



Luigi Gregori
local campaigner
and councillor

FOCUS Andover West

listening, caring, competent



Barbara (centre) with fellow activists

Persistence pays off - Barbara's Bus Campaigns

Barbara Carpenter has been campaigning for Sunday bus services to Basingstoke from 2009. After five years, Stagecoach introduced a single one-way service involving changing at Overton. Recently Stagecoach upgraded this service to four return buses. This is not just a win for those going to Basingstoke. It helps increase the footfall in Andover which is a disabled friendly shopping centre. It also provides a much needed link for Whitchurch and Overton. Barbara represents Andover Town Council on the local transport committee which includes representatives from the bus companies and TVBC. Her next project is better bus routes linking supermarkets to housing estates and villages especially for the vulnerable and elderly. Well done Barbara!

The State of Roads: Where are the Dropped Kerbs?

by local campaigner Luigi Gregori

Hants roads are not maintained properly and traffic fatalities are above average. Maintenance requires competence. Local Conservative councillors have stated their policy is to put in dropped kerbs. Yet this opportunity was missed when Mylen Road was resurfaced. The junction with Charlton Road opposite the hospital is busy with many wheelchair users. Local resident Mrs C says: "I saw a young woman pushing her husband in a wheelchair. When she came to the junction she had to go down Mylen Road to find a crossing point. If it is council policy, then they should put them in." This problem has now been reported. If you spot a pothole or any issue with roads in our area, please do report it directly to the council or to me.



Junction of Mylen and Charlton Roads: Local residents looking for the dropped kerbs.

Campaigning all year round for local people

Contact Luigi on email at luigiandoverwest@gmail.com or phone 01264 336383

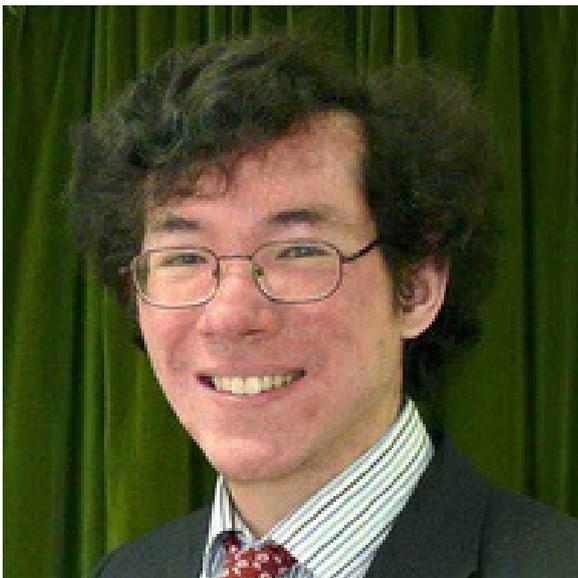
Cut Grass Not Services

We all enjoy a bit of greenery but not when it encroaches on paths. Councils need to maintain our paths and roads adequately. This is rarely the case. Current levels of maintenance are poor and many will notice the difference when you cross the county boundary. Retired council worker Ron explains: "In my time, the grass was cut and the cuttings removed. We trimmed the trees and hedges. Nowadays with machines the work is easier but is not getting done properly. The drains get blocked, and the paths overgrown." People may wonder why housing group Aster removes cuttings whilst the councils do not.



Andover "The Lakes" Cycle Path near Charlton Road. The cycle path is on the left, the footpath on the right. The building site is keeping the vegetation down on the right.

Alex Payton to fight NW Hants Constituency



Local barrister Alex Payton (above) has been re-selected as the Lib Dems parliamentary candidate for North West Hants in case an early election is called. Alex's priorities are the affordable housing we so badly need, protecting local jobs and improving services for children and young people.



Nursery closures show Education not safe in Conservative hands

Analysis by a school leaders' union has shown that hundreds of nursery schools across England would be forced to close following government funding proposals. Lib Dem spokesperson John Pugh commented: "The government are brick by brick dismantling many of the educational achievements of the coalition government. Evidence shows that solid progress at nursery does more for social mobility than selection at 11 but yet again ideology trumps evidence." Haphazard planning and prejudice will decimate one of the most treasured and important parts of our education system. Unfortunately, clear warnings have not stopped the government from schoolboy errors in their financial budgeting.



Council Cuts Children Centres

by local campaigner Luigi Gregori

Despite running a public consultation showing 68% in favour of children centres, Hampshire Conservatives are closing Children centres down by next April. It is unclear exactly what will replace them and there is talk of a system of hubs around Hampshire with one in Andover. Local Tory councillors admitted the primary driver is saving money with £8.5 million worth of services wiped out. As an army officer in Germany I fought hard for the MOD to implement such a support system for families with children, and I am amazed that the council is slashing theirs. The lack of clear plans suggests that the savings will not materialise. Does the council listen, does it care, and is it competent?

Lib Dems fight for Health and Social Care

For too many years our NHS has not got the investment it needs. That is why Lib Dem Health spokesperson Norman Lamb MP (opposite) has called for honesty and straight talking on the cash crisis, suggesting an extra penny in the pound on a new dedicated NHS and care tax. Norman Lamb MP said: "While Brexiters claimed that the NHS will get another £350 million a week when we leave Europe, this has already been shown up as another cheap con trick from Farage, Johnson and Co." The terrible truth is the NHS is facing a financial meltdown with treatment rationed because of tight resources. The Lib Dems are looking into how we can secure the NHS future by a dedicated health and care tax shown on your pay packet.



Conservatives turning Lights Off on Green Economy

Latest government figures have show 19,000 green job losses thanks to the Conservatives trashing the coalition's green legacy, including slashing subsidies for renewable energy. Baroness Lynne Featherstone said: "The Coalition was the greenest government ever. We tripled the amount of electricity from renewable sources and set up the Green Investment Bank. On their own, the Conservatives are taking us backwards." Our renewables industry can thrive with the right investment. It has huge potential for generating profits, creating jobs and world exports. The Conservatives need to value the green economy for creating jobs and paying taxes as well as for its environmental benefits.

Hands Off Our Waste Recycling Centres



The Andover recycling centre is an example of best practice and last month achieved 88% recycling. Yet the Conservative council are reducing opening times by 40% and introducing charges from January with threats of closing centres after next May's county elections, despite running a public consultation. Local resident Mrs D. says: "Andover recycling centre is well run. Kept nice and clean with helpful staff and really recycles just about everything. The little shop is an added bonus. One of the best of its kind I have seen." Closing recycling centres will also increase fly-tipping in rural areas. Hands off our waste recycling centres!

Andover centre opening from 11am each day and closing on Thursdays from January. (Grass needs cutting as well!)

Boundary Changes for Andover West

There are currently plans in place to change both the county divisions and the constituency boundaries. Andover West will gain King Arthur's Way in Andover which explains why this Focus is being delivered here. The new constituency boundary proposal will see the western half of Andover West transferred over to the new seat of Test Valley based around Romsey whilst the remainder stays with NH Hants. This will mean that the Andover West division will be split between two constituencies.

Campaigning all year round for local people

How to contact your Focus team

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