



FOCUS

On Willenhall North

Local Election Special



FROM STUART HODGES AND YOUR WILLENHALL LIB DEM FOCUS TEAM

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Stuart's FIVE pledges to the people of Willenhall North. I will fight to

- ✓ **1** Ensure every child is taught in a local school judged to be good or outstanding by OFSTED.
- ✓ **2** Guarantee a job, a training place or further education place for all 18-24 olds.
- ✓ **3** Ensure all new homes in our town are built to 2050 standards, fit for purpose, and affordable to run whether you rent or buy.
- ✓ **4** Tackle the growing problem of fuel poverty.
- ✓ **5** Reduce the number of victims of crime by a fifth and reduce anti-social behaviour.

Stuart Hodges



- ✓ A proven campaigner
- ✓ A local champion
- ✓ A record of service and action in our community
- ✓ A Willenhall man for Willenhall North

Stuart Hodges
Liberal Democrat Focus Team



Young people priced out of housing market

Young people in Willenhall are being priced out of the housing market by Tory housing policy claims Lib Dem Activist Stuart Hodges.

The Tory Grand Plan is to build 215,000 new homes across the West Midlands by 2030. But just 20% or 43,000 will be affordable. That's around 2,000 per year. "Just how many of these will be for rent?" asks Stuart.

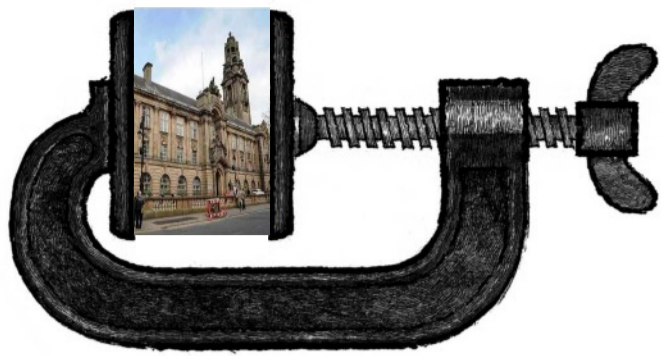
Lib Dem Cllr Ian Shires has demanded that the target of 20% of affordable homes be increased to at least 35% similar to that being set in London. "Is it any wonder that young people in particular feel powerless?"

This election on 2nd May is a golden opportunity for them to send a strong message by kicking the Tories out of Willenhall North." said Ian. "I need Stuart to join me on Walsall Council so we can get a fair deal for our young people."



for a Fairer, Greener, Healthier Willenhall

Tories Squeeze life out of local services



Your Tory Councillors have voted for further cuts to local services whilst at the same time voting for a hike in what you pay in Council Tax just short of 4%. Who was it who said at the Tory Conference last October that austerity was over?

To make matters worse your Tory councillors have supported moves to take money away from keeping district centres such as Willenhall clean and tidy whilst at the same time increasing what is spent on cleaning up Walsall town centre. They have also helped to approve the spending of £250,000 to date on outside consultants for a Walsall Town Centre Masterplan vanity project,

By 2020 Theresa May's Tories will have cut Government Grant Funding to Walsall Council by £200 million as demands for services continue to go through the roof and in spite of her saying that austerity was over.

The gap between what the council spends on essential services such as social care and children's services and what it gets in the form of grants from the government etc. stands at just short of £122 million, that's almost £6.5 million more than last year! It's this gap (£122m) that has to be funded by Council Tax in order to balance the books.

Angry? You have a right to be angry.

On Thursday 2nd May you will have the chance to show local Tory councillors just how angry you are by voting to kick them off the council and out of Willenhall



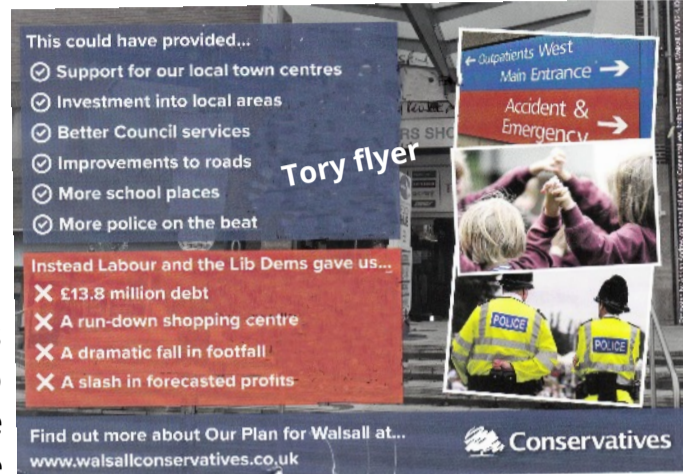
The Saddlers Centre – Doing nothing is not an option!

"The acquisition of the Saddlers Centre provides the Council with a real point of control to proactively support regeneration in the town centre and enhance the key gateways at Station Street, Park Street and Bradford Place. While the loss of M&S was sad to see in August, the opportunity to consider our options for their former space will be explored further by the Walsall Town Centre Master Plan."

This is an extract from a report presented by Cllr Andrew (Con) Deputy Leader of Walsall Council and Cabinet member for Regeneration to a full meeting of Walsall Council in September of last year,

Now I'm sorry but you can't have it both ways. You can't say buying the Saddlers Centre is a good thing in a report to the Council then slag it off in a cheap election flyer full of misleading information shoved through doors ahead of an election.

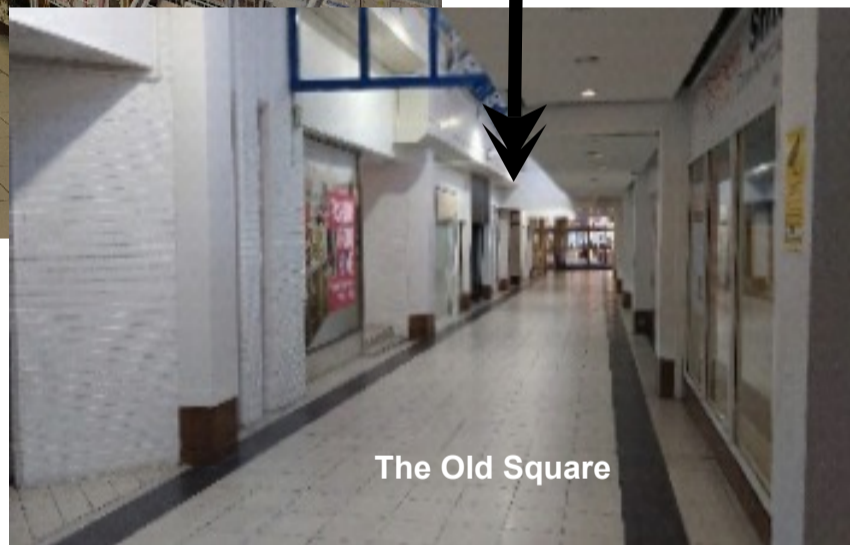
Anyway, doing nothing about the Saddlers Centre is not an option. It is a key gateway into Walsall and you can't leave it to absentee landlords who perhaps see it as nothing more than being a part of their investment portfolio.



Saddlers Centre

To the left, a busy Saddlers Centre owned by the Council.

Below, the privately owned Old Square Centre.



The Old Square

OR

Get in touch with the team



Cllr Ian Shires

Stuart Hodges



ShiresI@walsall.gov.uk



07778 962220



01922 404970



/ian.shires.7



@walsalllibdem

SURGERY every Friday:

Oakwood Lodge, Chaucer Avenue,
Short Heath. 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm

The Hive, The Square, Lichfield Road
New Invention

Every Tuesday 9.30 am to 10.30 am

Write to: Willenhall Lib Dem Focus Team
c/o 23 Lynwood Close
Willenhall WV12 5BW

Remember this date.



It's when you can elect Stuart Hodges to join Cllr Ian Shires representing you on Walsall Council