

Norton Focus



March 2010

Go for a fair deal

A fair deal for all is being backed by your Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate Howard Keal.

Howard says the party will prise open the wallets of the very wealthy to fund tax cuts of £700 a year for everyone else.

“All of us have had enough of mega bucks bankers taking our money – it’s time to take some back.”

“We will swap the current free- for-all for the rich with a deal that’s fair for all,” said Howard.

A prospect of a hung parliament offers the chance to make your vote really count in making a grab for the levers of power.

Howard says Liberal Democrat Vince Cable has been right all the way on the economy - and he is right about the changes to tax.



The party is fighting to close loopholes for the richest and to tax mansions which are worth more than £2 million.

“That provides for income tax cuts of £700 for millions of us, while millions more low earners and pensioners will no longer have to pay income tax at all.

“It’s better and fairer all round. The deal is on the table,” said Howard. “All you have to do is vote for it.”



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www.howardkeal.org

Lidl's on the way here

Work is expected to start within the next few months on a new Lidl supermarket in Norton.

Norton Liberal Democrat councillor Elizabeth Shields said: "Many people have told me that they are pleased that Lidl is coming to our town and look forward to the site being spruced up."

The former petrol station will go, along with buildings including the current premises of well-respected family business Robsons Motor Services.

The garage which has been on the site for a century is expected to transfer to Hugden Way, Norton Grove Industrial Estate, around May.



"I'll be sorry to see Robsons move but I'm very glad that the deal is enabling the business to go into new purpose built premises," said Elizabeth.

David fills the gap

Having ceased to be a member of the County Council and Police Authority, David Lloyd-Williams thought he would have some spare time to deal with his antiques business as well as perhaps enjoying an easier life.

How wrong can you get!

At Malton Museum, where David is the Foundation Chairman, the strong possibility of a major relocation to the Roman Fort site in two years time, together with setting up of a new reserve collection store has meant his time has been more than taken up.

Add to that his appointment as a parish representative to the NYCC Area Committee, as well as being invited to chair the Malton & Norton Area Partnership, dealing and promoting local projects in the community which attract grants from Yorkshire Forward and others, David appears to be busier than ever.

"Life moves on, new challenges have appeared" he said.

David was honoured in December last year by the County Council in being made an Honorary Alderman to recognise his 28 years of continuous service to the residents of the Norton Division.

He remains an active member of the two town councils representing our community and now looks forward to the coming summer with strong intentions to get his garden right this year!

Play on

A summer scheme operating in Norton and around Ryedale has been saved from a Tory axe.

Howard Keal, leader of the Lib Dem group on the council, led the battle to rescue the Festival of Fun.

"Services for children should be the last thing we cut, not the first," said Howard.

"We won the day by a whisker despite Tory councillors voting unanimously to shut down the event.

"Out of an £8 million budget all

they wanted to cut was a play scheme – of all the things to try to axe, this was the wrong one."

He proposed instead that the £13,000 cost of the festival should be met by a package including axing free food for councillors before meetings.

Voting on the proposal to keep the scheme was tied but it was saved on the casting vote of the council chairman, Di Keal.

"It was a great result for children

and their parents. The festival will now be run again this summer," said Howard.

A wide variety of activities is offered by the festival.

Workers involved in child welfare backed the scheme, which was described as a lifeline for some families.

Liberal Democrat Cllr Elizabeth Shields condemned the Tory attempt to axe the festival as "shameful."

Signatures thank you!

A wave of support has met merger proposals from Malton and Norton Town Councils.

More than the 1,000 names needed to put the idea on the table have been gathered, opening the way to the next stage.

Norton town councillor, and Liberal Democrat, Hugh Spencer said: "A single stronger council would be more responsive to local needs.

"It would be able to pick up responsibilities from the district and county councils and bring decision making to a more local level."

And people in Norton, which has the bigger population, would have a say in Malton where what happens is of every bit as much interest.

Hugh, with Lib Dems Di and Howard Keal, parliamentary candidate for Malton and Norton, between them collected hundreds of signatures.

The petition is intended to trigger an in depth review by Ryedale District Council, and a potential referendum of residents. The town councils now decide on the next stage.



"I was especially grateful to people coming to the door in arctic weather and still being prepared to listen to the arguments.

"Overwhelmingly people favoured saving time and money through a merger but I appreciated even the few against who took time to give their view.

"There were blizzard conditions on some days and Howard was white over - he must have looked like a Michelin man turning up!"

Put more Police on the beat

A bid to put more police on the beat in Malton and Norton is being backed by Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate Howard Keal.

The party plans to fund 30 extra officers for the county funded by national savings from scrapping ID cards.

Howard, parliamentary candidate for Malton and Norton, said: "Costly ID cards would do nothing to make our streets safer but an extra officer walking through town on Friday night will.

"Officer numbers over the past five years have been reduced overall in North Yorkshire and we want to take this opportunity to help redress the balance."

Low council tax dumped by County Tories

Snow tax blow

A ZERO per cent rate rise for Ryedale residents backed by Liberal Democrats has been wiped out by County Hall Tories.

The county Cons refused to dip into balances to fund road repairs needed following the heavy snow and instead picked the pockets of ratepayers.

Howard Keal, Leader of the Liberal Democrat group on Ryedale District Council, said: "We fought to keep bills down.

"But the demand that lands on your doormat depends on the combined costs of services provided by both councils.

"It's sad to see the zero per cent rise agreed by Ryedale being swept aside by the increase imposed by the County Council."

Senior Conservatives opted for a rise of 2.94%, well in excess of the 2.5% on which the County Council had consulted residents.

It will generate an extra £1 million of income to deal with winter damage, but the money could have been taken from the county's £15 million reserves.

"The extra demand from the county council will raise more from Ryedale residents than if the district council had agreed a 2.5% rise," said Howard.

"All the good we achieved with our zero per cent rise has been swallowed up by County Hall Tories."

Working for you - your Norton Lib Dem team

Howard Keal	Parliamentary Candidate	01653 694546	
Elizabeth Shields	01653 618474	Di Keal	01653 694546
Hugh Spencer	01653 697415	David Lloyd-Williams	01653 693016

I would like to help the Lib Dems by:

voting Lib Dem at the next election

displaying a poster in my window/garden

delivering leaflets in my area

making a donation to the Lib Dem campaign

Please make cheques payable to 'Thirsk & Malton Liberal Democrat Campaign Account'

Name:

Address:

I would like a postal vote

in future elections

Tel:

Email:

howard.keal@btinternet.com

Please return this slip to: Howard Keal Thirsk & Malton Liberal Democrats 19 St Nicholas Street Norton YO17 9AQ