

# FOCUS

Liberal Democrats

## on CHISELDON & RIDGEWAY

*Paid for by voluntary contributions from residents and delivered by volunteers who love our community*



From your Liberal Democrat campaigners Dr Liz Mearns & Calum Murphy  
***Working for you all year round not just at election time***

# THANK YOU!

## SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

As the dust settles after the local elections, it's a good time to reflect.

East Wiltshire stood five candidates across two wards. **Martin Barrett was elected in Wroughton & Wichelstowe** as the sole Liberal Democrat councillor on Swindon Borough Council. It was an incredibly close result for **Stan Pajak** (also standing for Wroughton & Wichelstowe) who missed out by **22 votes**.

Our two great Chiseldon & Ridgeway candidates, Liz Mearns and Calum Murphy, were not elected this time. Importantly, however, the **Lib Dems came second place in both wards to the Conservatives** with Reform in third place. We are the clear contenders to the Conservatives locally with growing momentum and support.

**Thank you to everyone who voted Liberal Democrat.**



Election Success for Martin Barrett

Your support demonstrated that our values have a strong voice in the area. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to speak to us and, whatever their choice, played their part in our local democracy by voting.

**Liberal Democrats have a strong record of delivering for local communities.** Liz and Calum will be working closely with Martin and with Stan. They intend to stay active in the area, listening to residents' concerns and ensuring rural parts of the Borough are represented.

## PROTECT SWINDON'S GREEN FUTURE

**The Liberal Democrats support a series of bold and urgent actions to reduce emissions and cut energy bills.**

Despite this, **tackling climate change** appears slipping down the agenda at a national level – with Labour giving it less priority than promised, the Conservatives going as far as to say that no Conservative candidate can stand in the next general election if they back Net Zero, and Reform UK denying the scale of the challenge.

In Swindon we supported the previous Labour administration's commitment to climate action. The **Build a Greener Swindon Committee** provided oversight and helped drive progress. But the Conservative/Reform UK administration now appears set to scrap this committee and weaken the cross-party commitment to tackling climate change. This risks slowing progress, harming our local environment and missing opportunities to reduce energy bills through renewable sources.

The Council's new governance arrangements will be decided at a **Full Council meeting on 6 August at 7pm**. Before then you can show your support by **signing the petition** at:

[ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=80&RPID=173744595&HPID=173744595](http://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=80&RPID=173744595&HPID=173744595)



### What's next?

Liz and Calum were pleased to have so much support in the ward and learned a lot about people's concerns. Liz and Calum will continue to hear from residents particularly if they feel their issues are not being properly addressed.

Liz is continuing with her volunteer role at **Citizen's Advice in Swindon**, and Calum is taking time to breathe after finishing his A levels! **Calum has been nominated onto our East Wiltshire Liberal Democrat Committee** with a specific role to work with younger voters – particularly as the Government has introduced a Bill to make 16 the voting age for all elections.

Since the local election Liz has contacted Danny Kruger (the MP for East Wiltshire) to make him aware that many of the people she spoke to told her that they were unhappy about his change of allegiance to Reform UK, so soon after being elected as a Conservative MP. Liz also raised people's concerns about his stance on Europe and women's issues. Danny Kruger has responded; but didn't address any of Liz's points directly.

**Please stay in touch with Liz and Calum and thank you again for your support.**



*Please use the QR code to sign the petition...*

### GET IN TOUCH

Got an issue you want the team to look into?



**Dr Liz Mearns**

Lib Dem Campaigner for Chiseldon & Ridgeway  
07976733562  
mearslizld@gmail.com



**Calum Murphy**

Lib Dem Campaigner for Chiseldon & Ridgeway  
info@eastwiltlibdems.org.uk

Scan the QR Code to find out more about the local Lib Dem team...



[www.eastwiltlibdems.org.uk](http://www.eastwiltlibdems.org.uk)



# YOUNGEST CANDIDATE

"In the recent Swindon Borough Council elections, I had the opportunity to stand as a candidate in my local ward of Chiseldon and Ridgeway. **At just 18 years old I was the youngest candidate in the election**, which was both exciting and a little daunting.

**I've always cared about my local area and wanted to make a positive difference**, so standing for election meant a great deal to me. It gave me the chance to experience politics first hand from knocking on doors and delivering leaflets, to campaigning and meeting people from all walks of life.

**Over the course of the campaign I spoke to hundreds of residents** and heard about the issues that matter most to them. Every conversation was different, and I came away with a much better understanding of the challenges people face and the different perspectives they have. It's something that has made me even more determined to stay involved in the community and support local residents wherever I can.



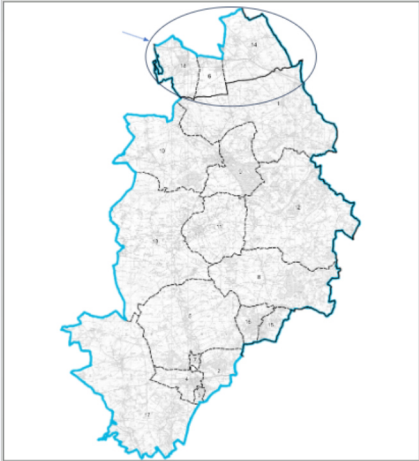
Calum being interviewed by the BBC at the count

**I'm incredibly grateful for everything** I learned during the campaign and for the amazing team who supported me every step of the way. A huge thank you also goes to everyone who took the time to speak to me and especially to those who put their trust in me with their vote.

Although I wasn't elected this time I'm so glad I stood. It was an experience I'll never forget, and it's only strengthened my determination to keep working for my community and speaking up on the issues that matter."

## In Brief... News

### East Wiltshire Constituency Explained



Many residents have asked on the doorsteps why parts of Swindon Borough fall within the **East Wiltshire parliamentary constituency**.

The two boundaries aren't linked. East Wiltshire was **created in 2024** after a national boundary review.

Constituency boundaries change over time so each area has roughly the same population; East Wiltshire and Swindon South **each have about 73,000 residents**.

East Wiltshire stretches from **Witchelstowe, Wroughton, Wanborough and Chiseldon** down through **Marlborough, Pewsey Vale and Amesbury**.

Two of the electoral wards fall under Swindon Borough Council (Wroughton & Wichelstowe, and Chiseldon & Ridgeway) and the remainder (sixteen) fall under Wiltshire Council. **In 2025 the Lib Dems took over the leadership of Wiltshire Council from the Conservatives**.

Its **current MP is Danny Kruger**, elected as a Conservative in 2024 and later joining Reform in 2025.

# LIB DEMS CALL FOR GP GUARANTEE

**Lib Dem councillor Martin is opposing plans for 185 new homes in Wroughton due to pressure on GP services.**

This reflects the national Lib Dem proposal requiring developers to provide or expand GP surgeries upfront and use levies to fund GP salaries as residents move in.

Without this guarantee, extra demand is likely to impact Wroughton Health Centre and Chiseldon's Station House surgery, especially as the approved Wichelstowe Health Centre has yet to begin construction.



Lib Dems are delivering for our community

## Have an issue you want Liz Mearns and the team to look into?

Use the space below to let us know...

Name: .....  
House No: ..... Postcode: .....  
Email: .....  
Telephone: .....

Return this for free by putting it in an envelope addressed to:  
**FREEPOST Wiltshire Lib Dems**  
Or sign up to help online at [www.eastwiltlibdems.org.uk](http://www.eastwiltlibdems.org.uk)



### I can help the team...

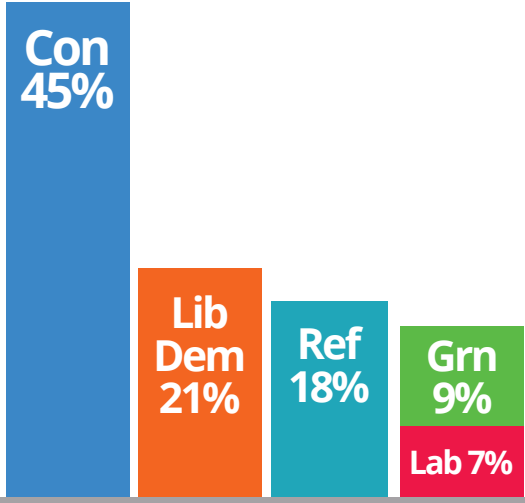
- ☐ I can help deliver leaflets for the Lib Dems
- ☐ I can make a donation to help the Lib Dems
- ☐ I will be voting for the Lib Dems
- ☐ I will join the Lib Dems

Can we keep you updated about the Liberal Democrats' campaigns and ways to get involved?

☐ Yes ☐ No

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## Lib Dems are the main challengers here!



Chiseldon and Ridgeway Average Results Swindon Local Election, May 2026

Turnout was 53%. Every Vote Counts! Voting for anyone other than the Lib Dems here only helps Reform UK and the Conservatives.