

Sewage spills up 3-fold in Ashbourne

Severn Trent's performance in the Ashbourne area has declined from 2022 to 2023, according to the latest publication of data on spillages from storm overflows. Overall, in **Ashbourne**, there were a total of over **300 hours of spillages into the Henmore and Bentley Brooks in 2023**, over three times more than in 2022.

Ashbourne's problems with sewers and drains are local examples of a national problem with the regulation of water companies. **Lib Dem MP Layla Moran** has said, "The whole water system needs to be fixed with radical action to protect the environment and bring down people's bills". In a Parliamentary debate in



February, she set out how the Liberal Democrats would transform England's water companies into '**Public Benefit Corporations**'. Public 'benefits' would then be

considered explicitly in the running of the companies putting a stop to prioritising profit over the quality of waterways. Environmental experts and local community groups would have representation on the company boards. She also called for a ban on water executives' bonuses until sewage dumping stops, and for pollution monitoring to be undertaken by the Environment Agency rather than the companies themselves to ensure independence.



Lib Dem Parliamentary candidate, Robert Court, said "We have a right to expect protection from flooding, access to clean water and proper treatment of sewage. We would hold the water companies to account, not letting them wriggle out of their responsibilities to us all."

Contact the Ashbourne Focus team

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June

2024

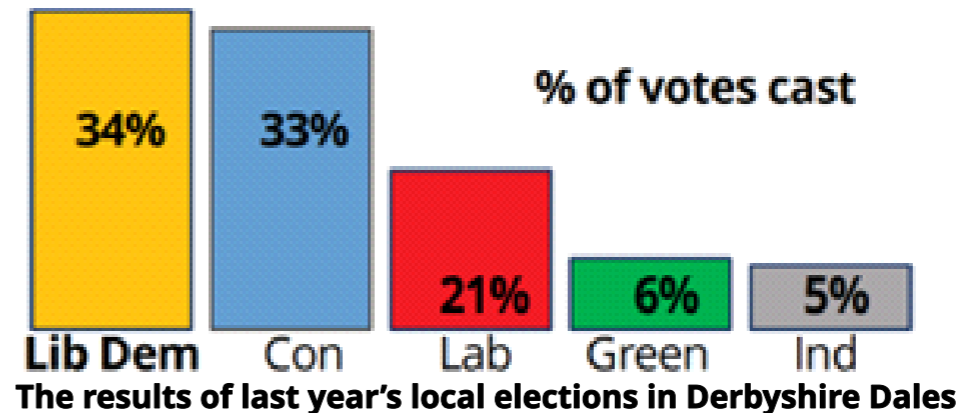
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on Ashbourne and District FOCUS

Liberal Democrats - for a Fairer, Greener, more Caring Dales

Election special

Lib Dems best placed to take the challenge to the Tories on 4th July



Robert Court
 Liberal Democrat candidate for Derbyshire Dales

Inside - p2 Find out more about **Robert Court**

AQAP Update We have a plan!

The Ashbourne Air Quality Action Plan has now been approved by the District Council and sent off to Defra. **Lib Dem Cllr Peter Dobbs** who has campaigned for many years on the air quality in

Ashbourne comments;

"There are two broad aspects to the plan. One is to try to encourage the use of alternatives to vehicles that cause pollution and the second is to try to keep those vehicles moving steadily.



EarthSense monitor & its PV panel

In the **first** category are actions that support more cycling, walking and the use of bus services.

In the **second** are actions that allow remote control of Ashbourne's traffic lights so that traffic flows freely.

Most importantly there will be **10 air quality monitors** around the town that will continuously monitor levels of air pollutants like fine particulates as well as NOx. This will enable us to see very quickly if the actions are delivering the promised improvements in air quality.

DO YOU HAVE AN ISSUE? CAN WE HELP?

The local Lib Dem team want to hear from you on any issue, big or small, that you want help with.

My issue

Name..... Email.....

Tel Post code

- I can give an hour or so every few months to deliver leaflets in my area
- I would like an election poster to show my support for Robert Court
- I would like to join the Liberal Democrats

Can we keep you updated about our activities including campaigns, events, fundraising and details about how to get involved?

Yes please No thanks

The Liberal Democrats will use your contact details to send you information on the topics you have requested. Any data we gather will be used in accordance with our privacy policy at libdems.org.uk/privacy. To exercise your legal data rights, email data.protection@libdems.org.uk.

Cut out and return to: 2b, Windmill Lane, Ashbourne DE6 1EY or email (see Team details above)

Meet Robert Court and his Fair Deal for the Dales

Who am I? I used to be a physics teacher, and then headmaster of a school in Sheffield.

But now in politics? I looked at the state of the country and political life, and I felt something needed to be done about it.

Am I local? My wife and I have lived in Derbyshire Dales for 25 years, I love this area and believe I understand its specific issues.

Issues such as? Affordable housing and the green environment. Local infrastructure like waterways and our potholed roads which have been starved of cash by the Conservatives.

My national priorities? Saving the NHS, helping with the cost-of-living crisis and getting the sewage-dumping water companies to clean up their act. We should try to repair some of the economic damage caused by the way the Conservatives implemented Brexit. Entering the European single market seems an obvious step, but not recognised as such by Labour or the Conservatives.

What about Ashbourne? I am 100% pro-bypass and I am impressed by the thoroughness of the District Council's air quality plan. All this can make Ashbourne an even better place to live.

Can I win? Yes, but I need every vote I can get, including yours.



By-pass News (Spoiler alert - It's old news)

The Conservatives have commented that Lib Dems removed mention of the by-pass from the Local Plan at some point in the past. They did – in **1998**, over a quarter of a century ago, when the District Council had just been informed by the County Council that there was no chance of a by-pass for at least 10 years.

To avoid **planning blight** falling on the houses along the many routes that had been suggested in the previous years, the District Council chose to remove a specific mention whilst promising to consider the issue again as soon as a viable project came forward from the County Council.

It is of note that in the **2005 Local Plan** introduced under a Conservative controlled council there is **just one sentence** referring to the bypass, and it comments that 'there is no firm date for the scheme and no route yet identified.' Possibly also significant is that the current **2017 Local Plan** also introduced under a Conservative controlled District Council has again **just one mention** of a bypass to link the A515 north to the A52 west.

We clearly need more than a mention in the Plan to get a by-pass built!



On the campaign trail with Robert in Ashbourne

Want to find out more about the Lib Dem plans for A FAIR DEAL?

Visit <https://www.libdems.org.uk/plan>

Or use the QR code



Liberal Democrats - keeping you in touch all year round

Lights, Camera, Action!

Lights Funded by the bus service improvement programme and integral to the Ashbourne Air Quality Action Plan, the traffic lights and controlled crossings at the junction of Station Road and Church Street are nearing completion.

As well as allowing a much safer way to cross these busy roads they will also form part of the computer controlled network of traffic lights in Ashbourne that will hopefully work together to allow a smoother flow of vehicles and reduce pollution.

Camera You may have noticed this camera recently. It is part of a study of the current levels and types of traffic in Ashbourne. Analysis of the data from it will provide a 'baseline' of current vehicle use. Once the Ashbourne Reborn improvements have been completed the same survey will be repeated to see if these have resulted in more people choosing to walk or cycle in Ashbourne rather than drive.

Action There is still much going on behind the scenes as preparations for the building phase of the Reborn scheme continue. However the wait is almost over and once the Ashbourne Festival has taken its final bow then more obvious signs of activity should become apparent. Do look out for meetings that will explain the schedule and the extent of any disruption. It is possible that Fishpond Meadow overflow car park will be used as the storage compound for the contractor for the public realm improvements.



New traffic lights at Church St / Station Rd



Traffic 'camera' Inset: close up

Who pulled the plug?

Proud of Ashbourne strike again!



The mystery puddle and inset, the repaired drain.

The large puddle at the tunnel entrance was deterring many users of the Tissington Trail. Volunteers, working with Sustrans who own the trail, have put in a drain and a low 'wall' to confine the water and help it to drain away.

Trail users can now keep their feet dry.

Quite what causes the puddle to form remains a mystery, with Severn Trent Water finding no defects in their drainage system.

To find out more about what local Lib Dems are doing visit our website

[ddld.org.uk](https://www.ddld.org.uk)

The Local Plan

Have your say!



New homes nearing completion in Mayfield Road

The Local Plan is a key document in deciding what gets built where. The Lib Dem led District Council is committed to building thriving and sustainable communities throughout the Derbyshire Dales. The Local Plan is one of the instruments it will use to do so.

The Council's ambitions are to ensure that the towns and villages across the Plan Area are sustainable and flourishing, with the new homes that need to be provided being distributed across all the settlements. The intention is that the needs of younger families and the retention of services and facilities are met.

The Council is seeking your input into re-shaping this important document and a public consultation is currently taking place. It closes on June 20th. You can pick up a paper copy from the Ashbourne Library or just go online using this QR code;

