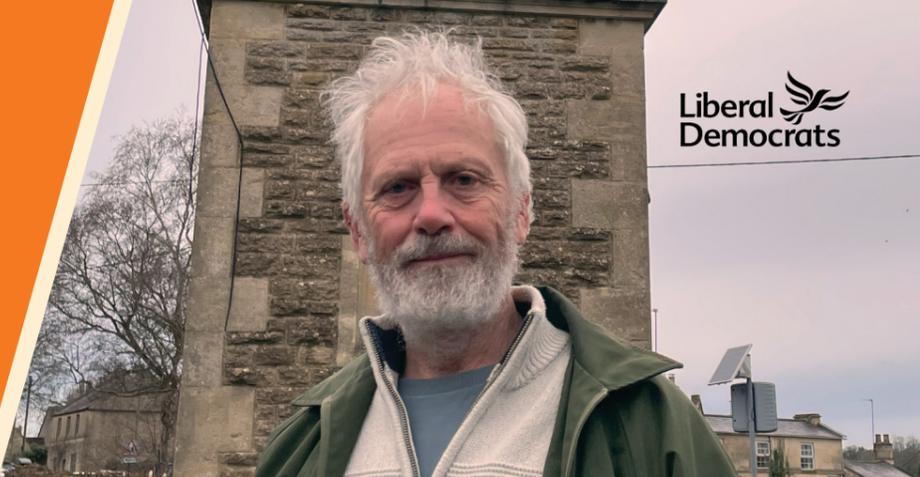


FOCUS

on **Atworth, Holt, & Staverton**

Delivered by volunteers who love our community - working hard for you all year round



News from your local councillor Trevor Carbin, Brian Mathew MP and the local Liberal Democrat team

RUBBISH: CLEANING UP THE MESS

Wiltshire's rubbish collection regime has been expensive and inefficient. The Council's new Liberal Democrat-led administration has outlined plans to fix it.

Previous plans for more bins have been abandoned. Instead, residents will be provided with extra bags for flexible plastics to go into the existing recycling bin. This avoids too many extra containers, keeps things simple, and saves unnecessary costs.

There will also be a weekly collection of food waste in a new and small container that will be provided.

With less to go in the residual waste bins, it should then be safe to move to a collection every three weeks.

In another money-saving move, Wiltshire Council will create a Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo)



partnership to provide kerbside waste and recycling collections and another LATCo partnership will manage Material Recovery Facility operations, where all the recycling gets separated out, following the end of the existing contracts in July 2026.

If all goes according to plan the new system should be in place by mid-2027. The new waste policy could see recycling rates grow from 42% to approx. 62% and waste to landfill decrease from 13% to 3%, making our county greener while saving money.



Update From your MP

Our hospitality venues are under huge strain. I have seen it for myself on dozens of visits around the constituency to cafes, pubs and restaurants. Our corner of Wiltshire relies heavily on this sector and they are being let down by this government.

With my Lib Dem colleagues I pushed for an emergency 5p cut in VAT for the hospitality sector to give these vital businesses a lifeline. As a party we have plans to redesign business rates to make it fairer to our hospitality venues and to make sure our high streets don't disappear.

It's vital they thrive not only for our communities but also for our wider economy. It's worth remembering that a closed business pays no taxes.

I will keep speaking out on behalf of our local businesses; in Westminster as well as taking the time to meet with them locally. To this end, I'm delighted that I have launched my Melksham and Devizes business network to provide more support to this vital community.

CEREAL FACTORY EXPANSION

Cereal Partners UK, a joint venture between Nestle and General Mills, has applied to build a new factory next to its existing site in Staverton.

The planning application for the major expansion has been submitted and is now on the Wiltshire Council website. The reference number is PL/2025/09391 and consultation closed on February 6th 2026.

The development will provide 50 new jobs and secure the future of the site.

Holt and Staverton Parish Councils, whilst generally supportive, have raised concerns about increased traffic, especially of HGVs, and potential noise.



The applicants say there won't be any noise increase, and they'll set out a plan of how they intend to manage the traffic, including during construction.

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You can stay up-to-date on all of Brian and the Lib Dems' work by signing up to the e-newsletter:

www.brianmathew.uk/news

WOMAD COMES TO NESTON

The proposal to hold the festival at Neston Park is now going through the licensing process at Wiltshire Council.

The license would be for up to 30,000 attendees, though the World of Music, Arts and Dance Festival (Womad) say they'll have a smaller number for the first year. It would allow live and recorded music up to 4am on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. The same goes for sale of alcohol, with a 2am cut-off on the Thursday night.

The license would be for 2026 and subsequent years. There is, however, provision in law for a license to be reviewed at any time if there is a problem with the way it's operated.

The applicants will have submitted a lot of documentation to Wiltshire Council explaining how they're going to manage



Womad Festival is set to be staged at a new home later this year

the festival safely and with consideration for their neighbours, including arrangements for noise management, construction and visitor traffic etc.

UPDATE ON LOCAL SOLAR SCHEMES

Studley Farm

An application to vary the conditions of the previous permission is currently with the planners, and the applicants have held meetings with local residents in Atworth and Whitley.

Atworth Parish Council has objected on the grounds of noise and the extra traffic. As with the Whistlemead scheme at Chalfield, the presence of battery storage systems raises concerns about fire risk. Incidentally, Whistlemead is still to come to the planning committee - it was first submitted in March 2023 and is proving to be one of the more difficult projects WC planners have had to deal with.

Brockleaze

This application is just outside of Atworth parish, and is for a battery storage system. A raft of new documentation was submitted in December, covering matters



Solar Farms should be community led and built in the right place

including landscape impact and fire risk. The number of objections, including from Atworth Parish Council and many local residents, is now over 600. Concerns include the loss of countryside to an industrial development, fire risk, and traffic impact.

In Brief... News

Area Board Grants

The Bradford Area Board still has some money left. There's £3,700 for community projects; £6,100 for youth work and £3,000 for health and well-being. It has to be spent by the end of the financial year in April. The community fund is for capital projects, the others can be for revenue costs. The detailed criteria and application forms are on the Wiltshire Council website under Area Boards. **Please get in touch if you have a project you'd like to apply for funding for.**

School Streets trial

The School Streets project involves limiting vehicle access near school gates during drop-off and pick-up times. Staverton's School Lane is one of a number of places suggested for a trial of the scheme. A consultation has now ended, with residents and the Parish Council expressing concerns about the way it is to be operated.

Staverton Police Enforcement

In a session carried out on Wednesday December 31st at New Terrace, 9 vehicles were caught speeding. No fines were given on this occasion, with all the drivers offered a speed awareness course.

Staverton Litterpick

The village spring clean is scheduled for March 8th at 2pm. All are welcome and equipment and light refreshments will be provided. **Please get in touch if you'd like to go on the mailing list for a reminder.**

Do you have an issue you want Cllr Trevor Carbin and Brian Mathew MP to look into?

Use the space below to let us know...

Name:
House No: Postcode:
Email:
Telephone:

I can help the team...

- I can display a poster in my garden
- I can help deliver leaflets for the Lib Dems
- I can make a donation to help the Lib Dems
- I will be voting for the Lib Dems
- I will join the Lib Dems

Can we keep you updated about the Liberal Democrats' campaigns and ways to get involved?

Yes No

Return this for free by putting it in an envelope addressed to:

**FREEPOST
Wiltshire
Lib Dems**

Or sign up to help online at www.brianmathew.uk/volunteer



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ALDI V AVON

Aldi want to build a new store outside Melksham on Bradford Road. The entrance to the shop will be just at the point where the road floods when the river bursts its banks. Regular users of the road will be aware of the difficulties this can cause!

Holt Parish Council have asked Wiltshire Council to consider getting Aldi to raise the road above the flood level or take other measures to resolve the problem. It is after all in the interests of the supermarket for their customers to be able to access the store without running the risk of getting stuck in floodwater.

Wiltshire Councillors in the area will be keeping an eye on this planning application.