

Middleton FOCUS

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Edited by Councillor Wera Hobhouse and Local Campaigner Terry Smith



Lib Dem Plan for Economic Recovery

* Lib Dems announce plans for tax cuts for lower paid

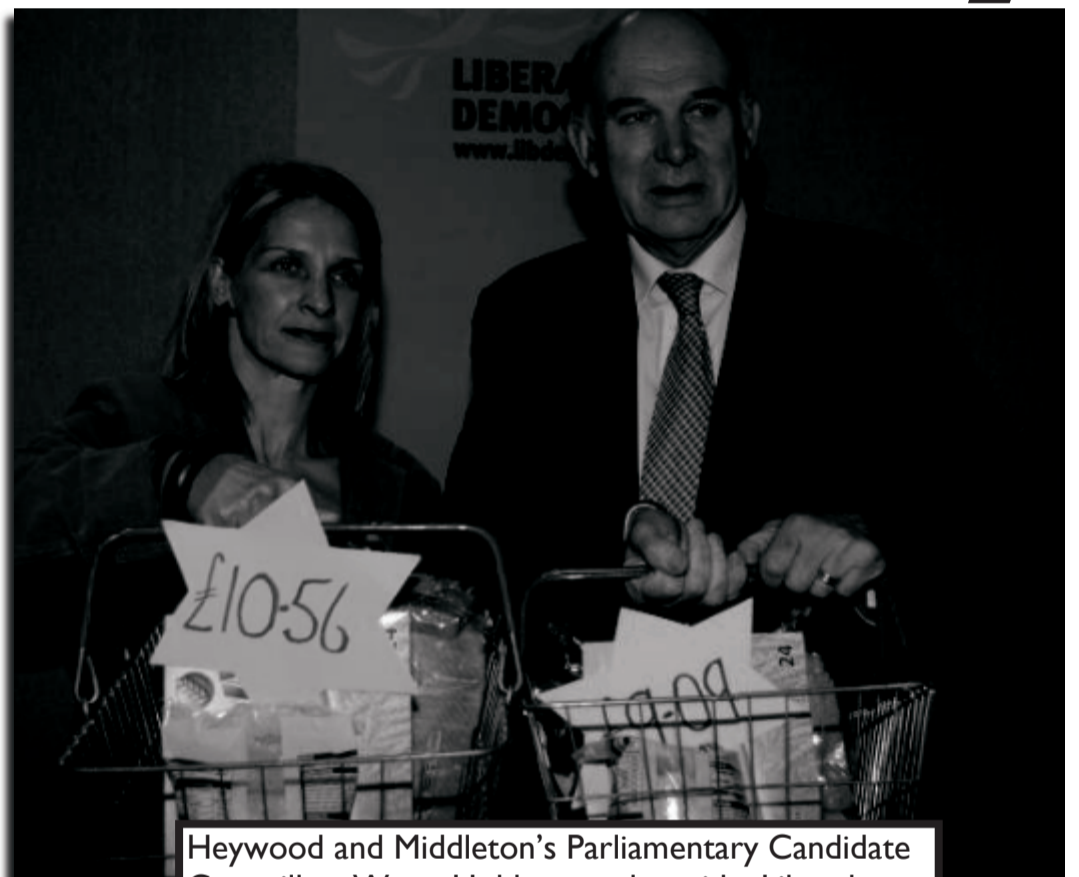
* "Ordinary people need money in their pockets now" says Wera

The Liberal Democrats will cut taxes for people on low and middle incomes, raising them for the richest so the tax cuts are affordable. We will fund this by ending upper rate tax relief on pensions, clamping down on tax avoidance, harmonising income and capital gains taxes, increasing green taxation and trimming overall central public spending.

These proposals would not increase government borrowing; that means they are affordable now. This tax cut is now urgent to get money to people who are struggling the most, helping them to pay for essentials and keep us spending in the high

street.

Councillor Wera Hobhouse said "People are very worried about the current economic situation. I recently met with Liberal Democrat treasury spokesman Dr. Vince Cable, who has been constantly ahead of the government with solutions to the problems we have faced. As a council we are doing our best to help people through these tough times. We shall just have to hope that the government now listens to the calls of the Liberal Democrats to cut taxes for those families who are really struggling at the moment."



Heywood and Middleton's Parliamentary Candidate Councillor Wera Hobhouse alongside Liberal Democrat Treasury Spokesman Dr Vince Cable MP.

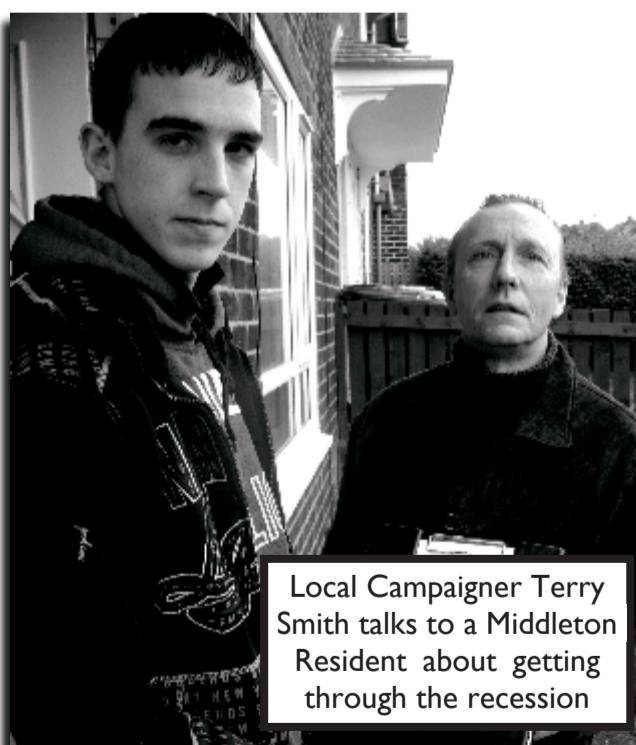
Investing our way out of Recession

Liberal Democrat Leader Nick Clegg has set out plans to put Britain on a Green Road out of the Recession, creating jobs and leaving a legacy that will save energy, put money back into people's pockets and fight climate change.

The plans will cost £12.5bn, which would be paid for by scrapping the proposed VAT cut. The vast majority of that money will be spent immediately, making a real impact on the economy and people's lives right away.

Green Road out of the Recession proposals include:

- A five-year programme to insulate every school and hospital, with 20% completed in the first year
- Funding insulation and energy efficiency for a million homes, with a £1,000 subsidy for a million more



Local Campaigner Terry Smith talks to a Middleton Resident about getting through the recession

- Building 40,000 extra zero-carbon social houses
- Buying 700 new train carriages
- Reopening old railway lines and stations
- Installing energy and money saving smart meters in every home within five years

Where are the Tories?

With Jim Dobbin preparing to defend his Parliamentary seat against a strong and increasing Lib Dem challenge, Focus asks: **Where are the Tories?**

The Conservative party has selected 85% of all their Candidates across Britain, yet in the Heywood and Middleton Constituency, they haven't even sent out the application forms. While they won't admit it, it is clear that they have no ambitions to win here.

In contrast, your local Lib Dem candidate, Councillor Wera Hobhouse, was selected two years ago and has been working flat-out for the people of Middleton ever since.

With so little Conservative presence in Middleton, only the Lib Dems can defeat the failing Labour Government here.

Play Area for Alkrington

*Residents vote massively in favour of play area for Kirkway Stocks

Focus is delighted to announce the construction of a new Play Area for 8- 13 year olds on Kirkway Stocks, after residents voted massively in favour of the development.

Hundreds of residents attended an event at St Peter's school to look at the proposals and give their views on them. In all, 191 people voted for the proposals, with just 23 voting against. With residents making such an unequivocal decision, Labour controlled Middleton Township had no choice but to give the go-ahead.

Local campaigner Terry Smith welcomed the results and said "I work with young people across Middleton day-in, day-out, and one of the biggest issues is the lack of facilities for youngsters across the borough. I am extremely glad that the people of Alkrington have overwhelmingly supported this play area, and we must now ensure that it becomes a real asset to the community,

so that it can be enjoyed by local children for years to come."

Councillor Wera Hobhouse, Middleton Parliamentary Candidate added "I know some residents have concerns that developing this area could attract antisocial behaviour, but I will do my utmost to ensure that every effort is made to stop this becoming the case. Young people act in an antisocial manner mainly because they are bored. At some point the cycle has to be broken, and if local children realise that this area is for them, I am quite sure that they can come to respect it. I will work with local Police and Community Support Officers where necessary so that we can avoid problems arising, and to make sure that the whole community sees the benefits of the new development."



Lib Dems Push For 50% Recycling!

Middleton is celebrating its great recycling success!

Since 2006 figures have more than doubled from 16% to 35% of all our waste in the borough being recycled!

Local Campaigner Terry Smith said "I am really proud of the efforts Middleton Residents have made. They have been great in coming on board with Alternate Weekly Collections, and the doubling of recycling in the Borough just shows how dedicated they have been, and what we can all achieve when we work together"

In light of these recent successes, Councillors from all parties have passed a motion at Council to



raise recycling to 50% by 2011. "This is a tall order" says Cabinet Member for the Environment, **Cllr Wera Hobhouse**, "but I think we can achieve it." "We are the most improved borough for recycling across Greater Manchester and I now want to be really ambitious because I think we can become the best recycling borough in the region!"

In addition, the Council is also looking at new ways to recycle, including options such as food waste recycling collections, and recycling of old furniture, as both of these things still end up in landfill. Councillors would also like residents to be offered wheelie bins for cardboard and paper to those who would like a bin instead of the blue bags.

Recession Questionnaire

Name(s) _____
 Email/Phone _____
 Address _____

Question 1

Are you better or poorer off than last year?

Better off Poorer Same

Question 2

Do you support reducing the basic rate of income tax, paid for by tax increases for the very well off?

Yes No Unsure

Question 3

What steps are you taking to tighten your belt?

- Turning the heating off
- Cutting out the luxuries
- Cancelling holidays
- Cutting down on your social life
- Travelling more on public transport
- Other (Please state) _____

Question 4

Have you been affected by the banks' unwillingness to lend money?

Yes No

Any other Comments? :

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