

Find out more at [ddld.org.uk](http://ddld.org.uk)



## A New Deal for the Dales

Robert Court is the Liberal Democrat candidate for Derbyshire Dales at the General election on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

A former physics teacher, and headmaster of a Sheffield school, Robert has lived with his wife in Derbyshire Dales for 25 years, and pledges to work to

- Fix what the Conservatives have broken. The list is long: the NHS, the economy, local infrastructure such as affordable housing, sewage and roads
- Restore trust in politics, and make utility companies and public services properly accountable in return for much needed investment
- Improve our relationship with the EU, re-establishing mutual trust and then removing the brakes on business, trade and growth by going into the single market. This is the way to tackle the cost-of-living crisis.

Help Robert Court to WIN on 4<sup>th</sup> July. Get involved with the Lib Dems' campaign at [www.ddld.org.uk](http://www.ddld.org.uk) or call 011802 07730



## 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

DO YOU HAVE AN ISSUE?  
CAN WE HELP?

Contact the local Focus team

Cllr Sue Burfoot - tel 01629 584301 (County, District and Town councils) [sue.burfoot@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto:sue.burfoot@derbyshiredales.gov.uk)  
Cllr Steve Wain - tel 07974 945310 (District and Town) [steve.wain@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto:steve.wain@derbyshiredales.gov.uk)  
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## 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

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



# Focus on Matlock West (with Morledge, Oker & Snitterton)

Liberal Democrats  
No 187  
General Election  
Special

Liberal Democrats - the effective alternative to the Tories.  
News from Councillors Steve Wain, Martin Burfoot and Sue Burfoot

## WE'RE ON YOUR SIDE

Says Lib Dem campaigner Robert Court



Robert Court (centre) out with the Lib Dem team - 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 and surface water flooding** of our homes, here in Matlock
- The Conservatives refuse to give housing associations the money they need to provide the **truly affordable**,

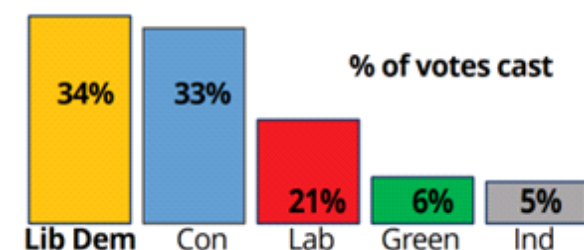
**energy efficient homes** needed here in the Dales (not the large executive homes developers want). Here in the Dales 'levelling up' cash has enabled the Council to buy just 17 homes

- 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 and provide basic services** like repairing our potholed roads

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](http://Derbyshiredaleslibdems.org.uk/volunteer)



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

Lib Dems have tremendous support locally - If you want a change in Derbyshire Dales then we are the clear choice on July 4th!



# The Wolds housing development - REFUSED

The Wolds housing development, off Gritstone Road, was **REFUSED** at a special planning committee meeting held on 28th March. The Wolds Action Group’s tenacity, hard work and organisation was key to this result.

Faced originally with the refusal of planning officers to meet with the Group, the sheer strength of evidence it brought over more than five years ultimately provided the reasons for the refusal.

Along the way, the Group, together with **Cllr Steve Wain**, demonstrated that the County flood team did not fully understand the hydrology of the site and surrounding hillside and that the flood team’s proposed conditions were insufficient to safeguard residents. This ultimately led to the District Council’s planning team commissioning its own assessment which confirmed the views of residents.

While the Wolds development has been refused by the Local Planning Authority, the developer may appeal to the Planning Inspectorate or even put in another application for the site.

The site was originally placed in the Local Plan by a Conservative run Council at a special meeting in 2016.

Lib Dem councillors recently sought legal advice about withdrawing the site from the Local Plan.

There is no short cut to doing this, but you can have your say NOW, by completing the Council’s survey at **www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/LocalPlan**



The Wolds site from Gritstone Road

## County Council Highways News: Cllr Sue Burfoot reports...



**Cllr Sue Burfoot** says the Tories have left a shocking record on road repairs, thanks to their cuts to Council funding over many years.

- The fong wait for Matlock’s double yellow lines and Traffic Regulation Orders ito improve highway safety is almost over!
- Still with Highways, but more positively, 2000 potholes across Derbyshire are being filled each week with priority given to main roads. I urge residents to report potholes on the DCC website and keep on doing so until they are filled.
- Some potholes are finished well, others not. The explanation I have received is that those that need finishing properly have been filled temporarily and will be finished properly as part of another package of work. Keep reporting those potholes where the repair is not satisfactory <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport-roads/roads-traffic/report-a-road-fault/report-a-road-fault.aspx> (Drainage, flooding and ironwork).
- Rattling manholes. Matlock still suffers from this problem. Please report them as well!
- Meanwhile, down the A6, visitors by bus to the Whitworth hospital and local residents are **still** waiting for a vital lights-controlled pedestrian crossing, more than two years after the housing developer paid across money specifically for this.
- Good news at last - the Oker Road landslip is to be repaired and the road re-opened in late September.

**Liberal Democrats - for a Fairer, Greener, more Caring Dales. ONLY the Liberal Democrats can beat the Tories here.**

# 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
- Planning to reopen some of the public toilets closed by the Conservatives
- 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 with solar panels and heat pumps

‘There’s much more to come,’ said Lib Dem District Council leader **Steve Flitter**

‘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’.

## Lib Dems call for water companies to become properly accountable... while Severn Trent’s performance remains dire

Severn Trent’s performance in the Matlock and Tansley area has been mixed, according to the latest publication of data on spillages from storm overflows. Overall, in Matlock and Tansley, there were 272 spillages into the River Derwent and Bentley Brook in 2023, less than previous years. But most of the improvement was from a reduction in flows into the River Derwent from the Snitterton Road overflow.

Matlock and Tansley’s problems with sewers and drains are local examples of a national problem with the regulation of water companies. **Lib Dem MP Layla Moran** has said, “The whole water system needs to be fixed with radical action to protect the environment and bring down people’s bills”. In a Parliamentary debate in February, she set out how the Liberal Democrats would transform England’s water companies into Public Benefit Corporations. Public benefits would then be considered explicitly in the running of the companies putting a stop to prioritising profit over the quality of waterways. Environmental experts and local community groups would have representation on the company boards.

She also called for a ban on water executives’ bonuses until sewage dumping stops, and for pollution monitoring to be undertaken by the Environment Agency rather than the companies themselves to ensure independence.

**Lib Dem Parliamentary candidate, Robert Court**, said that “We have a right to expect protection from flooding, access to clean water and proper treatment of sewage. We would hold the water companies to account, not letting them wriggle out of their responsibilities to us all.”



**Cllr Steve Wain** and parliamentary canidate **Robert Court** at the junction of Chesterfield Road and Wellington Street. ‘Sensible planning is a huge part of what the local Council does’ says Robert. ‘Nationally, Lib Dems in government would scrap arbitrary housing targets and concentrate on bringing empty homes into use, as well as properly insulating all our homes.’

