

SPOTLIGHT



Covering Elmbridge, Kingsholm, Wotton and St. Oswald's Park

Kingsholm & Wotton County Division No. 180 - www.jeremyhilton.co.uk

The Tories are drowning under a financial tsunami

A financial tsunami has hit the Tory run Gloucester City Council. Financial reporting is failing miserably and the city council has been named and shamed by the Audit Commission for not completing its 2011/12 accounts on time. These should have been signed off in September 2012.

Gloucester was one of two councils that had not signed off their previous year's accounts by end January 2013.

The Tory incompetence is highlighted again in their failure to present a budget to the cabinet meeting (6th Feb), just 15 days before the council is due to meet to set a budget.

Liberal Democrat councillor Jeremy Hilton said: "In twenty years of being a councillor I have never experienced such incompetent handling of the council's financial affairs. The Tories have proposed £2.4m worth of cuts, with just 75 words of explanation on how this is to be achieved. Other councils have provided full details on budgetary proposals well in advance, but not this city council. "The Tories are drowning under a financial tsunami."



Resurfacing Hyde Lane moves step forward

Jeremy Hilton inspects Hyde Lane

The Liberal Democrat campaign to get Hyde Lane resurfaced has moved a step further forward. Your Liberal Democrat councillors have so far secured £10,000 from the county council towards the cost of resurfacing the private road.

Jeremy Hilton said: I have now written to the hospital trust and have asked if they will cover the other £20,000 so that the work can be done. The Hospital Trust own the frontage of 60% of the road. This is an important pedestrian route to the hospital so I hope they will agree."

Record of Tory financial incompetence

Action required on 2011/12 accounts	Deadline	Done
Financial officer agrees accounts	30 Jun 12	No
Auditors agree accounts	30 Sep 12	No
Accounts sent to government	5 Oct 12	No

7 months later (31st Jan 13) none of above done!

Sebastian Field agreed: "If Cheltenham Borough Council under Lib Dem control can manage the budget process competently, why can't the Tories in Gloucester do the same? Is it the influence of Labour councillors who keep propping them up?"

Tory Library plan - the legal challenge cost £240,000

In November 2011 a High Court Judge halted the county council's proposals to restructure the library service, for failure to undertake a proper Equalities Impact Assessment. The Tory-controlled council went back to the drawing-board in January 2012 with new proposals to cut funding to Gloucestershire libraries.

The total cost of the legal challenge amounted to £240,000, which included both in house and external legal costs for the council.

Cllr. Jeremy Hilton said: "If the job of reviewing the county's libraries had been done properly from the start and not on the back-of-a-fag-packet then this money could have been better spent on new books for our existing libraries."

Missing bollards - Sebert Street Rec'

A large number of wooden bollards along the perimeter of Sebert St Rec' are missing or rotten. They were put in to stop cars being parked on the Rec' a problem that was evident on match days.



On making a request for new bollards, Liberal Democrat Cllr. Jeremy Hilton was told that the city council policy had changed and that the bollards would not be replaced.

Jeremy Hilton said: "I have written back to the council and demanded that the bollards are replaced to ensure the safety of children playing on the Rec' and to make sure rugby fans don't use the area as a car park."

"I understand that the council is costing the replacement of the bollards. I am now waiting for a reply. I shall not be content until the bollards are replaced."

Jeremy Hilton working all year round

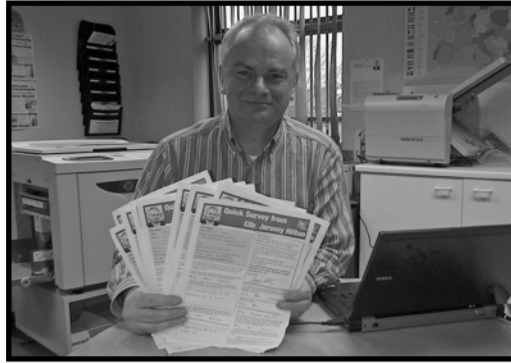
1,000 Quick Surveys issued

Jeremy Hilton & Sebastian Field have been out doing a survey of the opinion of Kingsholm residents. They have been collecting views on residents parking permit fees, the future of the Civil Service Club, the Kingsholm archaeological dig, recycling and the state of the roads.

One thousand forms have been handed out and received many back.

Jeremy said: "I thank all those who have responded to the survey. It is helpful to understand what people think about issues affecting the ward."

The results of the survey will be published in our next Spotlight. Problems raised are being taken up."



Jeremy Hilton wants to reduce residents parking permit fees

Jeremy Hilton is campaigning to get the county council to reduce the cost of a residents' parking permit. He wants it reduced immediately to £50.

The county council increased the annual charge from £62 to £80 per permit. It issued 3,415 permits in Gloucestershire last year raising £273,000.

Jeremy Hilton said: "Residents parking scheme was introduced into some streets to reduce commuter parking and to allow residents to park in their own street. The council is overcharging for the permits and this is unfair. The cost should be reduced to at least £50."



Tory council report suggests housing on Civil Service Sport Club

The Tories who run the city council have listed the former Civil Service Sports Club as a would-be housing site, in a report just published, on housing land availability within Gloucester.



A recent survey carried out by Jeremy Hilton shows that local residents overwhelmingly want to keep the site as open space for sport and recreation.

Sebastian Field has also questioned the leader of the council over his intentions for the site.

Jeremy Hilton said: "The former Civil Service Sports Ground must be saved for the community. There is a need for extra public open space in Kingsholm & Wotton. The land is protected in planning policy documents. We will do our best to keep the sports field for future generations."

Tory leader keeps his job all thanks to Labour

The Tory leader of Gloucester City Council has kept his job, because of the votes of Labour councillors.

The Liberal Democrats proposed a vote of **no confidence** in the Tory cabinet, because the council had failed to complete its accounts for 2010/11, seven months after the government deadline.

Liberal Democrats have lost confidence in the Tories running the council, but Labour is too scared to kick them out.

It seems you cannot trust Labour to do the best for Gloucester.



Jeremy Hilton has secured £10,000 from the county council to improve the pedestrian crossing outside the England's Glory Pub in London Road.

The pavement is narrow by the pub and so is the carriageway on this side of the road, forcing vehicles to drive very close to pedestrians waiting to cross the road.

Jeremy is still waiting for the council to draw up plans for the scheme.

Denmark Road will get repaired

The resurfacing of Denmark Road is due to take place during the summer holidays when the High School will be closed.

The long awaited resurfacing had been delayed until Severn Trent complete the drainage works.

News in Brief

- ✓ Jeremy has requested that new street name plates are installed on both sides of the road at the end of **Sherborne Street** and beginning of **Sebert Street**.
- ✓ Loose bricks that form the kerb along **Kingsholm Road** have been reported to Gloucestershire Highways for repair.
- ✓ Damage done to the grass verges along **Estcourt Road** during road works will be made good, Jeremy Hilton has been assured.
- ✓ **Sweetbriar Street** will be resurfaced during the financial year 2014/15 the county council has told Sebastian.
- ✓ Jeremy asked the council to clear the **alley** between **Deans Way** and **Kingsholm Court** of weeds etc.
- ✓ The poor pavement surface outside No. 88 **Henry Road** has been reported to the highways team for attention. Sebastian asked to it to be inspected for safety and tree damage.
- ✓ Rubbish piling up in the garden of **31 Malvern Road** has been cleared by the council. The owner will be charged for this. Jeremy Hilton is pressing the council take action to bring the property back into a liveable condition.

Who do you trust to make tax fairer?

Lib Dems

- ✓ Cut income tax by £600 for ordinary people from this April
- ✓ Frozen council tax bills for a record third year running
- ✓ Cracking down on tax avoidance by the richest - raising £7 billion

OR

Labour

- ✗ Allowed banks and the richest to dodge paying their fair share
- ✗ Put up taxes on low paid and middle income families
- ✗ Wasted your money and left country with huge national debt

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Deep Cleans

Next deep cleans, where roads will be cleared of parked cars to properly clean the street, will be on:

27th Feb: Alvin St, Worcester Parade, Sweetbriar St, Union St, Swan Rd, Guinea St & Sebert St.

24th April: Oxford Rd & St, Henry Rd & St, Honyatt Rd, Heathville Rd (part of) Alexandra Rd & Hillfield Court Rd.

Liberal Democrats in government fighting for you