



Don't forget to report your potholes to <https://bit.ly/3vtzgAV>

The worst roads in England

A 2023 RAC study found that Derbyshire has the most potholes of any county in England.

With over 96,000 recorded craters in our roads, the county had 23,000 MORE than second-placed Lancashire! The Government has promised £8.3bn 'levelling up' money, re-directed from the scrapped northern leg of HS2, but the Local Government Association estimates there's a £14bn backlog in load road repairs across the country.

'It's yet another symptom of the crumbling local infrastructure left to us by the Conservatives' said Lib Dem parliamentary candidate Robert Court. 'This is why we need a 'New Deal for the Dales'.

(Pictured left); Cllr Roger Shelley with some of the potholes reported by the local Lib Dems, *after* they have been patched... But how long will this kind of repair on **The Parkway** last?



NHS CRISIS

Sunak admits failure over promise to cut NHS waiting lists

Guardian - 5 February 2024

Cancer waiting times in 2023 worst on record in England

BBC - 8 February 2024

Huge human and economic toll: one in seven people in England waiting for NHS treatment

Guardian - 8 February 2024

Lib Dem plan to fix our NHS

- 1 Train and recruit 8,000 more GPs
- 2 Address social care to enable quicker hospital discharges
- 3 Empower and train pharmacists to ease pressure on GPs and A&E
- 4 Improve retention with a fair pay deal for NHS staff
- 5 Launch flu and Covid vaccination campaign

DO YOU HAVE AN ISSUE? CAN WE HELP?

Contact the local Focus team

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And here's how you can help us. Please donate now to help our General Election campaign.



FOCUS on Darley Dale



Not funded by extremists!
To help our campaign go to ddld.org.uk

Liberal Democrats - the effective alternative to the Tories.
News from Councillors David Burton, Marilyn Franks and Roger Shelley

WE'RE ON YOUR SIDE

Says Lib Dem campaigner Robert Court



Robert Court (centre) out with the Lib Dem team in Darley Dale - listening to your concerns, explaining how, if he gets elected to Westminster, he can help.

Are you one of the people who keep telling us that our public services just aren't up to scratch?

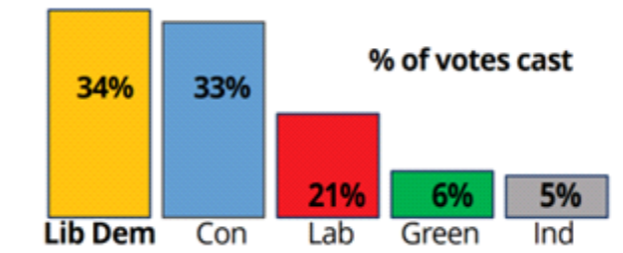
You and thousands of others... in doorstep conversations and in our mailbag.

Public services are in desperate need of investment, especially here in the Dales. These are the tip of the iceberg:

- Severn Trent Water seem unwilling or unable to prevent **foul surface water flooding** of our homes, nearby in Matlock
- The Conservatives refuse to give housing associations the money they need to provide the **truly affordable, energy**

efficient homes needed here in the Dales (not the large executive homes developers want). Here in the Dales 'levelling up' cash has enabled the Council to buy just 17 homes

- Woe betide anyone trying to get on to an **NHS dentist waiting list** round here - the nearest available are in Chesterfield or Ilkeston
- Public bodies like the Forestry Commission and our local councils are starved of resources to **protect our landscape, such as Hall Dale Woods, and provide basic services** like repairing our potholed roads



The results of last year's local elections in Derbyshire Dales

Will you support my campaign to get **A New Deal for the Dales?**

Robert Court, Lib Dem General Election candidate for Derbyshire Dales

Derbyshiredaleslibdems.org.uk/volunteer

Lib Dems have tremendous support locally - If you want a change in Derbyshire Dales then we are the clear choice!

Your Local Plan - coming soon!

A key part of public consultation is soon to be underway on the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan. We'd like to hear your views.

It's all about the location and kind of housing that is built here over the next two decades. It also covers the services we will all need, and how our landscape can be better protected and enhanced.

Don't miss your chance in May to have your say at derbyshiredales.gov.uk/local-plan-survey

A6 campaign update

We're grateful to all those who signed our petition in our last Focus leaflet, calling on the County Council (in charge of highways) to modify the junction between Morledge and the A6, where it meets the Severn Trent sewage pumping plant.

The County Council have responded by saying that while they have no plans to ease the situation themselves, Severn Trent Water are working on their own plans for what is needed in the future. Your Lib Dem councillors have already been in touch with the water company, asking them for proper consultation with local residents about this.



Cllr Marilyn Franks at the Hooley Town pumping station on the A6 - one of the worst places for storm overflow foul water discharges in Derbyshire

Conservative County Council lets you down... again ... and again

Residents on **Boden Close** are still waiting for the vital lights-controlled pedestrian crossing, more than two years after the housing developer paid across money specifically for this. And the cash-strapped Conservative county council has also now turned to selling off the popular public car park on the **White Peak Trail** near Darley Dale cricket club - a move opposed by your Lib Dem councillors.

Two Dales - Housing development on the old surgery site

After several years of dereliction, builders are now at work on 10 new apartments at the junction of Chesterfield Road and Columbello Way.

"This planning application was passed by the old Council in 2021" says **Cllr David Burton**. "It's not ideal - many of us would like to see something useful like a local dentist. But unfortunately that decision was taken by our predecessors. We need more local people to get involved with this kind of decision as other small 'brownfield' sites come up."



Councillor David Burton says 'why no dentist?'

Old Hackney Lane -

Developers continue to seek permission to build more houses at the bottom of Old Hackney Lane.

The previous application was withdrawn, and the Town Council has expressed strong disapproval, principally on the grounds that it would intrude, and 'join up' Matlock and Darley Dale. But there are other issues too; surface water drainage, traffic and pedestrian safety.

This is the kind of application that we hope will be settled once and for all with the new Local Plan (see above).

Our achievements on the District Council

So far...

Since May last year, the Liberal Democrats have been at the helm of Derbyshire Dales District Council.

We have already made a difference -

- Extending free car parking for residents, now from 3pm as well as up to 11am
- Begun reopening public toilets
- Stepped up building of new Council houses, supported from next year with a premium on second homes
- Kept leisure centres going and improving their offer
- Decarbonised the Northwood Council depot

'There's much more to come,' said Lib Dem District Council leader **Steve Flitter** (pictured above) 'Following the change from Conservative control last year, the new council is responding to the changes people asked us for. We're keeping popular services going while keeping the District's part of Council tax rises to under 3% - a hard, but fair balance given rising minimum wages and inflation'.

Derbyshire Lib Dem PCC candidate hits out at low levels of solved crime

The Liberal Democrats' candidate for Police and Crime Commissioner has called on the Derbyshire force to 'pull its finger out' over poor results for solved burglaries in the county.

Councillor **David Hancock** has called the figures for solving burglaries 'unacceptable'. 'In some areas these are as low as 6%. When elected, I will make sure that a rapid improvement becomes the top priority of our officers'.

David (shown right), is an experienced local councillor for Wingerworth and Tupton, and used to working with the Police at a grass-roots level. His current day job is as a Human Resources Adviser for a Multi Academy Trust.

Local people can park free every day up to 11am and after 3pm - extended by an hour in 2024/25

In the Community

Buy a 2nd permit: carparks@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Extended free parking for you!



This year's permit is in the Council Tax envelope

IN the Council Tax envelope in which you received this issue of *Dales Matters* is this year's resident parking concession permit, which enables local people to park free every day of the year up to 11am and after 3pm - extended by an hour in 2024/25.

Please use the permit now and note that one free badge is issued annually in March to every local household.

Pictured with this year's permit is Council Leader Councillor Steve Flitter, who, together with Deputy Leaders Councillors Neil Buttle and Peter Slack, is a member of the Council Car Parks Working Group that recommended the parking hours extension for local people and continues to look

It's right that we recognise the pressures on local families and businesses, by reducing and varying car parking costs. However, the Council is also seeking support for public transport - part of our policies' 'green thread'

'I'm Derbyshire born and bred. I grew up in a council house, my late dad was a bricklayer and mum worked as a cleaner. I left school straight after my O-levels and I've worked ever since. It's an upbringing I'm proud of. I grew up in a community that helped shape me into the person I am - and as Liberal Democrats we respect everyone, no matter what their background, financial status or education. Our communities are built on diversity, and that diversity is their strength'.

The Lib Dems oppose the very existence of the



Commissioner role, preferring police boards to reflect a balance of viewpoints and hold our police forces to account - but this would need a national change. Derbyshire voters can also vote for Lib Dem **Helen Tambllyn-Saville** as regional Mayor on 2nd May.

Liberal Democrats - for a Fairer, Greener, more Caring Dales