

FOCUS

Liberal
Democrats

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An update on Amesbury from your Lib Dem Councillors
Working for you all year round, not just at election time!

Summer/Autumn 2026

New Local Plan

Lib Dems, providing a fresh start for our community

Wiltshire Council has voted to withdraw the draft Local Plan after government planning inspectors raised major concerns over housing, employment, land allocations and other issues. The inspectors provided two options: to withdraw the plans or go through a costly rejection.

Without an adopted plan, Wiltshire is more exposed to speculative development with communities having less say on the location and design of new housing. Work now begins on a new Local Plan, starting with a

scoping consultation to seek views on local priorities for the new plan.

Cllr Alan Hagger said: "Submitted in November 2024, after seven years in production under the Conservatives, the failure of Wiltshire's Local Plan is hugely disappointing. I welcome the council's decision to waste no further time or money and to focus efforts on a fresh plan that will set out the housing, infrastructure and environmental priorities for our county in the years to come."



Since being elected to Wiltshire Council in May last year Cllr Alan Hagger has been working hard to represent Amesbury residents and ensure local voices are heard at County Hall.

Alongside serving on a number of council boards and committees, Alan has chaired two important cross-party scrutiny reviews. The first examined **Wiltshire Council's Area Board Grants Programme** to ensure public funds are being used effectively and fairly, while the second dealt with **improving services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**.

Alan has been appointed **County Portfolio Holder for Criminal Justice** which covers preparing Wiltshire Council for significant national changes, while ensuring that the services supporting victims and reducing crime are positively maintained.

Supporting local people remains a key priority. Since his election, Alan has helped numerous residents access council services, resolve local issues, and navigate the support available from Wiltshire Council. Whether dealing with housing, highways, social care, education, or other council matters, **he continues to work on behalf of residents across Amesbury.**

Your Lib Dem Town Councillors

Representing you on Amesbury's Town Council are, from left to right:

Alan Hagger (Amesbury South)
Jacqui Lord (Amesbury East)
Phil Gorman (Amesbury South)
Andrew Lord (Amesbury West)
Mayor Laura Knight (Amesbury South)



Our councillors get together with you and whoever else turns up for lively conversation on the **2nd Monday of each month, from 18:30 until 21:00 at Table 5, The Orchard pub in Archer's Gate, SP4 7XT.**

"Chat about what?" you might ask yourself! The conversation is organic and it goes where it flows.

We have a little raffle to raise funds for things like this newsletter. We buy our own drinks, and our own food, if we want to eat.

We're looking forward to meeting you and hearing your opinions and answering your questions when we can!

Check the East Wilts Lib Dems website for events to let us know you are coming!

www.eastwiltslibdems.org.uk/events

Who are the Lib Dems?

"The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society,

We stand firm on seven core values: liberty, equality, democracy, community, human rights, internationalism, and environmentalism.

Each of these underpin the party's policy proposals.

You can read more about our core values at: www.libdems.org.uk/values

It will tell you a lot about us as a simple explanation of what we want for ourselves, our families, our communities, our country, and our world.

Join us at: www.libdems.org.uk/join-local

Contact Cllr Alan Hagger by:



Phone:
07736 905 951

Email:
alan.hagger@wiltshire.gov.uk

Taking pride in our community

Mayor Laura Knight leads our Town Council



Amesbury is a town with a long history and a strong sense of identity.

Many people care deeply about what happens here, and I want our work to reflect what residents value. This year has been about listening to people, understanding what matters to them, and setting out a clear direction for the future.

One of my first initiatives was to **launch the new five-year Town Council Strategy** which, following consultation, sets out a clear vision for Amesbury. It gives us a shared plan that supports the town's needs and protects what makes Amesbury special.

It focuses on:

- * **Improving local services**, enhancing community assets, including continuing investment in our parks and play areas
- * **Building strong partnerships** that deliver a fantastic programme of events, such as the hugely

successful Solstice Carnival, Christmas Light Switch On, firework night, and much more

- * **Connecting with our communities** and ensuring that everyone feels able to get involved and feels part of our community
- * **Promoting heritage, culture and tourism** in partnership with the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site
- * **Taking positive action on environment and climate challenges** such as our rivers

Much of the important work in Amesbury happens quietly. Volunteers, councillors and local groups give their time to help others and keep things running smoothly. Their efforts make a real difference to everyday life in our town.

I want to thank everyone who supports this work and everyone who shares their views with us. Your involvement guides our decisions and strengthens our community. Amesbury is moving forward with care and purpose, and I'm proud to be part of that progress.

Working behind the scenes

Cllrs Jacqui Lord and Andrew Lord MBE



A well-run council has good governance and financial oversight, and both Jacqui (Amesbury East) and Andrew (Amesbury West) have brought their skills, and their attention to detail, to support Amesbury Town Council.

Jacqui enjoys chairing the Planning Committee, which ensures that planning matters, such as at Solstice Park (see the News column), are thoroughly considered.

Andrew chairs the Finance Committee. He also chaired the Town of Culture bid working group but even though we did not succeed this time, the impressive level of engagement by the community in the bid will inform future ATC strategies and projects.

When not involved in Amesbury Town Council matters they are both passionate football fans!

Do you have an issue that you want the team to look into?

I can help the team...

- ☐ I can help deliver leaflets for the Lib Dems
- ☐ I can donate to help the Lib Dems
- ☐ I will be voting for the Lib Dems
- ☐ I will join the Lib Dems

Can we keep you updated about the Liberal Democrats' campaigns and ways to get involved? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Return this free by putting it in an envelope addressed to:

FREEPOST
Wiltshire
Lib Dems

Or sign up to help online at:

www.eastwiltlibdems.org.uk/volunteer



Please use the space below to let us know...

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In Brief... News

It's all Good News!

A **Solstice Park planning application** to build another distribution centre **was refused by South Wiltshire's Planning Committee on 18th June**, much to the relief of the residents of Beverly Hills Park whose homes are perched above the old railway embankment.

This defeat, with not one vote in favour, will enable the residents to look forward without fear, and enjoy their homes and, for many of them, their retirement.

An excellent outcome for the Beverly Hills residents and our tripartisan Wiltshire Councillor team who fought for its defeat.

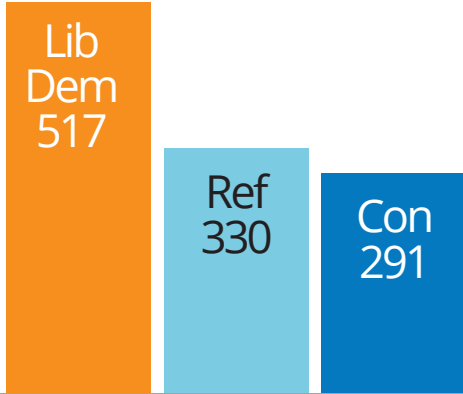
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We are also very pleased to have **Cllr Phil Gorman (Amesbury South) elected as the Town's new Armed Forces Champion.**

His years in the Army will stand him in good stead as he strengthens links with serving personnel, veterans and military families, recognising the important role they play in our community.



It's the Lib Dems or Reform



Wiltshire Unitary Election result in Amesbury South division, May 2025

Local residents here are backing Alan and the Lib Dem team.

Voting for anyone other than the Lib Dems here only helps Reform UK and the Conservatives.