

WELCOMING A NEW FACE

David Wulff is hoping to join your Liberal Democrat Town and District Councillors after the May 2021 by-elections. David is a local businessman who has lived and worked in Castle Ward for 21 years.

He is already working with your existing Councillors **Irene Hill** and **Ben Holdman**, and will bring experience

from nearly two decades of developing and growing successful businesses to the team. In addition to working for you he is also keen to pursue reform of the broken governance system at Mid Devon Council to improve transparency, fairness and accountability in local decision making.

Facebook: [wulff.castle](https://www.facebook.com/wulff.castle) Website: davidwulff.co.uk



David meets Cllr's Hill & Holdman outside the Tiverton Town Hall

WHERE ARE THE NEW TIVERTON HIGH SCHOOL PLACES?

In June, Petroc filed a planning application for 60 new houses on the land behind College View and bordering Bolham Road.

Residential development there is not included on the agreed Local Plan, and was in a location that could compromise the long overdue new High School and Community Theatre planned for adjacent land.

Cllr Ben Holdman of Castle Ward has been asking the important questions about local school provisions, road and pedestrian infrastructure, to prevent local services being overstretched. After receiving many objections, including one from Cllr Holdman, the planning application was withdrawn.

Whilst this is a good outcome for the residents of Castle Ward, it highlights the problem we face with new housing but no new additional school places.



Cllr Ben Holdman is fighting for you in Castle Ward!

"NO" TO DORMITORY TOWNS FOR EXETER

The risk of unsuitable housing over-development without the provision of new services and infrastructure to support it is an ongoing problem.

Recently Mid Devon Council was forced to abandon the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP), which could have seen thousands of new houses built across Mid Devon communities with little thought given to local services, forcing residents to travel into Exeter for jobs.

The new Conservative-led Cabinet are still pursuing joint housing plans with neighbouring authorities based on the model left by the failed GESP. This will lead to more speculative planning applications like the one by Petroc and further increase demand for school places. **Where is the new school?**



TOWN LEAT NEWS

We are extremely lucky to have the wonderful historic Tiverton Leat fall within our Ward.

However it has numerous, longstanding problems that will take time and money to sort out before it flows again. We are not prepared to allow the Leat to be lost to the citizens of Tiverton and **Cllr Irene Hill** has been working hard with other interested parties to organise a plan and funding to repair and save it. She is delighted to report that at long last the Weir at Chettiscombe will be fixed.

This is only the start, and there is still plenty more work to do. **Watch this space to hear further news on the Leat and how you can help in the efforts to get it running again.**

Cllr Irene Hill working at Chettiscombe





▶ FOCUS

CHANGES AT MID DEVON CABINET

At the end of August the Leader of Mid Devon Council sacked all four Liberal Democrat members from the Cabinet. This was in retaliation for the entire Cabinet voting to withdraw from the failed Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) which the Leader supported, and the Liberal Democrats putting forward a motion to continue to work towards

the good goals of the plan, whilst abandoning those that would harm Mid Devon communities.

These sackings were a nakedly political action to purge all Liberal Democrats from the Cabinet, which was confirmed by the Leader of the Council in a public meeting on 30th September attended by **Cllr Ben Holdman, Cllr Irene Hill** and with questions asked by **David Wulff**.

The four Liberal Democrat members were immediately replaced with Conservative Party members, under terms that were pre-agreed in a private meeting before the vote.

Whilst it is technically lawful for the

Leader to replace the Cabinet at will, these circumstances and his actions bring the need for reform of the broken governance system at Mid Devon—a key Liberal Democrat goal—starkly into public view.

At the September meeting a **Vote of No Confidence in the Leader** was called with 13 votes for, 18 against and 5 abstentions. It was disturbing that 50% of the Councillors present were unable to back the Leader.

The new Conservative-controlled Cabinet currently comprises: four Conservative Party, three Independent and one Green Party members.

LETTER FROM COUNCILLOR IRENE HILL

These past few months have been a testing time for us all. We have a fantastic supportive community, and I know that by looking out for each other we will get through this together.

As many of you will know, I felt deep regret when I resigned my position as one of your two Liberal Democrat District Councillors earlier this year. This was not an easy decision for me. I have lost considerable eyesight following treatment for eye cancer and was left unable to access information or access the support needed due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

I am fortunate to be able to continue as your Town Councillor, and will continue to work hard for you both on the Town Council and in our community.

As residents in Castle Ward you voted for me to win one of the District seats in 2019 which is now vacant. I ask you to please continue to support me and vote for our new candidate in the forthcoming by-election in May 2021.

This is all the more important as I was a member of the Governance working party. I wanted to investigate models of Governance that could make Mid Devon Council work more democratically and inclusively with its 42 Councillors.

This is still a Liberal Democrat goal and I urge you to continue to support us during this term and beyond. **Let us prove that we do try and achieve what we say.**

Irene Hill



Irene being prepared for Proton Beam Therapy with specialists at Clatterbridge Hospital, Liverpool

MORE INFORMATION

Please get in touch if you have a query or an issue that you want us to consider, would like to become a registered Liberal Democrat supporter or member, help with local campaigning, or make a donation.

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You can find us on Facebook where we post regular updates on local issues affecting Castle Ward and Tiverton. **f CastleWard**

ONLINE SERVICES

Did you know that most Council services can be used and managed online?

🏠 devon.gov.uk
🏠 middevon.gov.uk
🏠 tivertontowncouncil.gov.uk

Liberal
Democrats

f TivertonHonLibDems
libdems.org.uk/get-involved