

FOCUS LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Election Special

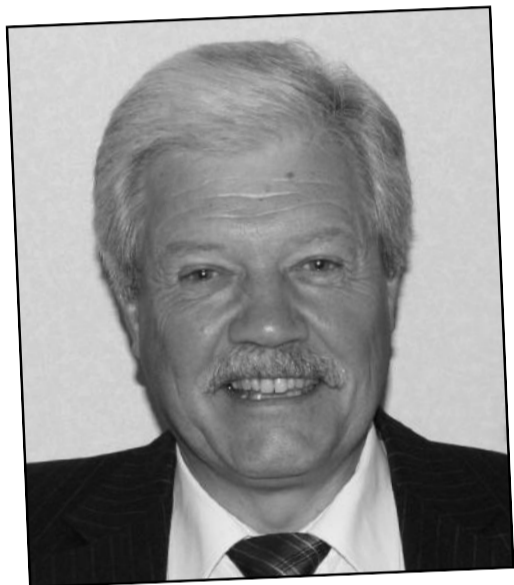
On Silhill Ward

www.libdems.org.uk | www.solihull-libdems.org.uk

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Tony DUPONT

Standing up for Silhill



- ✓ Tony Dupont has lived over 20 years in the area. His wife works in Solihull and his four grown-up children went to local schools.
- ✓ Tony enjoys living in the region and wishes to see improvements in local services and more transparency and accountability in Council decision-making.
- ✓ He believes more investment should be encouraged to promote added-value jobs for residents and better prospects for the young.
- ✓ New developments ought to be less intensive with more care being given to design and landscaping.
- ✓ Tony will be encouraging policies that give residents a greener, healthier and more attractive environment.

Tony Dupont says "Together with Councillor Leela Widger, I will work hard in trying to resolve the issues of concern to residents and generally to improve our local community. It would be a privilege if I were to be voted by you as your second Liberal Democrat Councillor. Both Leela and I would be able to work together to further your interests."

Council Tax Shock

Solihull Conservative Councillors, supported by Labour, have voted unanimously for an inflation busting Council Tax increase of 4.5% for 2008/09.

The Tories blame the Labour Government but:

- ✓ They rejected a Lib Dem proposal for a below inflation Council Tax increase which did not cut any services.
- ✓ Solihull has the second highest Metropolitan Council Tax in the country
- ✓ Council Tax in Solihull is nearly £200 above the national average

Tony Dupont said, "More needs to be done to ensure Council tax increases are kept to a minimum, whilst delivering the services that residents expect."

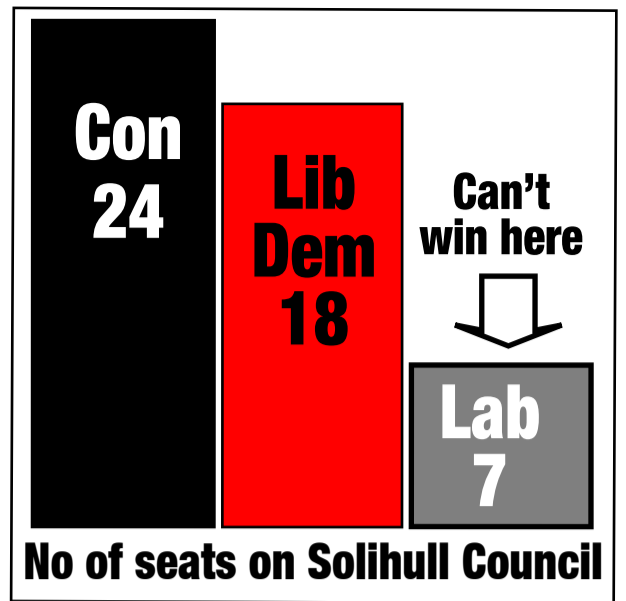
The Conservatives have justified their decision to raise Council tax by an excessive amount on the basis that Solihull receives an unfair national government cash settlement.

The cash settlement proposals to raise Solihull's grant by just 2% against 4.9% in Birmingham and 6% in Sandwell was strongly opposed by Lib Dem MP Lorely Burt.

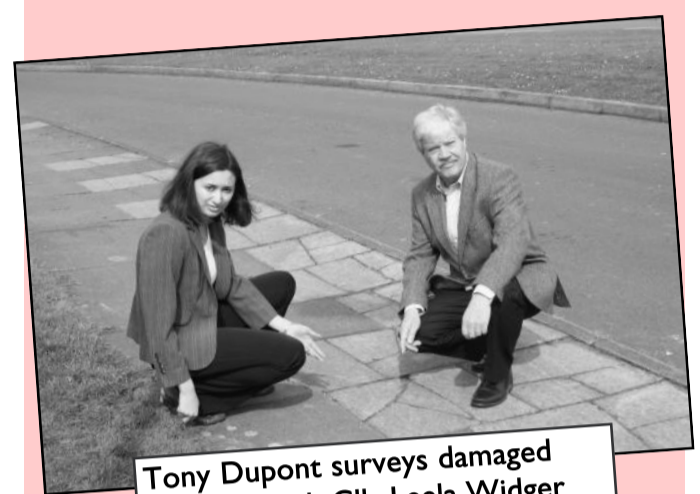
However, Meriden Conservative MP Caroline Spelman abstained rather than voted against, and the cash settlement proposals were carried.



£200 extra to pay under the Tories



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Tony Dupont surveys damaged footpath with Cllr Leela Widger

Many footpaths around Silhill are dangerous, uneven and due for repair.

Recently, a number of residents of Heaton Road and Marsham Court Road submitted a petition to request that the Council commence repair works on their pavements. When the matter was discussed at a recent Council meeting, the only Councillor who supported the residents was Councillor Leela Widger. Sadly, the Conservative Council refused to agree to a scheme to carry out the necessary comprehensive works.



Councillor Leela Widger and Tony Dupont with traffic warden and local residents Arthur Collins and Terry Stretton.

Serious congestion problems in Touchwood Hall Close continue to cause a dangerous obstruction to vehicles which enter and exit the Close. In the past, emergency vehicles have also been prevented from attending patients during emergency situations due to the blockage.

The Liberal Democrats and local residents have been battling hard for the Council to take action to address the problem which has been outstanding for years. At a recent meeting, the Tory-led Council had the opportunity to put this matter to rest. Unfortunately, the Conservative Council chose to reject all proposals and keep the status quo.

Liberal Democrats - A real change for Solihull

Working for a greener Solihull

Liberal Democrats are leading the campaign to cut excess packaging in Solihull. UK households send over 5 million tonnes of waste packaging to landfill each year, while an estimated 17 billion plastic bags are given out annually by supermarkets.

Liberal Democrat Candidate, Tony Dupont said, "We are calling for large retailers in Solihull to adopt a green approach to packaging by reducing excessive use of packaging and plastic bags. It is just one of a range of environmental challenges we face, but if resolved, could help to protect the environment and bring financial benefits for consumers.

In addition, Liberal Democrats are campaigning for kerbside collection for all recyclable materials. Solihull currently ranks low down in government figures: 310 out of 393 local authorities for recycling and composting. Despite Tory assurances that recycling is one of their priorities, Council Officers recently informed the Focus Team that under the current Conservative regime, kerbside collection for other recyclable materials won't happen for years.

Tony Dupont said, "I'm confident that should the Liberal Democrats take control of the Council, residents will see immediate significant improvements to doorstep recycling arrangements."



Tony Dupont is campaigning for kerbside recycling for all recyclable materials

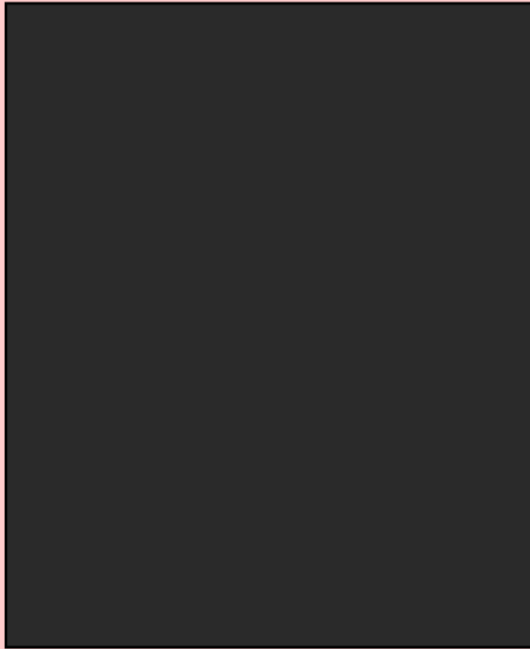
Fighting to protect Solihull Trees

An increasing number of our finest trees are being felled due to a recent rise in housing developments around Solihull.

The Council has the power to protect certain specimen trees against felling by issuing Tree Preservation Orders. However, the Focus Team has been informed by Solihull Tree Wardens that due to a major backlog in the Council operatives, several precious trees are being sacrificed.

The Silhill Focus Team is working with Solihull Tree Warden Group to press the Conservative-controlled Council to initiate immediate measures to prevent further loss to our heritage.

Councillor Leela Widger said: "We shall be working with the tree wardens to speed up the Council's tardy approach."



Action call on dangerous Buryfield Road junction



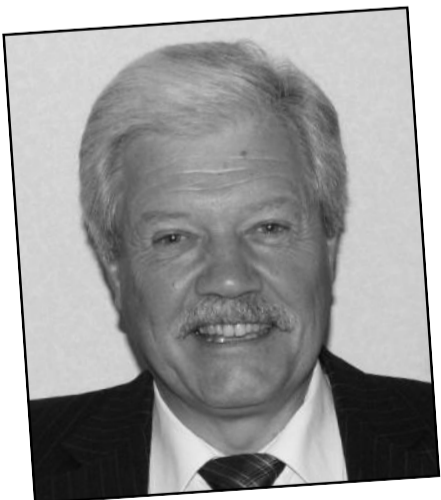
There have been serious congestion problems at the Buryfield Road junction with Warwick Road for years. Several car accidents have occurred as a result of the bottleneck. There has been mounting pressure on the Council. An original petition of 170 Buryfield Road residents and Ferndown residents was submitted several months ago and more recently, residents of St. Helens Road added a further 70 signatures.

A recent Council meeting provided the opportunity to reconsider proposals. However the Conservative Council turned down all suggestions and refused to take action to resolve these matters.

Councillor Leela Widger said, "I shall continue to press for action. Tony Dupont and I are also discussing implementation with our colleagues and that should the Liberal Democrats take control of the Council, the problem can be promptly addressed."

5 positive reasons to support Tony Dupont

- ✓ He will fight for better value for money and lower council taxes
- ✓ He will encourage a more responsive Council and police force to resident requests
- ✓ He will seek more support for the elderly, young and infirm
- ✓ He will propose more progressive policies to promote business, public amenities and a better environment
- ✓ He is the only candidate who can beat the Conservatives on 1st May



Your hard working choice for Silhill

Tony DUPONT  

Lib Dems - Working all year round

