



# Longmeadow



# FOCUS

From Chris Baskerville and the Lib Dem team

Election Special 2011

## INTRODUCING CHRIS BASKERVILLE

### STEVENAGE NEEDS A STRONG OPPOSITION ON THE COUNCIL

Chris has lived in Stevenage for 52 years, and in Longmeadow for 43 years. He is married, with two grown-up children, Chris was a Pollution Research chemist initially at the Water Research Centre, and then as an independent Pollution Research Investigator. He was involved in the investigation of the Kings Cross Underground fire and the Cleveland Child Abuse Investigation.

Chris is a keen environmentalist and this is reflected in the creation of a wildlife hedge close to where he lives. The lack of affordable housing is another of Chris's major concerns, he strongly supports both local action and national legislation that is directed to achieving a society where affordable housing is available to all

**Council Tax Freeze - See inside**



Chris seen here inspecting the wildlife hedge he has created

## Lib Dems deliver 150,000 new affordable homes

**New Lib Dem plans will see the biggest increase in affordable homes for more than thirty years.**

The Lib Dems in Government will deliver 150,000 affordable homes over the next four years. That's more than Labour delivered in their first eight

years in power!

The plans will reverse the massive decline in affordable housing under Labour, who sold off more properties than they built.

Thanks to the Liberal Democrats, affordable social housing will at long last be available to thousands more families



The Lib Dems are providing new affordable homes where Labour failed

**Lib Dems making a difference in government**

# Lib Dems freeze our Council Tax

Households across England should see their council tax bills frozen next year.

Local Councils will be asked to freeze or cut their council tax. In return the Lib Dems in Government will provide them with a special grant.

Under the plans, each household will could be an average £35 better off.

Lib Dem Leader and Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg explained, "Freezing Council Tax next year will mean one less rising bill for families to worry about."

Plans will also see local people being given the chance to veto large council tax rises in future years.



Lib Dems are giving you more money back in your pocket

**Lib Dems making a difference in government**



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# Making a difference: Five key Liberal Democrat achievements in Government

## 1 Scrapped Labour's intrusive ID cards plan

Lib Dems in Government have followed through on the pledge to scrap Labour's ID cards scheme.

Described by Lib Dems as "expensive, intrusive, and ineffective", Labour's ID cards plan became increasingly unpopular as it

emerged it could cost up to £300 per person. Now thanks to Lib Dems in Government, British citizens will no longer need

to have their details added to a massive Government ID database just to get a passport or a driving licence.



## 2 £2.5bn "pupil premium" to benefit schools

Liberal Democrats recognise that education in the first few years of life is the most important.

We've increased free early years education for 3 and 4 year olds. And we're extending it to 2 year olds from poorer families.

What's more, now disadvantaged pupils will get a "pupil premium" that follows them from school to school.

The funding - worth £2.5bn - could help headteachers to reduce class sizes, or to provide more one-to-one tuition.



## 3 Tough new rules to curb "garden grabbing"

Tough new planning rules brought in by Lib Dems in Government will aim to protect communities

against so-called "garden grabbing". The phenomenon - where developers build homes on existing gardens because

they are classified as "brown field" sites - is a concern of many people who wish to protect the character of their area.

Now gardens are to be reclassified as "Greenfield" sites, making it much more difficult to built on them.



## 4 More low earners to be taken out of income tax

After 13 years of the gap between the richest and poorest increasing under Labour, Lib Dems

are making a real difference for hard working people on low incomes. By increasing the personal tax allowance up to an

eventual £10,000, Lib Dems will cut the income tax bill for millions of people. And millions more will be taken out of tax altogether.

The plans will make it much more worthwhile for people to get out of unemployment and back into work.



## 5 No more Post Office closures

After years of Post Office closures under both Labour and Conservative Governments, the Coalition

Government has announced that it will not close any further branches for the duration of this Parliament.

Instead, Lib Dem minister Ed Davey will help to invest £1.3 billion in modernising and improving Post Offices.

Post Office branches will be helped to offer more banking and local Council services to make them more viable.



**Liberal Democrats - In Government Working for you**

On Thursday May 5th, vote...

# Ralph Baskerville



## Lib Dems deliver extra £2billion for Green Investment Bank

The Lib Dems are delivering a greener Britain - with an extra £2billion in funding for the Green Investment Bank.

The bank is being set up to help increase the amount of renewable energy generated in the UK.

It will help businesses invest in projects like offshore wind farms.

Lib Dem Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne MP said, "Under Labour, Britain was one of the worst countries in Europe for renewable energy. Only Luxembourg and Malta were worse.

"By the end of this Parliament, Britain will be the fastest growing producer of green energy - thanks to Lib Dem policies in action."



Lib Dem Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne visits a green energy plant in Liverpool. The Lib Dems are putting green policies into action in government.

### Making Britain GREENER

- A total of £3billion in the Green Investment Bank to support offshore wind farms and green energy
- The Green Deal energy saving plan to insulate Britain's least energy efficient homes
- Clean coal and gas - taking emissions from fossil fuels and storing them safely
- Build high speed rail and make electric vehicles cheaper

## Tell us what you think

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- I will vote Liberal Democrat next time
- I can help deliver FOCUS in my area for 1-2 hours per month
- I would like to vote by post at the next local election

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