

FOCUS

on Mid Cheshire

News from your Lib Dem team, Jack Price-Harbach, Keith Hinde & Helena Conlon



Liberal Democrats

PROTECT PENSIONERS FROM WINTER FUEL CUT

Cheshire Lib Dems call on the Government to “rethink” the cut



The Lib Dems are calling on the Government to scrap the cuts to Winter Fuel Payments.

With energy bills set to rise once again this winter, Cheshire West & Chester Liberal Democrats are calling on the Government to reverse its decision to cut Winter Fuel Payments for local pensioners.

Across the country 11 million pensioners are set to lose their winter fuel payment under the government's plans.

This includes two million that the charity Age UK has said will struggle to afford their energy bills as a result.

In Mid Cheshire, this would be an estimated 14,500 pensioners at risk of losing the £300 payment, which helps with heating bills in the winter.

Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Mid Cheshire, Jack Price-Harbach said:

“I've heard from countless pensioners across the salt towns worried about losing this vital support.

“Stripping support from many of the poorest pensioners in Mid Cheshire just when energy bills are set to rise again is simply wrong. It could force vulnerable elderly people in our community to choose between eating and heating this winter.

The Liberal Democrats are urging the Government to think again to protect poorer and more vulnerable pensioners from being forced to choose between eating and heating this winter.

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WINNING IN WINSFORD

The Liberal Democrats are back to winning ways in Cheshire with the election of Charlie Parkinson to Winsford Town Council.

This was the first by-election to take place in Mid Cheshire following Labour's General Election victory, and the people of Verdin Ward made their voices heard.

Winsford said **NO** to Labour's Winter Fuel Allowance cuts. Winsford said **NO** to the chaotic consequences of Salt of the Earth's mismanagement of Winsford Town Council.

Winsford did say **YES** to Charlie, who is an experienced local councillor with a record of action.



Charlie campaigning for the reopening of Winsford Guild Hall

Charlie will now fight to deliver on his campaign pledges, which include:

- Getting public toilets built in Winsford's half built town centre.
- Bringing back the use of the local BMX park for local children.
- Fixing the dangerous congestion on Woodford Lane.
- Reopening The Guild Hall.

NEWS & ACTION

YOU GOTTA PUMP IT UP!

At the Lib Dems Annual Conference in Brighton, Jack spoke with the MCS Foundation, based in Daresbury, about all things heat pumps! They are cleaner, cheaper & less energy intensive. Jack continues to advocate for mass expansion of heat pump manufacturing, alongside financial support to install heat pumps in low income households.



FAIRER VOTES NOW!



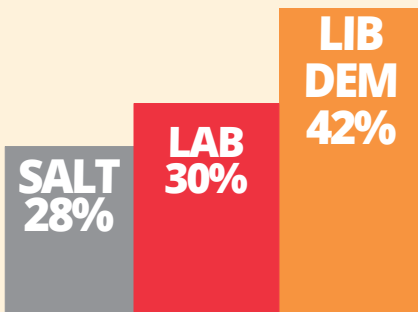
Also at conference, local activist Alice Thompson spoke on stage to support a policy motion for the Liberal Democrats to implement Proportional Representation. First Past The Post saw many constituents in Mid Cheshire lend their vote to Labour in July, purely to kick the Tories out of Government, rather than vote for a party that better reflects their values. The motion passed, so a vote for the Lib Dems is a vote for fairer politics.

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IT'S YOUR LIB DEM TEAM OR LABOUR HERE...



Result in the Winsford Town Council by-election for Verdin Ward in September 2024

SEND CHILDREN 'LET DOWN' BY CWAC

Mid Cheshire Spokesperson Jack Price-Harbach attended a protest organised by the CwaC SEND Accountability Group.

Jack spoke to many parents, guardians and carers outside The Portal in Ellesmere Port, who felt exhausted, gaslit and emotionally drained.

By engaging with concerned protesters, Jack learned how families felt they were being let down by the local authority.

Parents spoke about moving to Cheshire West from other parts of the country, with the promise of specialist support such as hydrotherapy and personal home care for children with complex needs. In many instances those promises fell short, with families choosing to move home **AGAIN** to stand a better chance of getting the appropriate action plans in place for their children.

Some parents have spent tens of thousands of pounds each year to care for their children with Autism, ADHD & other special educational needs, whilst others have quit work to offer full time care.



Mid Cheshire's Parliamentary Spokesperson Jack Price-Harbach speaking with SEND campaigners

Your Mid Cheshire Lib Dems will continue to campaign for policies to improve the lives of children requiring extra support. We call on the Labour Government to offer free home personal care for vulnerable and disabled people. We are also campaigning for increased multi-year funding settlements for local councils to allow Education, Health & Care plans to be approved within 20 weeks, rather than the current 50 week wait, overseen by a National SEND Children's body to ensure that legal requirements are met.

LABOUR HONEYMOON OVER?

- Mid Cheshire MP votes to keep 2 Child Benefit Cap
- Cooper votes for cuts Winter Fuel Allowance



"I made the difficult decision to vote with the government on changes to the winter fuel payments."

- Northwich Guardian, 24th Sept

Never has an incumbent new Government seen their popularity sink so quickly.

Keir Starmer's programme for "change," ahead of a 10% in the energy price cap, means that vulnerable groups continue to face poverty.

The Lib Dems campaigned to scrap the two child benefit cap, but your MP voted against an opposition amendment to scrap it.

Andrew Cooper also made the "difficult but necessary" decision to cut Winter Fuel Allowance.

This month, the Chancellor will make her Autumn statement. Rachel Reeves paid a flying visit to Northwich on the campaign trail. Will Cooper have to make more "difficult but necessary" decisions to return the favour? Be assured that your local Lib Dems will scrutinise the Budget thoroughly.

CANCER TREATMENT IN FOCUS



Cancer remains one of your top concerns and your local Lib Dems continue to raise the issue of patients starting their treatment later than promised.

In July 2024, **29%** of patients in the Mid Cheshire Foundation Trust area started their cancer treatment later than 62 days after being referred by their GP.

We welcome the assurances from new Health Secretary Wes Streeting that the Leighton Hospital rebuild is to be protected by the spending review.

However, we call on him & the Chancellor to ensure that there will be no delays to the building of the **New** Leighton Hospital programme in the Autumn Statement, now that the first business case to fund its construction has been submitted to the Government.