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MARCH 2002

Success At Last For Market



Councillors **John Graham**, **Pat Naughton** and **Judith Cunningham** with **Dave Hodgson** at the relocated market in *St Paul's Square*. Lib Dems are delighted that their campaign to move the market was finally successful.

Liberal Democrats have been campaigning for many years to get the Market moved back into the heart of town. The new central location agreed by the Council is a good step forward to ensure that the Market will thrive and also to add life to our town centre. Lib Dems now want to see attention given to the bus station area. **John Graham** said "We want to see this whole area re-developed with new shopping facilities and a much improved modern bus station."



Michael Murphy with Lib Dem councillors **Judith Cunningham** and **John Ryan** at the bus station which they are keen to see redeveloped.

Tories Push Council Tax Up over 9%

The Tory-run County Council increased their council tax rate by an inflation busting 9.86%. Liberal Democrats have slammed the Tories mismanagement of the County Council, which has meant money being spent on privatisation costs, consultants fees and the admitted mismanagement of personnel issues.

Lib Dems believe that these funds should have been available for front line services and to keep the demands on council tax payers down. **Judith Cunningham** said "The Tories have proven to us all that they are the party of poor management and shouldn't be trusted with Council tax payers funds."



A Clear Choice for a Better Bedford

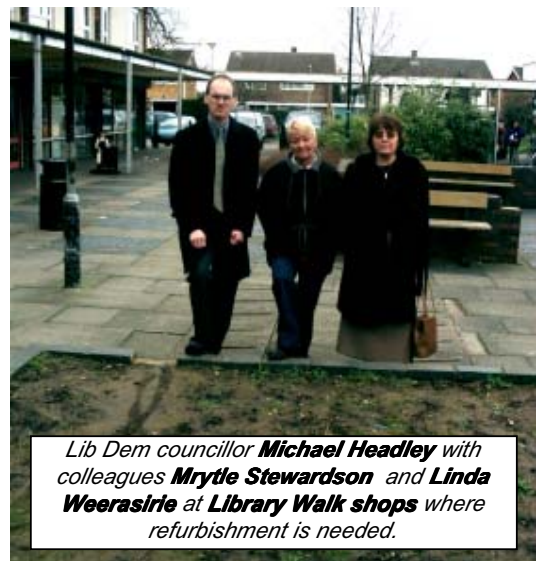
Lib Dem councillors have slammed the rejection of their budget proposals to spend more on frontline services - with proposals for improvements to *local shopping parades*, new and replacement *bus shelters*, improved *tree care*, more refurbished *play areas* and *free bus passes* for men aged over 60.

Shirley McKay said "We had proposed cutting perks like new furniture for councillors rooms and ceremonial functions and putting it into services for the benefit of local people. Sadly, Labour, Tory and Independent Councillors joined forces to defeat us and keep things as they are."

"Bedford faces a choice in May. To vote for more spending on key services and improvements to shopping parades, more litter and graffiti clearance, tree care, new bus shelters and play areas, vote Liberal Democrat. To vote for more furniture for councillors, vote for any other party in Bedford."



Local campaigner **Tim Prater** and councillor **Shirley McKay** at the bus stop in *Barford Avenue*, one of the many bus stops that need a bus shelter.



Lib Dem councillor **Michael Headley** with colleagues **Mrytle Stewardson** and **Linda Weerasirle** at *Library Walk shops* where refurbishment is needed.



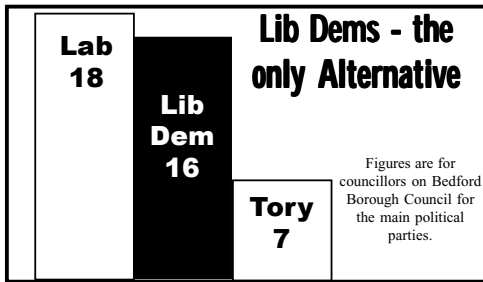
Campaigners **Jennifer Heseltine** and **Christine McHugh** with pensioner **Brian Hill** and his bus pass. Lib Dem plans voted down mean no free bus passes for men at 60 years old.

Working all year round for North Bedfordshire

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Lib Dems the Clear Challengers in Bedford

Liberal Democrats are poised to take the lead on the Borough Council following this year's elections. With every seat up for election Lib Dems are set to make gains and overtake Labour, who are only 2 seats ahead. The Tories in Bedford Borough are a divided and diminished 3rd party. Starting so far back, the Tories have no chance of running the Council after May.



Housing on Derelict Sites not Green Fields say Lib Dems

Government Inspectors are demanding the Council allows even more housing to be built on green fields. Liberal Democrat councillors have rejected this and successfully persuaded the Council to do a rigorous assessment of the urban area first.

Disused sites in urban areas should be identified and used. There is already too much pressure for housing on green fields around Bedford.



Rod Cottrell, David Sawyer and Councillor Neal Bath at the brownfield development on **Prebend Street**. Lib Dems want to see brownfield sites redeveloped before greenfield sites are gobbled up.



Bedfordshire NHS struggles under Labour - Long Hospital Waits Up In Bedfordshire

Latest figures show that in Bedfordshire 31%, that's nearly one third of all patients have to wait more than 6 months for their first in-patient appointment. That's worse than previous years.

Lib Dem spokesman, **Michael Headley** said "Bedfordshire's under-funding has increased in recent years. We are now 4.4% below our fair share of NHS funding. The Labour government have not delivered on their promises and our local health services are struggling."



Nick Harvey MP with Michael Headley talking to a member of staff at Bedford Hospital

Winning the council back for you

Call For Solar Power

Lib Dem councillors in Bedford Borough have called on the council to take up government grants to fund photo-voltaic solar cells on public buildings to generate electricity.



Council Meetings On-Line

Council Meetings at the Borough Council are to be broadcast on the Internet after a proposal from the Liberal Democrats. This will help to make the Council more open and help people know what their councillors are up to.

Libraries Should Be Open Longer

Lib Dem County Councillors have pressed the Council to increase Library opening hours. There is little point in adding extra computers and books if the public can't get to the library during working hours.



County Council Privatisation Costs Environment

One of the Tory run County Council's "partners" admitted, when asked by the Liberal Democrats, that it was not their policy to implement energy-saving items such as low-energy street lamps. Those would have to be specifically requested and paid extra for by the Council. Lib Dems criticised the 'Partnership' for being all about cost-cutting, and not tackling environmental priorities.



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