

Redlands Matters

From Reading Labour councillors
and Redlands Labour Party

September/October 2010

Many uncertainties as....

Liberal Democrats and Conservatives join together to control Reading Council

The local elections last May left no Party with a majority of council seats. Labour remains the largest Party with 19 seats. Liberal Democrat councillors joined up with the Conservatives to take joint control of Reading Borough Council.



Kelly Edwards

Kelly says thank you

Kelly Edwards, Labour's local candidate at the May election says,

"Thank you on behalf of Redlands Labour Party to everyone who voted for me.

We will continue to work with Labour councillors to represent the interests of local residents."

See Viewpoint over page

Since then, the Conservative Liberal Democrat Government has cut £1.6million from the council's budget, mostly from education and children's services. Reading's Conservative and Liberal Democrat councillors are refusing to say how that will affect services.

Care services

A report to Reading's Conservative and Liberal Democrat Cabinet shows that they are planning to provide council care to people in substantial and critical need or critical need only.

About 1300 other elderly and vulnerable people on low incomes who currently receive direct care from the council will do longer be eligible for this.

Before make these changes, the council will have to start a full public consultation later in the Autumn.

Before and After the May Election

"You can't trust the Tories"

Liberal Democrat leaflet, Spring 2010.

We have a "shared ambition"
with the Tories

Cllr. Kirsten Bayes, Liberal Democrat leader,
Reading Post, 19 May 2010.

News and views

Welcome U-turn on new housing scheme

Viewpoint

Nationally there is debate about how fast and far to reduce the deficit. We believe the Coalition Government's approach is both risking a further recession and is unfair. Independent assessment shows that people on lower incomes families will bear the biggest burden of Government cuts to reduce the deficit..

Locally, the Liberal Democrats had been moving closer to the Tories for some time. We are disappointed but not surprised that the national situation pushed them to take this final step to give them local power.

Everyone accepts there will be reductions in public expenditure. The issue is how far the two parties in Government will push this beyond what was planned by the previous Government, and how far they will target cuts at those least able to bear them.

Conservative and Liberal Democrat councillors in Reading are reluctant to tell us what their plans are and one of our main jobs is to make sure residents are kept informed so you can have their say.

Reading Council is being allowed to build 40 new homes on the former Avenue School site, Northumberland Avenue.

Permission had been granted by the Labour Government and Council but was withheld in one of the first acts of the Coalition Government. Permission to build has now been given again, but with a five month delay.

The homes will be designed to "extra care" standards and will allow people to live independent lives in their own home as they grow older, with the care they need. Labour Cllr. Mike Orton, who initiated the scheme, said he is "very pleased" with the U-turn.

Question mark over swimming

The new government has removed the funding for free swimming for people under 16 and over 60.

"Your Reading" passport entitles over 60s and those on low incomes to a free swim at certain times but Reading's council coalition is refusing to confirm whether the concessions will continue after April.

Contact us:

Let us know your views and if you have any concerns.
Please return this form to Redlands Labour, 59 Alexandra Rd, Reading,
or email redlands@glossa.co.uk.

From Mr/Mrs/Ms/other

Full name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Email _____

I am concerned about the following issue or problem:

I am interested in helping Labour in Redlands Ward. Yes ___ No ___