

Flintshire Liberal Democrats Members' Newsletter January 2011



This is a new way to connect with members. If you have any ideas for the next edition please contact Bill.

Editor Bill Brereton - billbrereton@btinternet.com

FLINTSHIRE'S ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES

Flintshire Liberal Democrats have chosen their candidates for the Assembly Elections in May. Michele Jones will stand for Delyn. Peter Williams will stand for Alyn & Deeside.



At the meeting on 13th January Flintshire Liberal Democrats challenged the two candidates to present their views to the membership. They then fielded a barrage of questions - good training for hustings!



Michele - who stood as Parliamentary Candidate for Clwyd West last year told us how she came to Liberal Democracy - as a Flint Town Councillor she was impressed with Kirsty Williams, and liked our Manifesto.

Peter Williams gave us his clear views on state funding of education and the health service. He sees himself as a social liberal pragmatist, and intends to enjoy the campaign!

Get ready to give Michele and Peter all the help you can - they will need our support in their campaigns - so get ready!

**Flintshire Liberal Democrats meet at
7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month - come along! Next one is
Thursday, 10th February at the Stamford Gate.**

Follow Flintshire Liberal Democrats on Facebook!!



Could you be a County Councillor? It could be you!



We are looking for dedicated candidates for the 2012 County Council elections. Think about it!!!! Please discuss it with Bill or any of our County Councillors.

THE SCANDAL OF LOST AMBULANCE HOURS

Shocking figures uncovered by the Welsh Liberal Democrats have revealed over NINE THOUSAND hours of emergency ambulance cover are being lost in north Wales hospitals while crews wait to hand patients over to hospital staff. Over the last two years, an outrageous 9,011 hours have been wasted while ambulances are waiting to discharge their patients.

Guidelines set by the Labour Health Minister currently state that the wait to hand over responsibility of a patient to nursing staff should be no longer than 20 minutes, but the target is clearly not being met.

The Welsh Ambulance Service calculates that the cost of a 'lost unit hour' is £76 which means that time wasted in A&E hospitals cost £684,836 over the last two years.

Apart from causing distress to the patient waiting to be transferred to the A&E department, pressure is put on ambulance crews to respond to other emergency calls in the area.

Its the mismanagement of the Labour-Plaid run NHS that's letting staff and patients down".

Veronica German, Welsh Liberal Democrats Shadow Health Minister said: "These figures are absolutely shocking. This proves that there is systemic failure in the way the Welsh NHS handles emergency situations. Month after month, we see that Welsh patients have to wait an unacceptable amount of time for ambulances to respond to emergency call-outs and now we see that ambulances have to wait an unacceptable amount of time to transfer patients and get back on the road to respond to emergency calls.

"On top of the staggering wasted ambulances hours across Wales, it is estimated that over £6 million was lost to the Welsh NHS over the last two years because of queuing ambulances. We should be looking for savings is the NHS not wasting money."