



Island Newsletter

Spring 2011



NEWS ROUND-UP

Welcome to this new-style communication from the Isle of Wight Liberal Democrats. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep Members informed of developments locally. This is especially necessary as we continue to find it hard to secure adequate coverage through the commercial news channels.

We welcome input from Members and will try to keep articles topical and informative.

We encourage Members to use this quarterly publication to inform debate with non-Members, especially where the information demonstrates the clear difference in approach to local matters between Liberal Democrats and the Tories.

To have your say just contact Tim Wakeley by telephone or e-mail or via the Isle of Wight Lib Dem web site—*let's open up an active dialogue.*



2 x ISLAND MP'S!

PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARIES REVIEW OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT

As most Members will know by now the decision has been taken for the Island to have two MP's in future.

It only remains now for the Boundary Commission to determine how the Island will be divided into two constituencies.

Bob Blezzard has worked on this and will be outlining his thoughts at our next 'Island Forum' due to take place on Saturday 16th April at the Riverside Centre (10-30am).

From this meeting the Island Lib Dem Executive will be making a recommendation to the Region who will pass this on to the Federal Party from where the proposals will go to the Boundary Commission.

To ensure you have your say please join the debate on April 16th.

Island Forum:

These new Members & supporters meetings are being arranged to enable discussion on matters of importance to the Island. The first Forum will take place on the 16th April at 10-30 to 12 pm at the Riverside Centre. Topics for discussion are:

1. How we divide the Island into two Parliamentary constituencies. Bob Blezzard.
2. The proposed 'Alternative Voting' system which is the subject of the May referendum. Sara Sheath.

**ISLAND FORUM
'HAVE YOUR SAY'
RIVERSIDE CENTRE
SATURDAY 16th APRIL
10-30 TO 12pm**

'YES' CAMPAIGN LEAFLETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN NEWPORT AFTER THE MEETING

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Chris Huhne MP Friday evening 13th May.

There will be no charge for Members & businesses who attended the previous dinner (which Chris was unable to attend) but there will be a small charge of £5 to cover costs for other Members. Venue to be decided. If you would like to meet with Chris please give Jill Wareham a call on **741068.**



TABLE TOP SALE YARMOUTH TOWN HALL

21st MAY 2011

9-30 TO 12-30PM

Major fundraising event—please give your support



Contact the Island Liberal Democrats web site at: www.iowlibdems.org.uk



NEWS FROM THE IOW COUNCIL CHAMBER

THE IMPENDING DEMISE OF OUR ISLAND YOUTH SERVICE

Reg Barry introduced two amendments to the Budget proposed by the Independent Councillors. Needless to say there was no chance of these amendments getting through but Reg showed that there were options to closing front-line services.

The PFI for the improvement and maintenance of our highways infrastructure continues to be of major concern to the Lib Dem Group who fear that costs associated with setting up and administration this scheme are running out of control. Indeed there remains serious doubt whether the PFI will ever come to fruition yet the costs continue to escalate.

Reg wanted the PFI scheme to be reviewed to enable spiralling costs to be reined in, additionally, the Lib Dem team wanted the investment in our highways infrastructure to be brought up to the levels in place before the Tories got into power. Such a move would halt the deterioration in our highways. Neither amendment was approved by the Tory dominated council.

A further amendment, tabled by Lib Dem Cllr Dave Knowles and supported by the Independent Group, was for the Waterside Pool in Ryde to remain open and for the savings required to be shared between all the sports and swimming pools—this realistic and achievable idea was dismissed 'out of hand' by the ruling Tory Group.

On April the 12th (unless it is delayed yet again) IOW Councillors will vote to support the Draft Plan for the future of the Island Youth Service.

This Plan, born of a flawed consultation process and over two years in gestation puts the IOW Council at risk of failing in its statutory duty to young people.

The Plan proposes the closure of most Island Youth Centres and fails to say how many young people will be reached by the new service or what the benefits and outcomes will be.

Please contact your local councillor and ask that they reject the inadequate Draft Plan as being unfit for purpose.

MAKING CONTACT WITH YOUR EXECUTIVE

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