

# Looking ahead:

## Your priorities are our priorities

Liberal Democrat councillors and candidates are acting on the issues that the Bradford on Avon community feels most strongly about.

These include road safety, air quality, youth activities and community facilities - all selected by community leaders as key concerns at a recent meeting to discuss the town's future.

### What next? Saving services

David Vigar, LibDem candidate for Bradford North, says the town needs the experience that the Liberal Democrats have built up. "The role of the Town Council is becoming increasingly important as Wiltshire Council sheds services due to government cuts. The Town Council budget is going up this year to manage services that otherwise would have been shut or left unmanaged by County Hall, such as the youth centre, public toilets and maintenance of Westbury Gardens and bus shelters. We believe it is right to pre-

serve these services and the Town Council has hired two wardens to look after them. It has done this while only increasing its share of council tax by 40p a week for a 'Band D' home."

### Value for money

Magnus Macdonald, the LibDem councillor who chairs Wiltshire Council's Area Board for Bradford on Avon added: "As cuts by central government continue, we expect Wiltshire Council to transfer bigger assets such as the library, swimming pool and possibly car parks to the town. These are opportunities for the town to develop services if we have the right management structure in place."

County Council candidate Sarah Gibson added: "It's also important to have three Liberal Democrat county councillors who will fight for the town at County Hall and work with the Town Council as it takes on new assets and services."



## About the town and county

Wiltshire Council spends close to £1 billion a year and is responsible for social care, roads, education, planning, rubbish collection and other services. It has 98 councillors and currently has a Conservative majority, although BoA North, BoA South and Winsley and Westwood are represented by three LibDem councillors. Grants from the government to Wiltshire are being cut heavily - as for all councils. This year the council is making around £13 million of cuts at the same time as raising council tax and a new levy for social care.

Bradford on Avon Town Council has 12 councillors and runs local services, from St Margaret's Hall and the youth centre to parks and toilets, on a budget of around £650,000. It also promotes residents' concerns on issues such as transport, planning and education to the County Council.

## About the Liberal Democrats

The Liberal Democrats are a political party formed in 1988 by the merger of the Social Democratic and the Liberal Parties. The Liberals were founded in 1859. Liberal governments had leaders such as Gladstone and Lloyd George and introduced state pensions and national insurance. During the 2010-15 coalition government LibDem policies brought millions out of tax and created a 'pupil premium' for poorer children. The LibDems want a stronger economy and fairer society where everyone can get on in life. They respect the 2016 referendum result but want the British people to have a vote on the final Brexit deal.

# Bradford on Avon FOCUS

April 2017

From your Liberal Democrat council candidates

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## Working for our town



**Liberal Democrats are standing for town and county elections this May on a record of protecting local services over several decades in line with their party's principles.**

The LibDem-led Town Council's record includes saving the Youth Centre, Tourist Information Centre and public toilets from closure, renovating St Margaret's Hall and tackling traffic problems. *Details inside.*

### Political experience

In many cases, the Town Council has successfully prevented cuts to services by the Conservative-led County Council. LibDem Mayor Alison Craddock said: "Liberal Democrats in Bradford on Avon have

a strong record of protecting services because that is a top priority for the party across the country. Our candidates also have a long-term vision for our town and will be accountable to residents for delivering it."

### What we stand for

County Council candidate Sarah Gibson said: "Our party's constitution clearly says what we stand for - 'a fair, free and open society' and 'public services of the highest quality'. It's easy to say political parties have no place in local government, but how else do people know what you stand for?" Candidate Jim Lynch added:

"LibDems can be trusted to make the right decisions for Bradford on Avon in the challenging years ahead, defending services from Conservative cuts, supporting the town's economy while protecting its green spaces."

### Tough decisions

The Town Council has recently drawn up a Neighbourhood Plan to protect the town from uncoordinated developments. The Town Council also runs scores of events, from the Christmas lights to the duck and pancake races and shows. LibDem candidates include those with council experience and others with experience in business and community work. *See inside.*



### TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

I'd like to join the Liberal Democrats .....

I'd be happy to deliver some leaflets .....

Here's an issue you should look into .....

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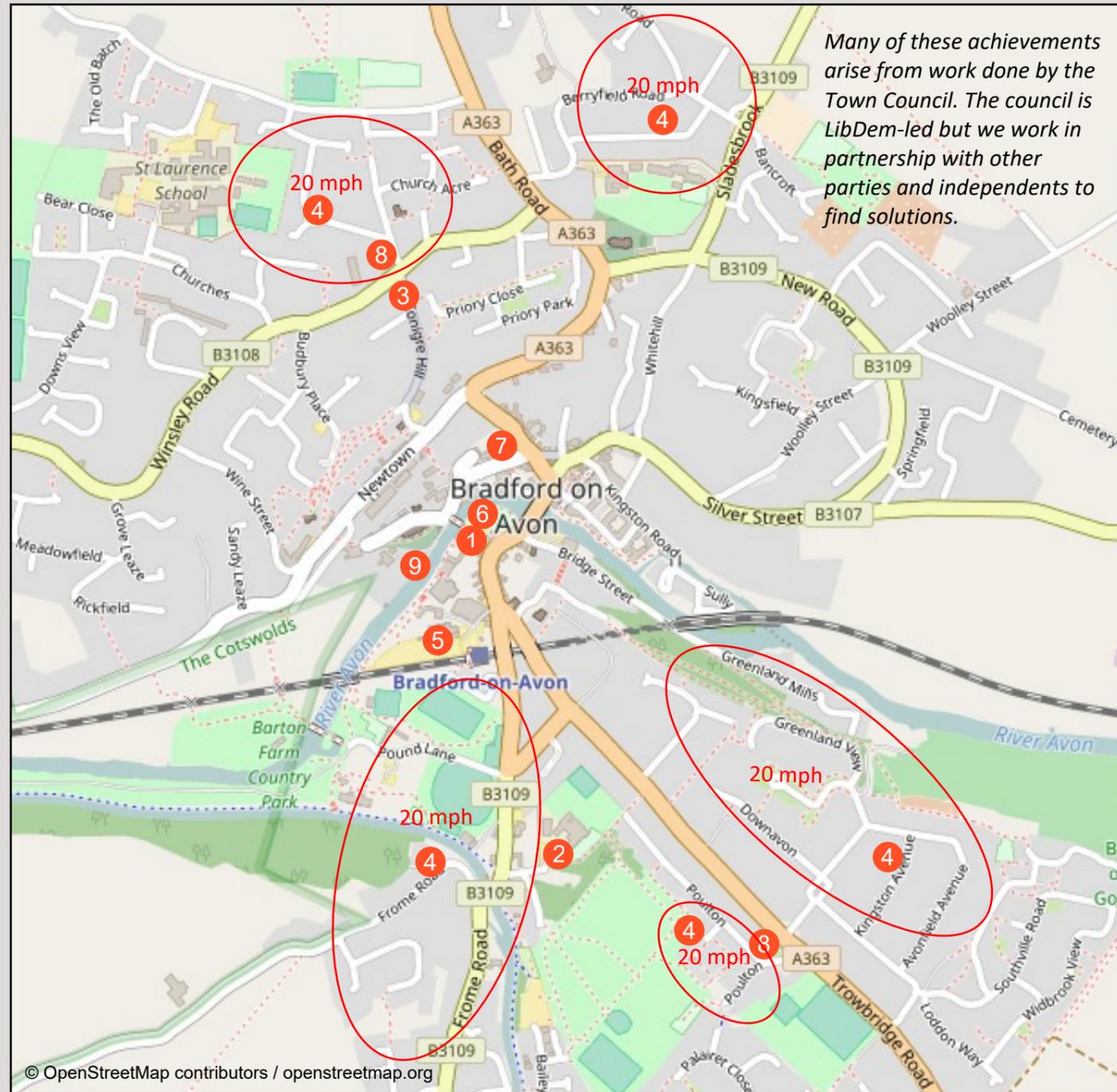
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Send to: Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST (RRHB-HEZX-HTZE), 17 St Mary's Place, Chippenham, SN15 1EN

If you return this slip, the Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you provide to contact you. Some of these contacts may be automated. You can opt out of communications any time by contacting us.

# What the Liberal Democrats have done for Bradford on Avon

- 1 **Renovating St. Margaret's Hall:** The hall was taken over from Wiltshire Council by the LibDem-led Town Council and refitted in 2014 to create a multi-purpose space that can be used as a traditional town hall, for sales or dances, or as a performance space with tiered seating.
- 2 **Saving the Youth Centre:** The LibDem-led Town Council acted quickly to save the Centre from closure by the County Council in 2016. It is now well used as a community centre on the south side of town for charities, parties, sports and lunch clubs as well as youth activities.
- 3 **Pedestrian crossings:** Bradford on Avon's councillors have campaigned for pedestrian crossings such as the one on Winsley Road near Huntingdon Street.
- 4 **Speed limits:** LibDems successfully campaigned with residents and worked with others for 20mph zones near schools and in residential areas.
- 5 **Saving public toilets:** The Town Council took over the public toilets in 2016, saving them from closure by the county.
- 6 **Saving the Tourist Information Centre:** The Town Council saved the centre from closure in 2015 by leasing the property to house the centre and a café.



- 7 **The 'Hub':** The 'Hub' in Church Street, which provides a food bank, work club and debt advice for vulnerable people, is co-sponsored by the LibDem-led Town Council with BoA Churches Together and BoA Community Action Trust (BoACAN).
- 8 **Bus shelters:** The Town Council is looking after the bus shelters, with LibDem councillor John Potter personally leading clean-up teams.
- 9 **Winning flood defences:** The Town Council has won a robust flood defence response from the Environment Agency, with volunteers organised by the Council.

**Getting development right:** LibDem councillors have played a major role in shaping development in the town. They represent the town to Wiltshire Council, where planning decisions are made. The Town Council fought to get the best solutions for projects such as Kingston Mill and successfully resisted others, such as building on the golf course. The Town Council is currently helping residents oppose plans for a new estate at Woolley. The town has drawn up a Neighbourhood Plan which, if approved by Wiltshire Council, will help to ensure any developments are high-quality ones and green spaces are protected.



Some of your local Liberal Democrat team

Find out more about our candidates at [www.boalibdems.org.uk](http://www.boalibdems.org.uk)



**Magnus Macdonald**

Chair of BoA Area Board; County councillor and candidate for Winsley and Westwood. Town candidate for Bradford South.



**Sarah Gibson**

Local architect in private practice; living and working in the town. County candidate for Bradford South.



**Jim Lynch**

Co-ordinator of the BoA Community Action Network. County and Town candidate for Bradford North.



**Tim Trimble**

Retired geophysicist; emergency volunteer; keen cyclist. Town candidate for Bradford South.



**David Vigar**

Writer, journalist and former speech-writer for Paddy Ashdown. Town candidate for Bradford North.



**Piers Keyzar**

Aerospace engineer and lifelong BoA resident. Town candidate for Bradford South.



**Jennie Parker**

Former social worker; emergency volunteer; from long-standing BoA family. Town candidate for Bradford South.