

# FOCUS

Keeping in touch and working for you all year round

## My top 4 priorities for North East Hampshire

### By Graham Cockarill



#### 1. SAVE our Planet

Liberal Democrats were the original green party. We were described as bearded sandal-wearers!

We are still as committed as ever to saving our planet and we will take the urgent action needed, making Britain a world leader in renewable energy and green technology.

We are determined to make the UK carbon neutral and we have the sensible policies to achieve this.



#### 2. STOP bad development

In a civilised society everyone deserves a roof over their heads, but that doesn't mean we have to allow developers to build all over our green fields while providing only minimal infrastructure.

Currently, under the Conservative approach, we all end up stuck in traffic congestion, and local doctors and schools are overwhelmed.

There is a better way which I have set out overleaf. What a shame the Tories refuse to support it!



#### 3. SAVE our NHS and More Police



It was Liberal MP William Beveridge who originally designed the NHS back in the 1940s.

Today's Lib Dems will invest billions to get our health services back to the capacity and quality they should be, after years of Tory neglect.

We will also get more police back on our streets. Unconvincing promises, from a Tory PM who is looking for votes and has proven time and again that he can't be trusted, are not enough!



#### 4. STOP Brexit - *Warning!*

You want an end to this Brexit madness? Well, if it goes ahead we won't see an end for many long years.

All those trade deals to negotiate, shared laws to review, the travel chaos, the Northern Ireland border. Be under no illusion, "Getting Brexit Done" will take many years.

The only way to stop this nightmare is to **Stop Brexit**. Liberal Democrats are the only main party totally committed to this.



## It's a two-horse race here in North East Hampshire!



The election here in North East Hampshire is a two-horse race between the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives.

It is a clear choice between the Tory and experienced Lib Dem campaigner and councillor Graham Cockarill.

Tory Ranil Jayawardena was recently exposed as a supporter of the shadowy ERG group, led by

Jacob Rees-Mogg, which tried to force through a most damaging and extreme No Deal Brexit.

Unlike the Lib Dems, neither Labour nor the Greens have ever won a single seat on Hart District Council since it was formed in 1974.

Since the massive surge in Liberal Democrat fortunes over the past year, the only candidate who has any realistic chance of beating the Conservatives here is Lib Dem Graham Cockarill.

#### Main Party Councillors on Hart District Council

11 Con	10 Lib Dem	0 Lab	0 Grn
-----------	------------------	----------	----------

**Only the Lib Dems can beat the Conservatives here. Make sure your vote makes a difference!**

# Three things to remember about Brexit

## 1. That Referendum Result

The result of the Referendum was a country split down the middle - 48.2% vs 51.8%. That is no mandate for either option.

A decent Government would have shown respect to the millions on each side, encouraged more debate, negotiated a deal with the EU and promised a final vote on the outcome.

Instead Theresa May and Boris Johnson's bully-boy Tories have ignored the 48% and tried to force through Brexit without any further democratic involvement!

## 2. The "Get Brexit Done" Trap

"Getting Brexit Done" will result in years more Brexit chaos. Be careful not to fall for it!

All those trade deals to negotiate: *trade deals usually take at least 5-10 years.*

All those shared laws with the EU that will need to be reviewed, *and countless changes we will all have to cope with.*

Travel chaos as we lose our EU citizenship: will we get a new EHIC Health Card?

The serious threat to the Peace Process as arguments rage about the backstop, and the border down the Irish Sea.

The Tories are prepared to risk the UK being destroyed in both Northern Ireland and Scotland.

## 3. The only way to stop it

Only the Lib Dems are offering a guaranteed way out of this mess.

The Tories are determined to leave the EU - the largest and most successful peace project in history.

Jeremy Corbyn still won't say what he will do - he is a lifelong Euro-sceptic, so we can guess.

The truth is that you won't stop a Tory Brexit by replacing it with a Labour Brexit!

The Liberal Democrats will Stop Brexit if we win, by revoking Article 50 on our first day in office.

## Stopping Bad Development Shapley Heath - The Truth

1. In a decent society everyone deserves a home.
2. The Government has been trying to get house building up to 300,000 a year to meet the need.
3. Hart's share of the 300,000 is 388 houses a year.
4. The Government will not allow any council to get away with not building their share. *If councils don't provide for enough houses, government inspectors overrule them by giving permission on appeal. Recent bad examples of this when Hart was Conservative-run include Watery Lane in Crookham, Grove Farm in Fleet and The Umfield in Yateley.*

So where should Hart's 388 houses a year be built? For the next few years decisions have been made, with a Local Plan on the verge of adoption thanks to the skilful stewardship of Cllr Graham Cockarill. This means all countryside not allocated in the Plan is protected.

But where will the houses after that go? Government requires decisions to be made at least five years in advance (called the 5-year land supply), and the Local Plan has taken nine years to agree. That's 14 years in total and means Hart is already late starting on the next Plan.

### Brownfield sites?

We all agree "brownfield" sites should be used first, to save our countryside. Sadly, the houses needed in Hart are far more than will fit onto brownfield sites alone. Hart does not have much derelict land.

So, some will inevitably be built on greenfield sites. The Liberal Democrats do not want our countryside built on, but major homelessness would be even worse.

### So, which countryside should be used?

For a long time most sites lost have been fields around our towns. Fleet, Church Crookham, Hartley Wintney, Hook, Blackwater and Yateley all have examples.

The biggest problem with this is that just adding to edges of towns overloads the infrastructure. Who hasn't been stuck in rush-hour congestion? Also, look at the challenges faced by parents in Fleet and Church Crookham trying to get a secondary school for their child. Calthorpe Park School cannot go on expanding forever.

The bulldozers move in at Grove Farm, west of Fleet.



### A new Garden Village instead?

The alternative is a new settlement, like Elvetham Heath. This means developers can be forced to provide infrastructure and our towns and villages can be given a reprieve. A new settlement is also the only viable way that could generate a new secondary school as part of developer-funded infrastructure.

### So, why Shapley Heath, at Murrell Green?

Well, it doesn't have to be. If there are better options, Lib Dem Cllrs are keen to hear. In the meantime, the Government (yes, Mr Johnson's Conservatives) has given Hart £150,000 to research a Shapley Heath Garden Village.

This is in line with the views of the Inspector, who asked Hart not to put a new village into the Local Plan now, as it is not needed in the next decade or so, but to do the homework now so it will be properly planned when it is needed.

The alternative is to continue overloading towns and villages, resulting in ever-worsening infrastructure.

No-one is backing the ridiculous suggestion put about by the Tories for 10,000 houses here. They must be looking for votes!

### Time to change from the old, dishonest, approach

Thousands of homes in Hart were built under permissions given on appeal, after being turned down by Hart because the developments were unpopular. That meant councillors didn't get blamed, but this is dishonest - and it leaves us with inadequate infrastructure and poorly planned towns.

- So, if anyone says they are against a new Garden Village, ask them where they will put the houses.
- If they say they will fight to stop them being built at all, ask whether they care about our children and grandchildren having somewhere local to live.
- Or are they following the dishonest approach of relying on inspectors to give permissions on appeal?
- And ask how they will get the infrastructure if they are going to let developers carry on getting away with not providing it.