



What matters in Towcester? Have your say overleaf

Thank You

Many thanks to all of you who voted Lib Dem in the local elections.

Cllr Martin Johns and **Cllr Chris Lofts** were both elected to Brook Ward, taking the seats from the Conservatives. **Martin Johns** and **Chris Lofts** will be working hard on behalf of everyone in Towcester over the next four years.

Focus team member **David Tarbun** just missed out this time on being elected to Brook Ward. Commenting **David Tarbun** said "I was pleased to receive 654 votes and will continue to work with the Focus team to help get the best for our town."

In Towcester Mill Ward Lib Dems **Deborah Cornick** and **Linda Lofts** didn't win this time around but knocked Labour into a poor third place as usual. The Focus team will continue working just as hard for the area. Watch this space for action!!



Cllr Martin Johns and Cllr Chris Lofts after their election win

Cllr Lofts commented "The main issues were the proposed SNC office move and the closure of the public toilets. On the door step many said they felt completely let down by the local Conservatives."

Cllr Martin Johns said "Despite the Liberal Democrats suffering at the polls nationally, the Focus team's hard work let us buck the trend. Tory policies like the proposed SNC office move are almost unanimously disapproved of by local people. **Cllr Chris Lofts** and I will be doing our best to let common sense to prevail. Towcester has clearly showed it wants the Tories to drop this SNC office move."

The Liberal Democrats - Working all year round for you

Tories Switch off Streetlights



Cllr Martin Johns at one of many disconnected streetlights

By the time Focus goes to press many streetlights in Towcester will be turned off. This is yet another cut to services by the Conservatives who run the County Council.

Disconnected streetlights will have stickers to show they have been turned off. Focus sees the need to save money but we are concerned that people's safety may be at risk. Typical of the Tories, there has been no consultation with local people about where streetlights will be turned off.

If you are concerned about streetlights near you being switched off get in touch with the Focus Team.

Come and see us at our drop-in surgery..



Come along and meet **Cllr Chris Lofts** and **Cllr Martin Johns** at Towcester Library, where they are providing a drop in surgery the first Saturday of every month between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 p.m.

Use this opportunity to raise any issues you may have with your District Councillors.

Vision Youth Cafe Funding Crisis

The Vision Youth Cafe runs from the community centre in Islington Road. It offers services and activities for young people. Cuts in County Council grants meant the café was in danger of closing.

The Focus team have been supporting Vision to keep their full range of activities open and some funding has now been agreed.

Councillor Martin Johns, says "Clubs like Vision must be supported; they really make a difference to local young people. Towcester has few facilities for this age group and we will work hard to keep Vision open."

News about fund raising events being organised over the coming months will be published in local press.

Campaigning for the best for Towcester

Tories Try to Deny Towcester a Voice on planning

Focus is concerned that Towcester is being denied a say on local planning applications. Recently elected **Councillors Martin Johns** and **Chris Lofts** have been refused a place on SNC's Planning Committee.

The Conservative majority group were asked to give one of the committee's places to the Liberal Democrats but were given a curt response.



With the strong mandate given to **Martin Johns** and **Chris Lofts** in the recent elections to speak on behalf of Towcester local Tories are ignoring the views of residents. *"Towcester will have major growth over the coming years. Voters made clear that they want a fresh look at the town's planning issues. Playing party politics in denying Lib Dems one committee place is both pathetic and undemocratic,"* says **Councillor Martin Johns**.

Although neither will have a vote on planning applications, both **Cllr Martin Johns** and **Cllr Chris Lofts** can attend and speak about any application in Towcester. *"We will continue to speak up for our residents at every opportunity,"* confirmed **Councillor Chris Lofts**, adding, *"We will represent Towcester's interests despite the Tories trying to tie one hand behind our backs."*

Lib Dems fight for NHS

The Lib Dems in Government have put the brakes on plans to reshape the NHS.

There will now be a two month period to allow major changes to the plans to ensure they bring real improvements to patients.

These changes should include tough rules to stop private companies cherry picking services and give more say to patients and professionals in how the NHS works.

Local Lib Dem campaigner and Parliamentary Spokesperson, Scott Collins said, "This really

shows the difference the Lib Dems are making in Government.

"We want to improve the NHS by cutting bureaucracy and by giving more power to patients, doctors and nurses.

"The Lib Dems will ensure the NHS continues to be free for all and one of our country's proudest achievements.

"Protecting the NHS from being broken up must be an essential part of any plans and the Lib Dems are working hard to make sure that any changes must not be at the expense of keeping the NHS free and equal for everyone."

New Pocket Park for Towcester

The Focus Team have been working with local residents, Towcester Wildlife Group, and local councils to create a new pocket park.

The site is open land between Belle Bauk and the A5 Watling Street. It's already a wildlife haven attracting insects, birds, reptiles and animals.

Cllr Chris Lofts says, *"There is good potential for the area to become a Pocket Park, with some nice habitats already and scope to increase the biodiversity of the site."* *"The next step is to work with the local community to agree how we manage the land in future to provide an exciting wildlife reserve."* added SNC and Town **Councillor Chris Lofts**.

If you are interested in getting involved contact the Focus team.

Your Focus Team



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Tell us what you think

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Mobile _____

E-mail _____

I voted Lib Dem last Time

I can help deliver FOCUS on my street

I would like to join the Lib Dems

Return to:

The Focus Team, 7 Cappenham Close, Towcester,
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