

FOCUS on Priory

Spring 2024

Exeter
Liberal
Democrats



Community news from your local Lib Dem team: Philip Thomas and Will Aczel



A council that listens



Getting the basics right



Value for money

Philip Thomas, standing up for Priory

Philip works as a physicist at the University of Exeter and has lived in Priory Ward for five years. You might have spotted him on one of his early morning walks by the river!

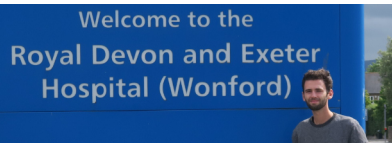
Philip loves living in Priory Ward, but feels let down by the Labour Council. Labour like to boast about their green credentials, yet we still have no kerbside food or glass recycling. Labour also have a track record of imposing changes on residents without proper consultation. As your councillor, Philip will listen to residents and make your voice heard on the council!



Philip Thomas is campaigning for the community he lives in and cares about.

Local Lib Dems Demand Better for our NHS

Will Aczel, Lib Dem MP candidate for Exeter, said:



"A record 1 in 7 people are on an NHS England waiting list. In 2015-16, 1,014 people had to wait over 12-hours in A&E. Now it's over 1,000 a day.

"Instead of a plan to address this crisis, the Conservatives are cutting real-terms NHS funding this year by £4.7bn. At the same time, they are giving big banks a £3.8bn tax cut. How much more out-of-touch can they get?"

"Labour fail to offer hope for real change. The Shadow Health Secretary said Labour "would hold the door wide open" for the private sector in the NHS. This would further destabilise our NHS, drain it of doctors and nurses, burden it with debt, and skim off what should be public money.

"**Lib Dems demand better.** We recognise the value of our NHS and want to enable people to thrive through a strong social safety net. We will invest, reform, and recruit to revitalise our NHS."

Labour's plans to tackle housing and climate crises in total disarray

Two companies set-up and supported by Labour-run Exeter City Council were axed last year. Exeter City Living and Exeter City Futures had meant to address Exeter's housing and climate crises. The Labour Council allocated over £100 million to Exeter City Living alone.



vanity projects: Exeter City Living, Exeter City Futures, and St Sidwell's Point. These precious council funds could have been spent on recycling, parks, and community grants - initiatives that benefit all our communities.

"Labour ignored auditor's warnings and repeated calls by Lib Dem Cllrs and others for proper oversight of connected companies and loans.

"I am fighting for more scrutiny, transparency, and accountability so that no more public money is wasted."

Philip Thomas said: "Over the last decade, Labour have promoted a culture of limited scrutiny and transparency.

"This causes Labour to waste tens of millions of the public purse on

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Lib Dems: on your side

Will Aczel standing as Exeter's next MP



by making votes matter, better funding for public services, and rapidly shifting investment from fossil fuels to renewables and insulation.

"I will endeavour to knock on as many doors as I can to listen to and speak with as many people as possible. Together, we can build a better future."

Will is campaigning to take over from retiring Ben Bradshaw as our next MP.

Will Aczel said: "I am honoured and excited to fight for a fair deal for Exeter. I grew up in Exeter so deeply care about the city and better understand the issues we face.

"I aim to fulfil our need for a stronger political voice so we can secure better funded public services, lower bills, and create a thriving environment. For example,

Co-leader of the Exeter Progressive Group, Cllr Michael Mitchell said:

"It's great to support Will. He offers a fresh, local voice, one that deeply cares about our city.

"Whilst Labour think they can get away with parachuting in a current London councillor, Lib Dems genuinely listen to our communities' needs. Exeter is crying out for a local champion to represent us and we have that in Will."

Lib Dems oppose Labour's cuts to Citizens Advice Exeter

Citizens Advice Exeter provide much-needed support to those who often have nowhere left to turn. Last year, they dealt with hundreds of issues in Priory Ward alone. Yet Labour have decided to cut funding for this crucial service by 62.5% (£125k) without public consultation. Exeter Liberal Democrats oppose these cuts and demand greater scrutiny of the council's finances.



Will Aczel and Ayla by a removed bin site.

Petition for a public consultation on Labour's rubbish cuts

Labour's reckless spending means they are cutting street cleansing again this year, totalling over 20%. They unwisely refuse to consult the public. Are Labour running scared of public accountability?

Sign the petition to get your say:

exeterlibdems.org.uk/campaigns-1/rccp

Help get better bus services

Speaking with residents, local Lib Dems understand many of us find Exeter's buses unreliable.

This will inform letters to and meetings being pushed for with Stagecoach and Devon County Council.

Please fill in our survey to share your views:

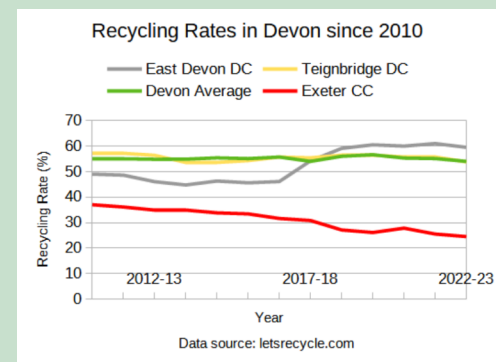
digitallibdems.typeform.com/exeterbussurvey



Lib Dems propose household food waste and glass recycling for the whole city

Our fully costed proposals to unlock food waste and glass recycling for the whole Exeter were voted against by Labour en bloc without debate.

The news comes as Exeter Labour's recycling rate has fallen further to an abysmal 24.5%, less than half the Devon average.



Philip Thomas, Lib Dem City Council candidate for Priory, said: "Over the past decade, Exeter Labour have squandered tens of millions of taxpayers' money on vanity projects whilst neglecting basic services.

"Priory is still waiting for household food waste and glass recycling. Other council areas have had these services for decades. Do Labour think Priory residents will continue to accept being lumbered with frequent or onerous trips to public glass banks?

"Nine of the top ten English councils for recycling are Lib Dem-led. **A vote for the Lib Dems is a vote for action on recycling and our environment.**"

It's more Labour neglect here, or...



Our ward, Priory, has three Labour City Cllrs.

Electing a mix of councillors strengthens your voice. Especially since Lib Dem Cllrs are free to vote in the interests of their community. Whereas, Labour Cllrs always just follow their party whip. Labour have taken us for granted for too long. **It's time for change in Priory.**

This 2nd May is our chance to get more fresh, balanced representation. Amplify your voice via hard-working local champion Philip Thomas.

HOW CAN WE HELP EACH OTHER?

Are there any particular issues, concerns, or priorities you have?

Fill out our Priory survey:
digitallibdems.typeform.com/priory23



- I will help deliver leaflets in my area
- I will be voting for the Lib Dems
- I will donate to help printing costs
- I want to join the Liberal Democrats

You can join online at www.libdems.org.uk/join-local

Can we keep you updated on Lib Dem campaigns and news by e-mail? Yes No

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For a council that listens