

LIB DEMS TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE



A programme of fitting solar panels to houses and commercial buildings is the quickest and cheapest way to increase the generation of renewable energy

"With record high temperatures recorded this year, the Lib Dems recognise that action needs to be taken now to ensure that we tackle the Climate Crisis," declared Simon Clifford.

The Lib Dems are in a strong position to replace the Conservatives as the largest party on Dorset Council. The Tories will lose their majority if they lose as few as two seats!

We will:

- lead the fight against the Climate Crisis by protecting our local environment, combating global warming and ensuring that Dorset

Council is on target to meet net zero by 2035 and Dorset as a whole by 2045.

- double the number of trees and hedgerows being planted in Dorset over the next five years, and
- increase recycling by making it easier for residents to recycle items like tetrapaks and aluminium foil, while not increasing the number of household bins.

"Further measures, including significant increases in the number of LED streetlights, EV charging points and solar panels and heat pumps to houses, are all essential," said Simon Clifford.

In recent months the Conservative Government has revealed plans for a huge new coal mine, issued permits to drill for oil and gas in the North Sea and delayed the date for the withdrawal of petrol and diesel cars.

The Conservatives have shown that they cannot be trusted to tackle the Climate Crisis.

Voter ID: Make sure you protect your vote

For the first time at the next election, **you will need to show an accepted form of Photo ID if you want to vote at your local polling station.** Simon Clifford said: "This new Conservative law is designed to make it harder for you to vote. **The easiest solution, is to apply for a postal vote.**"

Voting by post is secure, free, and easy. Your ballot paper will arrive straight to your door, and you can return it for free.

You can download an application form from <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote> or write to us at 174, Grays, Southill Garden Drive, Weymouth. DT4 9SW

Contact your local Lib Dems:

Please get in touch if you have a point or issue you would like to discuss, or if there is anything you think we can help with. Our contact details are above and we look forward to hearing from you.

For general Lib dem queries please email us at info@sdlibdems.org.uk

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FOCUS

December 2023

Liberal
Democrats

On Littlemoor and Preston

BY-ELECTION SPECIAL

SIMON CLIFFORD

**YOUR CANDIDATE FOR:
DORSET COUNCIL IN LITTLEMOOR AND PRESTON
WARD and
WEYMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL IN PRESTON**

I live in Sutton Poyntz and I am a trustee and chair for three charities, all linked to providing care. Having seen how hard it is to get help from local authorities, I want to kick down the doors at Dorset Council to ensure it helps the people who need it most – the people who should be its priority – the people it is failing to help.



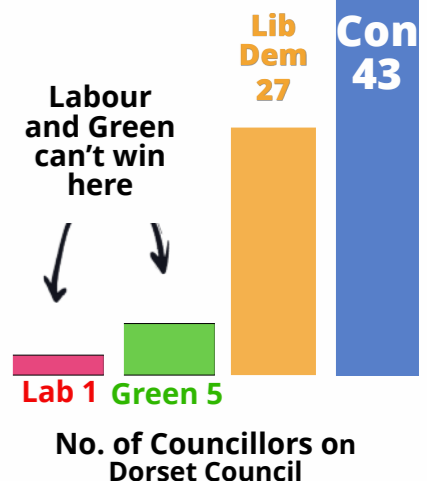
The charities I work for include children caring for their parents; long term carers who just need a break from their loved ones for a few hours; the very elderly and vulnerable; and people facing mental health issues including risk of suicide. It is time Dorset Council – and others – stepped up and realised its priorities should be these people and not its own vanity projects.

I am a former newspaper journalist and BBC editor. I am also a former director and deputy CEO of a large Local Authority, much like Dorset Council. I believe I am uniquely placed to know how to make a difference for Preston and Littlemoor residents.

If you elect me, I will be fighting for vulnerable people, for the voluntary sector that does so much amazing

work, and to make sure that Dorset Council stops ducking its responsibilities.

Only the **Lib Dems** can beat the **Conservatives** on Dorset Council



Early January By-election



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DORSET DESERVES BETTER

LITTLEMOOR AND PRESTON DESERVE BETTER

WE ALL DESERVE BETTER


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It's time to ditch the Conservatives and look for new local faces, new local ideas and new local solutions.

SO MANY BROKEN PROMISES



Just in the past two years, we have seen a merry-go-round of Prime Ministers. All of them promising so much, all of them failing to deliver - Boris Johnson; Liz Truss; Rishi Sunak.

After the circus, we are left with...


- A series of broken rules during Covid that has shocked the nation – thanks Boris
- A broken economy – thanks Liz
- A broken NHS with record waiting lists – thanks Rishi

All have broken promises

- Boris promised to fix the social care funding crisis – he failed.
- Liz promised to relaunch our economy - well frankly Liz just failed.
- Rishi promised to cut immigration, to cut waiting lists, to cut debt. He has failed, failed and failed again.

We all deserve better.

MISMANAGEMENT OF FINANCES - HOW IT AFFECTS PRESTON AND LITTLEMOOR



Dorset Council continues to mismanage its finances and we will all pay the price. Even their own finance officer says their budget plans for the future are “high risk”. That puts everything our communities want at risk.

- Sutton Poyntz wants better bus services – it can’t be delivered if the council stays on track to overspend its budget.
- Preston wants more litter bins, that won’t happen.

The government needs to give us more money and we need to be more efficient.

FACT CHECK

Did you know our MP Richard Drax has always voted against local councils getting more funding to provide better services in Dorset? In fact he has voted SIX times against providing more funding for councils like Dorset to care for the very elderly, to protect children at risk, to provide better, safer roads, build new and better schools, expand libraries and create local jobs for local people.

Dorset deserves Better.

FACT CHECK

Did you know Dorset Council pay 23 staff more than £100,000 per year, more than any council, even much bigger ones, in the South West.

TOO WORRIED ABOUT STAFF PAY AND RECEIVING AWARDS

They continue as if nothing has happened – they keep pumping out media releases from their expensive PR team; they refuse to look at cutting top salaries – with a CEO earning an astonishing £200,000 plus in pay and pension contributions; and they keep patting themselves on the back and entering Local Authority Awards whilst their bank balance plummets. The more you look at these issues, the more you realise that something has to change.

We needed a real transport hub at the station where all the buses and trains could meet – and have toilet facilities that are open . We may have an award but no real service.

Simon said ‘Awards would not be a priority for me; there are more pressing issues that needs solving.’



INCREASED CAR PARK CHARGES


The Tories put up car park charges in Weymouth – a £2m financial disaster. And still we end up with expensive, poor quality car parks. Odd that there is NO ONE from the Weymouth area on their decision making committee.

Weymouth deserves a lot better.

FACT CHECK

Did you know that 15% of Dorset’s residents live in Weymouth yet the nearest cabinet members live in Blandford or rural Purbeck. The cabinet make all the decisions (mostly bad) yet have no-one speaking for our urban conurbation south of the ridgeway. We want to make the council much more democratic and ensure all voices are heard properly.

20's Plenty



Where people are

There are calls for a 20mph zone to keep residents safe in both Littlemoor and Preston.

Simon commented ‘We will make our roads, cycle routes and pathways safer. Other Lib Dem Councils around England have done this on Day One of taking over.’

FACT CHECK

Did you know that since the start of Dorset Council they have increased the number of affordable houses in Dorset by an average of 425 per annum. There are currently over 5000 on the housing waiting list with over 400 in temporary accommodation. Some of these will be much needed health workers.

HELPING HEALTH WORKERS TO LIVE HERE.

Many residents are concerned about the lack of health care workers ie dentists, doctors, nurses, carers. When we ask health professionals what would make a difference they tell us that it all comes down to the cost of housing in our area. Dorset Council can do a lot to help this situation but is not taking this issue seriously enough. Dorset Council has land it could consider using to help meet these needs and there are ways in which new homes can be tied to local needs. Simon commented that ‘We should not put up with this, Dorset Council can do so much better with strong leadership.’

This is a priority for the Lib Dems.

