

# FOCUS

on Duryard & St James

No. 136  
September 2022



Community news from Lib Dem team  
Cllr Michael Mitchell and Cllr Kevin Mitchell



## COMMUNITY IMBALANCE?

Council figures shed light on community make-up and potential impact on services



Cllrs Kevin and Mike Mitchell on Hoopern St, representing local residents on issues including community balance.

In 2021/22, of the 5,672 addresses liable to pay Council Tax in the ward:  
51.5% were exempt because they are occupied by full time students  
47.7% were liable to pay Council Tax  
0.8 % had other exemptions

For years, as your ward councillors, Michael and Kevin have campaigned to support the principle of 'community balance' in St James and Duryard: balancing the needs of full-time residents and the university community.

The council are unable to put a figure on what funding, if any, we get from the government to compensate for the loss of this income.

Following a petition, the Council have asked a consultant to review the Article 4 policy, whereby no further HMO's or student accommodation can take place in a given area.

The Article 4 Directive already applies to parts of the ward. Michael and Kevin met with the consultant to express their concerns and the need to broaden the current policy to help maintain community balance.

## Summer Celebrations Welcome Return

From Jubilee celebrations to park fetes, it's been nice to see Summer events returning in our communities once more.

Michael was out supporting this local community event in the heart of St James, picking himself up a plant. He said, "I'm pleased the park is being well looked after by the local community after years of uncertainty. Thank you to everyone who has and continues to make this possible."



## It's Lib Dem or Labour here

Results taken from the 2022 City Council election

Lib Dem  
995

Lab  
790

Con  
333

It's Lib Dem or yet more Labour here - who boast 2/3rds of City Cllrs despite receiving less than half the vote.

Supporting the Conservatives is a wasted vote and only means a Labour win is more likely.

## Lib Dem Michael Stands Up for Local Residents

### Glenthorne Rd PBSA finally served with planning breaches

For the past two years, Cllr Michael Mitchell has been working with members of the local community impacted by this purpose built student accommodation development.

The number of justified concerns raised by local residents would fill a telephone directory!

For the last year, Michael has been trying to get an effective Breaches Order in place so that many of the issues would have to be resolved.

At last, with the arrival of the agency Enforcement Officer, a Breaches Order has been served. With a part of the site likely to be occupied from September, it's important that all agreed planning conditions have been satisfied.

Also for the past year, Michael has fought to get the council to place on its website the register of its Planning Enforcement Actions. It has now been achieved - please go to: <https://exeter.gov.uk/planning-services/permissions-and-applications/enforcement-notices/> and you can see that the agency Enforcement Officer has issued as many orders in the past three months as have been issued in the previous three years.





# MASSIVE ELECTION WIN FOR LIB DEMS

## Brown Bin Collections Suspended for the Summer



Garden waste collections have been suspended again, this time from 27<sup>th</sup> July to 5<sup>th</sup> September. The City Council say this is due to a shortage of drivers.

Whilst many councils don't even charge for garden waste collections or at least offer discounts (for good reason - many lower-income households have gardens), Exeter residents have to pay for the service. And yet, have seen it axed this Summer.

This time of year is peak demand for the service. Delaying collections for over a month isn't an option for many households. Adding the months missed onto the end isn't helpful for many who should not only be offered some refund, but compensation for breach of agreement.

Cllr Kevin Mitchell said, "Our bin men are very hard-working and have an excellent record, it's just a shame the Labour-dominated City Council's resources and priorities lie elsewhere."

## Devon voters show Boris the door!



### The Lib Dems are WINNING!

Lib Dem Richard Foord pulled off a stunning victory to become the new MP for Tiverton & Honiton in June. The Lib Dems are providing real opposition across the UK - and winning.

Not only did the voters in Tiverton & Honiton elect Lib Dem Richard Foord as their MP, they also 'showed Boris the door' after he fell far below the standards required of a leader. The candidates vying to replace him have still not got the message. We need a party who will actually listen and engage. It's time for change.

Richard Foord scored a stunning parliamentary by-election victory over the Conservatives. The Lib Dems overturned a 24,000 majority - the largest ever in British history! Lib Dems from Exeter helped make this change happen.

Michael said, "Richard is doing a fantastic job at representing his constituents, getting a fairer deal for them and the rest of Devon. Coupled with this year's local election results, it's clear people will not be taken for granted."

## Lib Dems Demand Cost of Living Action

"Conservatives stalling in the face of a national emergency"

Lib Dems are leading the way, with Labour echoing our energy plans and the Tories nowhere to be seen.

Half of British adults are now struggling to pay their energy and food bills. This is set to worsen with the 70% energy price cap rise expected this October.

Our plans, including scrapping October's price cap rise, would save households over £2,000/yr.

The Lib Dems say the estimated £36bn cost would be met by expanding the windfall tax on the profits of fossil fuel companies, and using the higher-than-expected VAT revenues as a result of soaring inflation.

Sign the petition to scrap October's price rise here: [www.libdems.org.uk/scrap-energy-price-hike](http://www.libdems.org.uk/scrap-energy-price-hike)

**LIB DEM PLAN TO TACKLE THE COST OF LIVING**

1. **Scrap** October's price cap rise
2. **Cut** VAT to 17.5%
3. **Scrap** the NI hike
4. **Cancel** 3.8% rise in rail fares
5. **Invest** in insulation
6. **Double** Warm Homes Discount, extend it to UC and PC claimants

## University Wins Safer City Monies

The University of Exeter have been awarded a government grant of £860,000 for projects targeted at improving safety.



The University states that this funding will go towards installing 32 CCTV cameras and these will be linked to the City Council's network. Additionally, for improved street lighting, to introduce 'safe spaces' to help those who are vulnerable and to provide safe waiting places for taxis and night buses. The 'Best Bar None' scheme will also be enhanced, which promotes responsible management of licensed premises and other projects.

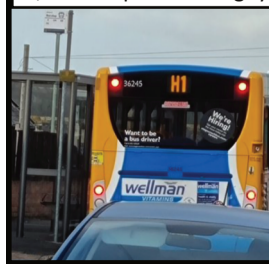
## H Bus again!

Whilst Stagecoach was sending drivers to the Commonwealth Games, those waiting for the H Bus on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August had a long wait. One lady waited nearly two hours for a non-existent bus.

Michael contacted Stagecoach on her behalf. This is the response- 'Suffered issues due to a driver reporting sick mid shift..... we did not have a driver available to continue with duty and part of the service was lost'.

We feel the community deserves a better service, including buses on Sunday.

The H bus runs between Cowley Bridge Rd (or West Garth Rd H1), St David's Station, the High St, the Hospital and Digby



## Contact your local Lib Dem team...



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Contact us to help volunteer: driving a stronger, fairer deal for local residents. Even just delivering leaflets for your own street would be greatly appreciated.