



Why we must win in May

The local elections on May 7th will be the last ever for County and District Councils. After that, Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and Devolution will replace them with a new Unitary Authority covering a much larger area, alongside a new Hampshire Mayor and Combined Authority. **Our local political landscape is about to change completely.**

The Conservatives have run the County Council for nearly 30 years, but their support has fallen sharply. They will lose seats; but who gains them? If we run a full, energetic campaign, the answer could be the Lib Dems, making it entirely possible that we could control the County Council in its final years.

This year we plan to win all seven of the County divisions in our district. Yes, the County's finances are challenging. But the Lib Dems have shown strong financial leadership at the City Council and have fresh ideas for positive change. **Winning now ensures we have a powerful voice in shaping the new Combined Authority.**

New Winchester party Chair, Yvette Riley says, "This is a critical moment. Momentum is everything. We must stop the rise of populism, whether from the left or Reform on the right. This year's elections are not isolated contests; they are the launchpad to the pivotal 2027 Shadow Authority elections and the Mayoral

election in 2028. If we secure control of both the Combined and Unitary Authority by 2027, we will build unstoppable momentum heading into 2028. Imagine what we can achieve with a Lib Dem Unitary Authority and Mayor working hand in hand with our MP, Danny.

"The alternative is stark. A Reform-controlled Unitary Authority and Reform Mayor putting all we've worked for at risk. The stakes are high.

"The good news is we have an outstanding team of candidates for 2026 — energetic, committed and already working hard in our communities. They are ready. Now they need you beside them. So please step forward. Ask your family and friends too. Deliver leaflets. Help in the office. Put up a poster. Donate if you can. Every hour and every pound makes a difference. This is the moment. The campaign is on and we need everyone to play a part.

To volunteer please go to winld.org.uk/help or to donate to the election fund go to winld.org.uk/donate, or use the QR codes below."



Scan here to donate to our election fund.



Scan here to volunteer to help.

See inside for a message from new Lib Dem President Josh Babarinde

New President says he's fired up for the battle



Government Reorganisation and a new mayoralty for Hampshire and the Solent mean your patch's political future hangs in the balance.

One of the things that has always defined our party is that we don't disappear between elections. We stay visible in our communities, we listen, and we keep delivering. By the time voters next head to the polls, they will ask themselves who has been putting in the work even when the cameras aren't on? It's up to us to make that answer clear for them.

And that matters now more than ever. Populists are on the march - both Reform on the right and the Green Party on the left. This is not to mention Labour and the Conservatives, who have increasingly become Farage tribute acts.

In the context of this rising division, it falls on us - the Liberal Democrats - to be the last line of defence against populism.

At this time in our party's story, and at this moment in our country's history, there is no greater political, democratic or moral purpose to fight for the soul of our country, in my view.

I'm fired up to fight this battle with you in Winchester (including by helping you fund raise at your annual dinner later this year!)

Let's redouble our efforts on the phones, the doorsteps and everywhere on the campaign trail to give Winchester the hope it needs at the elections on May 7th and beyond!

Josh

Dear Winchester Liberal Democrats,

Since the 2024 General Election, you've had a strong Liberal Democrat voice in Parliament. Danny has thrown himself into the role, has secured a huge win with his puppy smuggling legislation, and made sure your community is being fought for in Westminster.

But the ground is shifting fast. Hampshire is about to look very different. Local

PLEASE REFRESH YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

We recognise that inboxes fill up with countless emails and that many of them you'd rather not receive let alone read, but **for us being able to email our members is extremely important.**

We are obliged to send information about our AGM to all members. Likewise, details of selections like last year's Hampshire and Solent Mayoral candidate selection must be sent.

If we don't have an email address for a member, have an old email address (a very common problem) or don't have permission to email, then we have to post. A 2nd class stamp will cost 91p from 10th April.

Of our 542 members, we are currently unable to email 234 of you for one of the above reasons. So posting just the AGM calling notice alone will cost us £210.

These postal costs and volunteer time spent on preparing, printing and posting mount up; both

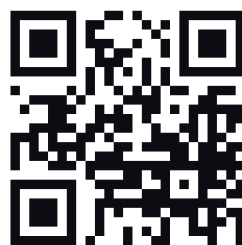
the money and time could be better spent on our vital literature campaign.

It's so easy to unsubscribe from all emails by mistake - if you ever click the 'no' box when asked if we can keep in touch with you, you're automatically unsubscribed for everything in future.

We are asking all our members to update their email contact information and give permission to email by scanning the QR code or going to winld.org.uk/update-email

We need this done for every member in a household.

Please help us to stay in **touch with you.**



New organiser for Winchester

The local party has a new organiser, Nathan Eve. He takes over from Will Tench who has worked tirelessly for us in recent years and now moves to the casework team.



Nathan started campaigning for Winchester Lib Dems (while still at Peter Symonds) in the 2017 General Election. He continued to pound the streets for us in between his university studies.

As the current Chair of Winchester Young Liberals, Nathan is keen to recruit more members. If you know of any under 30s who'd like to get involved, please email **nathan.b.eve.yl@gmail.com**. For campaigns contact him at **organiser@winld.org.uk**

In the Spring 2023 local elections, Nathan was elected as a councillor for St Bartholomew and has since been Paula's campaign manager for her Eastgate County Council by-election win.

Having been one of Danny's caseworkers for 18 months, Nathan has now stepped into this exciting campaigning role.

Nathan says, **"The 2026 elections are crucial. Please give your local candidate all the support you can."**

Find out more about them by scanning the QR code or go to **winld.org.uk/2026-team**.



Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee started this year with a trimmer shape - the constitutional amendments approved by the 2025 AGM having cut membership to 17.

Achieving a full slate of candidates for May's elections has been a priority and this has now been achieved.

A number of new subcommittees have been set up, including a new Fundraising Committee and a

Task and Finish Group to finalise the Strategic Plan for 2026-2030.

Mark Allinson, the Treasurer, has spelled out that the local party needs to raise significant amounts of money or we won't be able to sustain an election-winning literature programme.

Events have been a talking point - we have been rather quiet on this front but we have an excellent programme

for 2026 already. **Please save the following dates in your diary:**

May 21st - a talk by Anand Menon, Director of Britain in a Changing Europe.

July 5th - the legendary Meon Valley BBQ.

September 26th - the return of the annual dinner with guest Josh Barbarinde.

Sign up to email updates for more information (see left).

Please join The 100 Club

An exciting new initiative for 2026 - we are running a monthly lottery with the potential to win up to £100 first prize or £50 second prize. There are 100 numbers for sale at **£5 each**, payable by monthly standing order. Only a 100 tickets are available! **The 100 Club** is a fun way to raise vital campaign funds - the only funding we receive is from donations.

To join **the 100 Club** scan the QR code on the right or go to: **<https://digitallibdems.typeform.com/WinLD100Club>**



Hamble Valley and Fareham & Waterlooville prepare for the next general election

Congratulations to Prad Bains who has been re-selected as the Lib Dem candidate for the Hamble Valley Parliamentary Constituency.

Prad was the Parliamentary candidate for Hamble Valley at the 2024 General Election winning 14,869 votes, just 2402 votes behind the Conservative candidate.

With such a small majority to overturn, Hamble Valley is now a target seat, being in the top 10 closest constituencies



Hamble & Netley in the Hamble Valley Constituency and is the cabinet member for Children's Services on Eastleigh Borough Council.

We have no doubt that our members in Whiteley &

for possible Lib Dem gains in the country.

Prad (see left) is the Eastleigh councillor for

Shedfield ward, which is in Hamble Valley Constituency, will be getting behind Prad's campaign.

The other constituency in our district, Fareham & Waterlooville, will begin its Prospective Parliamentary Candidate selection straight after the 7th of May local elections.

Having Reform's Suella Braverman as their sitting MP should be a strong incentive to get campaigning there.

Danny's amazing first 18 months

In his first 18 months as an MP, Danny spoke in 142 debates in Parliament. To put this in context, previous local conservative MPs Flick Drummond and Steve Brine each spoke in Parliament about 48 times a year.

Danny has **repeatedly challenged the Government about their inaction on the war in Gaza** (more people wrote to Danny on Gaza than on almost anything else). Danny also secured two debates highlighting the **damaging impact of cuts to overseas aid budgets on global public health**. He did a huge amount of work on the **Tobacco and Vapes Bill**, which aims to create a smoke free generation and will also crack down on the sale of vapes to young people. **This is probably the most important piece of public health legislation in a generation.** Likewise, Danny spent a great deal of time successfully working to improve the **Mental Health Bill** in 2025.

A highlight of 2025 for Danny was driving an **ambulance to Ukraine** to deliver vital medical equipment. He is also part of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme, which gives MPs experience of forces life and included a trip to Estonia before Christmas.

Locally, Danny **attended 467 events** in the Constituency including visiting schools, community groups, farmers and businesses. He has been working on important local issues including: **campaigning against sewage dumping** in our rivers; campaigning to **protect and improve our A&E**; protesting **against bus cuts**, including the 61 bus and a Henry Beaufort school bus and **saving the Chesil Lodge Day Centre**.

At the end of 2025, Danny's Private Members' **Puppy Smuggling Bill passed into law**. Only about 5% of private members bills succeed so it is a fantastic achievement for Danny as a new MP, to get the cross-party support necessary to enable this important animal welfare bill to become law.

Finally, Danny has assembled an **incredible casework team**. In their first 18 months they **tackled 12,775 pieces of casework**. By way of comparison, Flick Drummond (former Conservative Meon Valley MP) was very proud of doing 7000 pieces of casework in 5 years.

Casework can be so important **because people often come to Danny in absolute desperation when they literally have nowhere else to turn - his help can make a real difference to their lives.**