



Pictured: local Councillors Adrian Vinson & Jill Baston



Lib Dems take action on graffiti
 See back page

Lib Dems lead campaign against Labour's Post Office cuts.
 Sign the Petition on the back page

Save Our Post Offices

Lib Dems Set Lowest Council Tax Rise in History



• Government to close another 2,500

The Government recently announced 2,500 Post Offices are to close. This means that Post Offices in the ward, like the ones in Highfield Lane and Portswood High Street, could be threatened with closure.

Here in Portswood and across the rest of the country, the Liberal Democrats are leading the fight against these closures and we have set out clear plans to:-

- Open new Post Office branches where they are needed
- Keep the Post Office in the public sector
- Give Royal Mail new investment freedoms
- Give Royal Mail staff a stake in their company
- Protect and improve service with a daily delivery at a uniform price

There is a long history of Post Office closures. Under the last Conservative Government, 3,500 local Post Offices closed while another 4,000 have closed under this Labour Government.

Local councillor Steve Sollitt is asking residents to support the campaign by signing the petition over the page.

At just 3.3% Southampton's Lib Dem-led Council has set the lowest council tax increase since the city became a unitary authority. With Tory-led Hampshire opting for a massive 4.9% and Portsmouth on 4% the increase for Southampton's taxpayers will be the lowest in the region. With pensions set to rise by 3.6%, this is especially good news for senior citizens.

Under the Lib Dems council tax has risen less in 4 years than Labour's whopping 18.6% in their last year in office. Over the same period the Lib Dems have found savings of around £24 million while protecting the most vital services such as social care and schools, and boosting spending on improving roads, pavements and street lighting and tackling anti-social behaviour.

This year, despite a £7 million shortfall in Government funding yet again, the Lib Dems have found additional resources for: roads and pavements; youth and play services; parenting skills and initiatives for older people.

Continued on the back page.

We can cut crime!

MORE POLICE on our streets



Portswood Lib Dems want to get more police on patrol on local streets.

Local Councillor Jill Baston said, "More police on our streets will be an effective deterrent to crime and anti-social behaviour.

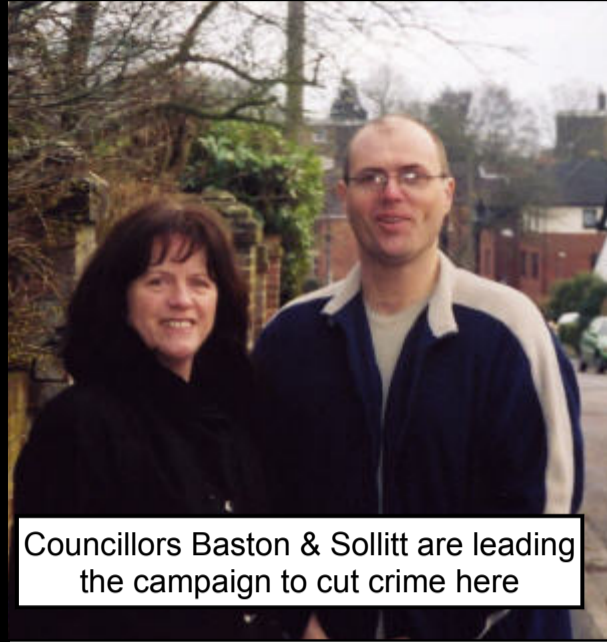
It's time to take back our streets and town centres."

More police on patrol can be paid for by dropping Labour's expensive plans for ID cards. These will cost local residents hundreds of pounds each without making our streets

safer."

Other top priorities for the Lib Dems include more night-time police patrols and reducing paperwork for police officers. See the back page for our work in cutting crime!

Let's Cut Crime in Portswood



Councillors Baston & Sollitt are leading the campaign to cut crime here

Local councillors Sollitt, Vinson & Baston have welcomed the Government awarding the city 'Respect' area status for its efforts in tackling anti-social behaviour. Additionally from 2nd May, the city has approved a 'Citywide drinking control area'.

Westwood Road & Khartoum Road Graffiti

Local residents have liaised with the city council to remove unsightly graffiti from privately owned garages in Westwood Rd. The FOCUS team have also reported the graffiti on the halls of residence in Khartoum Rd. The University have confirmed they will come and clean it off. Jill Baston comments, "Graffiti really brings down an area. We've made good progress with cleaning up in public places - these are great results."

WWW.WECANCUTCRIME.COM

BRICKFIELD ROAD

Following a request from local residents, Cllr Adrian Vinson has arranged for a survey of parking pressures in Brickfield, Northcote and Somerset Roads to be undertaken to see whether a case can be made for extending the Highfield Residents parking scheme.

IKEA IS COMING TO TOWN!

Swedish furniture giant IKEA have announced plans for a store at the former Pirelli site near the city centre. Lib Dem Council Leader Adrian Vinson, who has been working with IKEA and the landowners, says: "This is excellent news for Southampton's place as the premier shopping centre in the South East outside London. Though there will be traffic issues, I am confident that highway improvements together with a

flexible approach to marketing by IKEA can resolve them."

The Council's Planning Committee has already approved a new UK headquarters for world cruise industry giant, Carnival. Plans for the prestigious Lloyds Register to relocate from London to the University of Southampton's Boldrewood campus are well advanced.

Adrian says: "It is great news to see the work Southampton's Lib Dem Administration has put into promoting employment and prosperity for our city bearing fruit".

[Continued from front page] The Lib Dems also found the money to save Oaklands swimming pool, which would have had to close under Labour's proposals.

Cllr Steve Sollitt says: "Once again the Lib Dems have shown we can set a fair

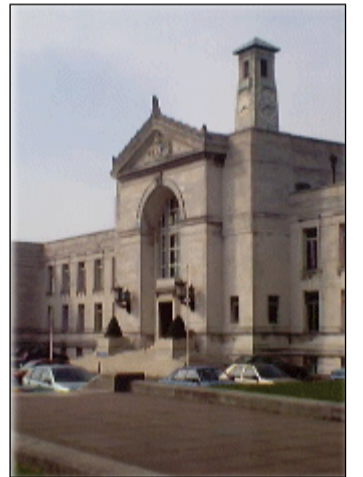
council tax by making efficiencies and tough savings decisions while prioritising the services people tell us they care about most. This is recognised by the **independent local government watchdog**, which has just awarded us 3 stars for our use of resources, describing us as 'a good council, improving well.'

DELIVERING THE GOODS

Independent national watchdog the Audit Commission has again declared Lib Dem-led Southampton City Council 'a good council, improving well'.

Council Leader Adrian Vinson says: 'Our 3 star rating puts us among the best in the country. It is especially pleasing to see our Planning, Transport and Waste services - which scored a pathetic single star under Labour - now merit the top rating, and that we are also praised for our use of resources.'

This good news follows a recent report highlighting improvements across the board in residents' satisfaction with council services since the Lib Dems took control in 2003, putting Southampton among the best 25% of council's nationally.



Sign our petition today

Working for you!

today



Steve Sollitt and the local Lib Dem team work hard for Portswood all year round.

If we can help you with a problem in our area, please contact us today using the details below.

Save Our Post Offices Petition

I/We, the undersigned, call on the Government to stop the unnecessary Post Office closure programme across the UK.

Name/s _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Return to:
**Liberal Democrats,
FREEPOST,
Southampton,
SO19 7WA**



Help the Lib Dem campaign in Portswood

I will be voting for the Lib Dems at the next election

I will display a poster in my window at election time

I would like a postal vote

I would like to join the Lib Dems

Telephone

8055 4320

Write to

27 Highfield Crescent, Portswood, SO17 1SG

www.southampton-libdems.org.uk