

COUNCIL CUTS ARE PLAIN NUTS

Plans have recently been released by the Lib Dem run Council that will see frontline services in Portsmouth slashed.

Under their plan Libraries will have fewer opening hours, local charities will see their funding chopped or stopped completely, but the good news is that the Lib Dems have finally scrapped their proposals to reduce nightcare for the elderly living in the City's sheltered accommodation units.

The Council's opposition spokesman for Finance, and qualified investment manager, Conservative Councillor Donna Jones said, "These are self-inflicted cuts. The mismanagement of the City's finances by the Liberal Democrats over many years has boxed us in. They've wasted millions on crazy and unrealised plans and now we are seeing the consequences."

As recently revealed in The News,

COUNCIL TAX FREEZE (EXCEPT PENSIONERS AFTER LIB DEM BLUNDER)

The Conservatives have re-affirmed their commitment to freezing Council Tax. Local campaigner Robert New said, "Council Tax hits the poorest the hardest and should be frozen for everyone."

Last year the Council gave Pensioners a £50 cashback, but have decided not to offer it again this year. Local resident and pensioner, Brian (pictured right) said, "Pensioners are going to have to find more money this year than last, to pay their Council Tax. The Lib Dems' pre-election giveaway gimmick, now means there is effectively a rise in Council Tax of up to 5% for Pensioners in Portsmouth. That is not fair."



Cllrs Madden and Vernon-Jackson skate on thin ice with City Finances

Portsmouth City Council has increased its use of outside consultants from £4m to over £5m since last year. Opposition Leader, Councillor Steve Wemyss said, "There is a complete lack of financial control at the Council and it's about time we had people running Portsmouth who will consider our long-term future rather than the short-sighted approach of the current Lib Dem administration."



Robert New(right) out talking with local residents

LOCAL MP BEHIND HOSPITAL PLAN

Local residents are concerned about changes to healthcare arrangements and what they want is action.

That is exactly what local Conservative MP Penny Mordaunt has been doing in order to fight to bring back the G5 Ward at the QA Hospital.

Penny said "it would be good if the Queen Alexandra Hospital in Cosham could bring back the G5 Ward alongside the new model of care."



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PARKING SEES LOWER FEES

Last year some areas of the City had their on-street parking charges lowered thanks to a campaign by local businessman Daryn Brewer.

"It is vital that we encourage people to stop and shop in our small shopping districts; increased and high parking charges do the opposite," he said. However, the success may be short-lived, as Portsmouth City Council has just announced that they intend to hike charges again.

Daryn added, "This has got to stop; the fact is that most of the money raised from parking is simply spent on employing people to enforce it. It hardly helps balance the books at all."