

**5 steps to a safer Britain**

- 1 More police on patrol - don't waste billions on ID cards
- 2 Take back our town centres - let communities close pubs and clubs that cause trouble
- 3 Make sentences mean what they say - life should mean life
- 4 Compulsory work and training in prison - to cut reoffending
- 5 Better compensation for victims - paid for by prison work

**We can cut crime!**

WWW.WECANCUTCRIME.COM

**Fight to save Adult Neurosurgery**



Peter Black AM at Morrision Hospital

Local Welsh Liberal Democrats are committed to the fight to retain Adult Neurosurgery at Morrision Hospital. They are concerned at the fact that the Labour Health Minister has kicked the issue into the long grass until after the Assembly elections. "There is a suspicion that this action repeats what happened in 2003," said Peter Black. "Then, Children's brain surgery was saved for the elections, only to be axed once voting was over. The travel distances involved make it unacceptable that Adult neurosurgery should also be moved to Cardiff. Lives will be put at risk, whilst the future of the multi-trauma unit at Morrision Hospital will be put into doubt. When Health Commission Wales report back in the summer, I hope that they have taken all those factors into account and ruled in favour of Swansea."

**Langland Bay Car Park**

Since August last year there have been a number of PACT (Partnerships and Communities Together) meetings for the Newton and Mumbles area. The meetings have been well attended and have given local residents the opportunity of expressing their concerns on a number of issues. Representatives from the Police, The Safer Swansea Partnership, the Council, Neighbourhood Watch and other organizations attend as well as local Councillors. Issues like parking problems, speeding traffic and anti social behaviour have been raised. One major concern is anti social behaviour in and around the car park at Langland Bay. Many residents believe that the problem would be considerably reduced if the car park were to be closed at night. The Council has identified funding for barriers but it is important to decide on a reasonable time at which to lock them. Langland Bay is a popular beach and it would be reasonable for visitors to be able to park there on summer evenings. Let Sue Waller know what you think would be a reasonable time to lock the barriers in summer and winter. **The next PACT Meeting will be held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm at the Mumbles Conservative Club.** Do come along and let us know what you think needs to be done to make our area a better and safer place in which to live.



Simon Arthur, Sue Waller and Nick Tregoning discuss anti-social behaviour in Langland Bay car park

**My comment, complaint, idea, or suggestion is.....**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age:  Under 21  21-29  30-49  50-59  
 60-74  75 +  
 The FOCUS team may contact you from time to time to keep you informed on issues we think you may find of interest. Please let us know if you do not wish the information above to be used for this purpose.

- I would be willing to put up an election poster.
- I can deliver FOCUS locally.
- I would like more information
- I would like to join the Welsh Liberal Democrats

RETURN TO: Councillor Sue Waller, 4 Hill Grove, Caswell, Swansea, SA3 4RQ. Telephone: 01792 369410

**FOCUS**

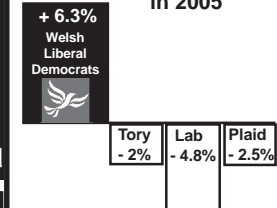
www.swanseagowerlibdems.org.uk



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How you voted in Gower in 2005

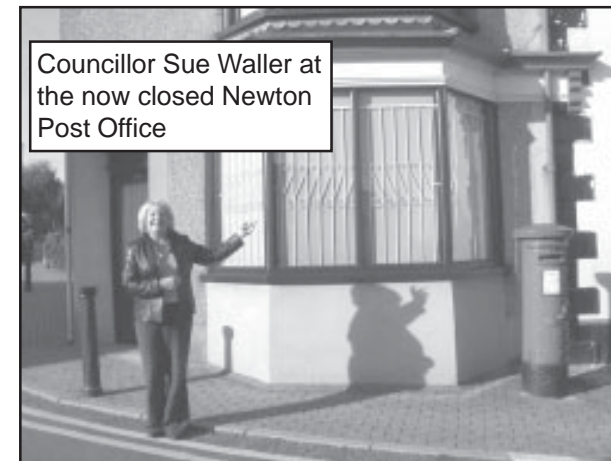


The Liberal Democrats are a growing force here

**Labour to close more Post Offices**

**SAVE OUR POST OFFICES**

Councillor Sue Waller at the now closed Newton Post Office



**Liberal Democrat 5 Point Plan to save our Post Offices**

- \* £2 billion to invest in Post Office branches
- \* Open new branches where there is need
- \* Retain Post Office Card Accounts for pension and benefit payments
- \* Free the Post Office from Royal Mail restrictions so as to let it develop new business
- \* New legal requirement for the Government to maintain the local Post Office network

**Save our Post Office**

Local Welsh Liberal Democrat campaigners, Sue Waller and Nick Tregoning, have called on the Government to safeguard the future of the local Post Office network.

"Under the last Conservative Government 3,500 local post offices closed," said Sue Waller "and under Labour another 4,000 have closed, hitting communities across the country. Labour plans could see another 2,500 close, a large number of those closures will be in Wales."

"Neither the Tories nor Labour have any plan to safeguard the future of our vital Post Office network," added Gower Assembly Candidate, Nick Tregoning. "The future for

many local Post Offices looks bleak."

The Government has announced that it will not use Post Office Card Accounts to pay pensions and benefits from 2010. This is worth more than one billion pounds to local Post Offices between 2003 and 2010 and could lead to the closure of thousands more Post Offices especially in urban areas such as ours.

The Liberal Democrats are proposing a five point plan to breathe new life into the post office network, including a **£2 billion investment fund and the opening of new Post Offices where there is a need.**

Already they have collected thousands of signatures on a petition opposing further closures.

**Fighting to save our Post Offices**

# Swansea Administration offers low Council Tax in 'value for money' budget.

Swansea Council's Liberal Democrat Administration has brought forward proposals that will limit April's Council Tax increase to an inflation-busting 3.5%. Their budget includes a suggested £15.5 million extra for front line services. Street cleaning, waste disposal, libraries, new specialist teaching facilities, parks and support for children and families will all receive extra investment.

Top priority for the Administration is cleaning up the City. They have earmarked an extra £200,000 to fund specialist cleansing teams who will move from community to community targeting 'grot' spots. An extra £67,000 is to be spent on better sweeping machines that can get into more awkward places.

Average Council Tax Increase	%
Under Liberal Democrat-led Administration	3.90%
Under Labour	8.66%

£2.4 million has been set aside for children with additional learning needs, which includes new specialist teaching facilities. £1.1 million is to be invested in child and family services, including foster care, adoption and parent support, whilst an extra £500,000 has been provided for adult services such as care homes and domicillary care. £45,000 is to be invested in extending library opening hours, whilst school spending has once more been kept higher than Assembly Government guidelines.

## An investment in Swansea's future



Nick Tregoning and Sue Waller monitor work on the Leisure Centre

The proposed Council budget includes a massive investment in Swansea's future. £10.5 million has been earmarked to tackle the mountain of repairs inherited from the previous Labour Administration. This includes £850,000 for the twelve schools in the worst condition.

Work is due to start on a new Welsh School in West Cross, whilst money has also been set aside to finish off the refurbishment of the Leisure Centre. This is on schedule to re-open by the end of the year.

A new Central Library is to be opened in County Hall as part of a civic centre project that will open up this building to general public use. This library will be complemented by a new contact

centre to make it easier for the public to access Council services. In addition a new bowls hall will be opened in Plasmarl to replace the one that disappeared when the Leisure Centre closed.

Investment is also starting to come into the City Centre with work having started on re-developing the old David

Evans site and with more developers interested in investing in the City as well. The Council is proposing to complete the bus link to the Fabian Way Park and Ride site in the next financial year, whilst the new lanes for buses, taxis and bicycles in the City Centre has eased public transport access whilst helping to tackle congestion.

The Administration are also anxious to start work on rebuilding the Quadrant Bus Station and are waiting to hear if their grant application to the Welsh Assembly Government has been successful. This scheme was held up by land acquisition issues prior to 2004 but we have got it back on track. The intention was always to fund it from Assembly Grant, all we need is that money to be approved and work can start.



Simon Arthur, Sue Waller and Nick Tregoning look for a bright future for Swansea

## Langland Bay Huts

There is considerable concern at the deteriorating state of the Langland Bay Day Huts. **Sue Waller** believes that it is essential that we secure the future of the huts. They are a popular feature of the Bay and every year they are over subscribed by people wanting to hire them.

Last year the Council conducted a public market testing exercise and concluded that the most effective way to secure the future of the huts was to grant leases of around 15 years in return for the payment of a capital sum. The money raised could be used to replace or refurbish the huts. It is important that at least half of the huts are retained for letting to the public.

There is still a lot of work to be done but it is hoped that leases will be marketed this summer and that work could start on replacing the huts by the autumn.



Councillor Sue Waller in Langland Bay



Sue Waller discusses local issues with Simon Arthur in Langland Bay

## Welcome to new member

Swansea and Gower Liberal Democrats have welcomed a new member into the party. He is **Simon Arthur**, who lives in Summerland Lane and has been a Newton resident all his life. Simon was a member of the Conservative Party for 21 years before deciding he had had enough. He has already been active in many activities and is working with **Sue Waller** in campaigning on local issues and fighting for our community.



Peter Black AM and Welsh Liberal Democrat candidate Nick Tregoning outside a Swansea Police Station.

## Let Police do their job say Welsh Lib Dems

Fears over the future funding of Wales' police are undermining confidence in community safety, local Welsh Liberal Democrats have warned.

North Wales Police Chief Constable Richard Brunstrom has warned that the government have not committed to fund Police Community Support Officers beyond March 2008.

Already, Labour have broken their manifesto commitments and reduced the number of Police Community Support Officers they will fund in Wales by more than a third. This is down from 325 to 186 in South Wales. "Health and Education in Wales are funded by the Barnett formula, but policing is mainly funded by Westminster," said local Assembly Candidate, **Nick Tregoning**. "If policing was funded this way, it would mean an extra £50m for Wales, which is a lot more police on the beat. Labour's tough talk on crime does not match up with their actions. The Government need to fund Welsh police fairly and give them the resources to get on with the job. Wales deserves better."

## Labour's Legacy

After 30 months in control the new Swansea Administration is slowly coming to grips with the legacy left behind by the Labour Party.

In particular they are faced with some very difficult decisions by the failure of Labour to invest in the City's infrastructure on a huge scale. Labour's legacy is:

- \* closure of Swansea Leisure Centre-cost £32m
- \* crumbling schools - cost £80m to £280m.
- \* dangerous street lamps - cost £600,000
- \* declining City Centre
- \* a multi-million pound bill to renovate/repair City Centre car parks
- \* crumbling roads and pavements - cost £35m
- \* closure of Tir John tip - cost £2.5m extra a year
- \* pensions fund deficit for Council workers - cost £4m a year.
- \* crumbling Guildhall - cost £30m

In response the Council has put in place a 4 year programme of investment in roads and buildings including schools