

County Durham FOCUS

News from Durham Liberal Democrats



Amanda Hopgood

Labour's climate change shame

A few months ago Lib Dem councillors tried to make sure that Durham County Council would meet the challenge of Climate Change.

Sadly a Labour Party motion changed the deadline for the Council to meet climate change targets to 2050 from the 2030 being introduced across the Country by almost all other councils.

Durham Labour have let down our

county and should be ashamed. Protesters at the end of the meeting made their feelings known very loudly. Lib Dems tabled an amendment to the motion seeking to change it back to the 2030 target.

Lib Dem group leader Amanda Hopgood comments, "Durham isn't in a bubble unaffected by climate change. We don't have static CO2.

"County Durham should be leading the way on this issue, just as Lib Dems did when getting the Council to scrap single-use plastics."

Chairman of Central Durham Lib Dems, Edwin Simpson says, "Being carbon neutral can save money as we find new ways to do things, cut waste and make County Durham a better place to live and work in"

Cllr Amanda Hopgood, parliamentary campaigner adds, "We have stunning countryside, wonderful communities and a World Heritage city.

"Across the whole of the County, much more could be done with more Liberal Democrat MP's and councillors."

Nationally and locally it is the Liberal Democrats leading the fight against climate change.

Lib Dems attack Tory NHS cuts and Labour risk in County Durham

The government's announcement of £1.8 billion capital funding for 20 hospitals around the country has failed to include one penny for County Durham.

University Hospital in Durham is desperate for the funding needed to expand the A and E, yet the government has failed to provide the cash and £17 million of funding for a new care facility at Shotley Bridge is now under threat too.

Cllr Amanda Hopgood, Lib Dem group leader and parliamentary campaigner comments, "Whilst the Tories are happy to flood southern counties with funding pledges, it is the North East and County Durham that once again is set to miss out."

Cllr Hopgood added, "It is very clear that we cannot trust the Conservatives with the NHS. Their new right-wing agenda includes cosying up to Donald Trump and his desire to privatise the NHS and bring in private US health companies."



Built on a flood plain at massive cost to taxpayers and far from being environmentally friendly: Labour's new £50m taxpayer-funded concrete palace.

£50 million HQ disaster

Work on Labour's £50m Council HQ on the Sands car park in Durham has started.

Lib Dem deputy leader Elizabeth Scott comments, "I still can't believe that in this day and age Labour-run Durham County Council is building a HQ which is so far from being carbon neutral it might have been built in the 60's!"

Lib Dem group leader Cllr Amanda Hopgood adds, "Despite residents across the County being against the plans to build in an inaccessible location on the flood plain, using £50m of taxpayers money, the

work has started."

The Lib Dems have led the fight against the new County Hall plans.

Amanda adds, "It is clear that we need people across County Durham to rise up and support the Liberal Democrats as the official opposition, so that Labour lose control of the Council in less than 2 years."

Durham County Council currently has over £220 million in reserves and continues to hike council tax, cut services and waste money.



The NHS in County Durham is at risk from the economics of Corbyn's Labour and a Boris Johnson-led back door privatisation.

The Labour Party is no better than the Tories when it comes to the NHS. Jeremy Corbyn's economic strategy would see the economy shrink leaving the NHS on the brink. Labour is now run by a leader who thought Venezuela should be looked to as an economic miracle.

It certainly is a miracle that a country with the largest oil reserves in the world is on it's knees. Millions are fleeing across borders and inflation is at **10 million percent!** Corbyn's marxist economics of the mad house have destroyed that once wealthy nation.

Only the Liberal Democrats can provide the economic stability needed here in the UK with commitment to fund our public services.

These public services, and especially the NHS are not safe with either the Tories or Labour in charge.

JOIN THE LIB DEMS FOR JUST



You can now join the Lib Dems for just £1 a month. Visit www.libdems.org.uk

We are the only party in the UK standing up for all residents, fighting injustice, battling climate change, protecting public services for now and for the future.

Unlike Labour we are not being pulled to the far left. Unlike the Tories we are not being dragged to the far right.

We are firmly anchored in the Centre

Ground of UK politics. The only way to make sure that everyone's lives matter is to respect everyone and have sensible policies to address inequality.

A political party cannot do this if they are tied to big business and billionaires like the Tories.

They can't do this if they are led by a far left leader and are funded by vested interests like Labour.

Liberal Democrats - official opposition to Labour here



Lib Dems official opposition to Labour in County Durham

The Lib Dem county councillor group has submitted more council motions than all other opposition groups combined since the start of the new Unitary Council back in 2008.

In that time we have managed to change opinion, find millions of pounds in savings and secure major

improvements in the County. Council Group leader Amanda Hopgood says, "Almost every proposal we have made has been voted down by Labour only to be acted on in subsequent years."

Finance spokesman Cllr Craig Martin adds, "Had many of these policies been carried out when we suggested them



Lib Dem Group leader, Amanda Hopgood, challenges Labour more than any other group leader

there would have been a huge amount of extra money available for those things that matter like keeping down council tax, protecting frontline services and making our county a better place in which to live."

DLI closure, clothing allowance, £50m HQ, £ millions of waste, undemocratic council

Across County Durham people are joining the Lib Dems because they see us as the only opposition to an out of control local Labour Party. Residents are signing up, helping deliver leaflets, and agreeing to stand for election in their area. So many people are angry at the way Labour is running County Durham.

When Lib Dems uncovered a £12600 a year taxpayer-funded payment to the Labour chair and vice-chair for clothes it hit the national press. We got it scrapped.

When Labour shut the Durham Light Infantry Museum, Lib Dem councillors led the political fight-back alongside furious residents.

And Lib Dems have led the fight against a new £50 million taxpayer funded Council Palace.

You can now join the Lib Dems for just £1 a month. Visit www.libdems.org.uk

Lib Dem councillors make big difference

Where Lib Dem councillors are elected they make a big difference to local communities.

We update residents regularly, listen to your concerns and act to improve our communities.

We do this because we are local residents just like you, and because making our communities better places in which to live is so important.



In Shildon, just three months after being elected Lib Dem Garry Huntington has already helped fund a school 20mph zone.



In dozens of communities across County Durham Lib Dem councillors update residents regularly.



Our campaigners fight to improve areas and get action even during election campaigns



Our councillors campaign around the clock to improve road safety and to get our roads and footpaths improved.



We are winning seats in former Labour areas with 60% of the vote!



Lib Dem vote surges across County Durham

- Wingate by-election - 7-fold increase in vote share.
- Shildon by-election - Seat won from Labour with 20% swing.
- Esh & Witton Gilbert by-election - Lib Dems win seat with over 60% of vote.

Across County Durham, Liberal Democrats are winning elections with some remarkable swings.

In the once Hard-Labour town of Shildon our candidate swept to victory with almost 1257 votes compared to just 682 for the local Labour candidate.

In the most recent county-wide election we were just 3000 votes behind Labour out of an electorate of a quarter of a million!

The Tories are completely out of touch, whilst independents and others do little if anything to challenge Labour at County Hall.

Can you help us win with a donation?

Unlike Labour and the Tories we are not funded by big business or vested interests. Every penny we raise goes towards fighting for residents. £20 will help us get 500 leaflets printed. Donate now at:

www.durhamlibdems.mycouncillor.org.uk/

Contact us

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Help us beat Labour - Join us at www.libdems.org.uk

