



Lara in Hertford Supporting Northchurch 20 mph Campaign

Lara was happy to help when asked by members of the Go20 campaign to present their petition - signed by 2160 people - to the March meeting of Herts County Council.

The picture shows Cllr Lara Pringle with Go20 members on the steps of County Hall afterwards. In the background is Lib Dem County Cllr for Tring, Nick Hollinghurst, a campaigner for 20 mph limits for nearly 5 years.

When Lara learned that the obstacle to the 20 mph zone and other safety measures was county council policy, she told Nick she felt the policy was “irrational” because there was no flexibility to deal with particular locations or unusual circumstances.

Nick was keen to support Go20’s bid for a 20 mph zone in Northchurch and he, as a county councillor, was able to table a motion relating to a petition.

He said, “The problem is that it’s not county policy to put 20 mph limits on either “A” or “B” roads in rural areas - like the High Street or New Road. So my motion called for a policy change to permit this in rural areas in exceptional cases - like Northchurch.”

The motion passed with no objections, with the council asking for a policy review with a view to making this necessary relaxation.

Lara Pringle said, “Thanks to Nick’s motion there’s now a chance that HCC will agree in principle to what we want. Then, I’m sure our own local county councillor will be able to find funding to enable a comprehensive scheme to go ahead.”

We say, “The People should have a Final Say on Brexit!”

Any decision taken freely and democratically by a people can be freely and democratically reversed. If that is not the case, then those people are not free and that state is not democratic.

The Liberal Democrats are winning across the UK

Net gains and losses in principal Council by-elections since May 2017

**CON
-25**

**UKIP
-10**

**Green
+4**

**Lab
+7**

**Lib
Dems
+20**



Hertfordshire County Council Update

At the last meeting of the Education, Libraries & Localism Cabinet

Panel, the Lib Dem team voted against Tory plans to outsource Library Service. The Labour Group Leader abstained.

Despite Liberal Democrat protest, the Tories ordered a detailed business case to be made on which they will base their final decision.

Tory government cuts are forcing the County Council to make deep cuts to all of its services, including £1m in the Library Service. The county Tories hope to do this by using a Public Service Mutual (PSM) company to run all the existing libraries.

The Council admits it is a high risk approach as the savings will only happen if the PSM gets charitable status and can reclaim 80% of the business rates that all Libraries pay.

However, a recent consultation showed a majority of both residents and library staff are opposed to these proposals.

Lara Pringle says, "This is a desperate move which exploits a tax loop-hole. Even if the council does set up a PSM with charitable status to get this business rate saving, there’s no guarantee the loop-hole won’t be closed in the future. It’s a risky strategy and they’ll lose direct control over an important, much-loved service. This could be a serious mistake."

Northchurch Parish Council to Change Its Approach

At the Community Centre in May 2017, private developers presented a proposal for 60 homes and 120 parking spaces on the Green Belt by the canal near the New Road bridge. Many parents, including Lara, voiced concerns about the impact of greater volumes of traffic on safety in New Road and the High Street. Since being elected Lara discovered that the Parish Council has held private meetings with the developer to which the public were not invited.

Lara has made it clear that she is not prepared to attend meetings with private developers which are not open to the public. Northchurch Parish Council has now decided that no decisions will be made at meetings with developers and that minutes will be taken and published.

Lara says, “ Transparency and accountability are the keystones of democracy at all levels.”

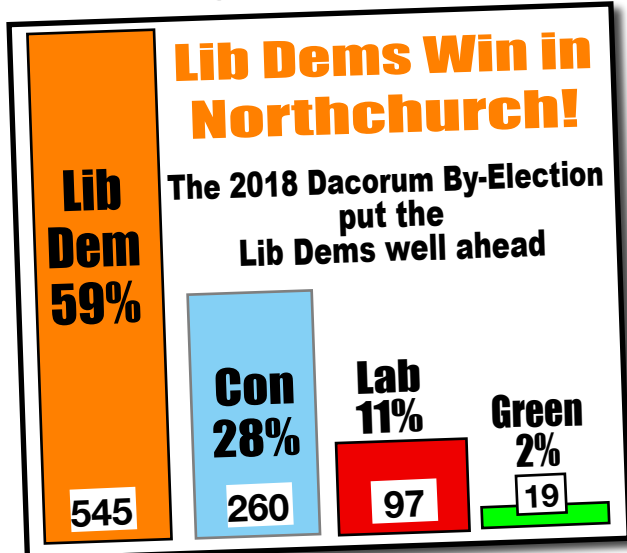
Northchurch Democrat



Thank You!

Tring and Berkhamsted Lib Dem Website: <https://tringlibdems.org> Editorial Team: Nick Hollinghurst and Lara Pringle. Contact Lara on larapringle@yahoo.co.uk or via Facebook page fb.me/LibDemLara or phone 876234

“Thank you - for the Massive Vote of Confidence”



Councillor Lara Pringle - now elected to DBC and to Northchurch Parish Council



Lara says,

“I am very grateful that so many of you have put your trust in me. It is a great honour to have been chosen to represent you at Dacorum Borough and to speak for you on the Parish Council.

“Meeting people in Northchurch in the campaign was a real pleasure and I hope to get to know even more of you over the coming months. I will listen to your ideas, take on board your suggestions and do my best to help. I will stand up for Northchurch and work with others to achieve what is best for the whole community. When you need help, I want you to know that I am approachable and will do all that I can for you.

I’ve met many interesting and welcoming residents during the campaign and I feel that the people of Northchurch are its most valuable asset. I look forward to serving you all.”

County Cllr Nick Hollinghurst, who advised Lara on highways issues, said,

“Lara Pringle is a local parent with a legal background and 25 years experience in public service. She will be able to represent you effectively and to make the case for Northchurch.

These by-elections were taken seriously and showed the strength of support for Lara and the Lib Dems. We will do our best to live up to that responsibility.”



Four New Houses at an Already Cluttered Junction

Lara is supporting local residents who are opposing a proposal for a backland development with a shared driveway opposite the Dudswell Lane junction with Tring Road (to the right of the van in the picture).

Lara explains, “the existing driveway currently serves one property, but with an application to build 4 additional dwellings, each with 3 parking spaces, up to 15 cars could use this junction. This is right opposite the single track entrance to the *Home from Home*

Kindergarten and the tricky angle into Dudswell Lane.”

Lara, who used the Kindergarten herself several years ago and knows how busy the entrance is at peak times, said, “Children as young as 11 travelling to and from school will be crossing to use the bus stops - and in the winter this could be in poor lighting. Due to limited footpaths there is only a small area where the children can cross the road - right beside the new access route. This crossing point is already dangerous with children having to cross double white lines, as the road bends away in each direction.”

Lara has backed the local residents’ request to have the matter heard by the DBC Planning Committee. She concluded, “It’s important that local residents feel their voices are being heard, particularly where safety of children on the roads is concerned.”