the House of Commons Library has shown the drastic cuts to PCSOs in Sussex.

A total of 234 full-time equivalent PCSOs were employed in Sussex as of September 2022. This is in stark contrast to the 325 that were employed in March 2015 - meaning there have been 91 PCSOs cut from Sussex Police in that time.

The Liberal Democrats accuse the Conservative Government of letting communities in Sussex down by taking Police Community Support Officers off the streets, leading to more crimes going unsolved and victims going without justice. The same trend is being seen up and down the country, with the number of active PCSOs falling by an average of 33% in England and Wales since 2015. Nationally, England and Wales have lost 4,068 PCSOs since 2015.



Jamie Bennett has slammed the Conservatives for this move, which means that less police officers are visible on the streets, building relationships - and trust - with local people. The party has called for a return to proper community policing.

Responding to the figures, Jamie Bennett, Liberal Democrat Police and Crime Commissioner Candidate for Sussex, said: "These shocking figures prove that Conservative Ministers are yet again failing to prevent crime in Sussex. They should be ashamed. "Police Community Support Officers play a vital role in keeping our communities safe. The Government should be empowering them to do their job, not slashing their numbers into oblivion."

"Liberal Democrats are calling for a return to proper community policing, where officers are visible, trusted and known personally to local people. We will build communities where people are safe - and feel safe, too

Enough, its time to throw the Tories out.

JAMIE BENNETT FOR POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER X