

Cotswolds Liberal Democrats

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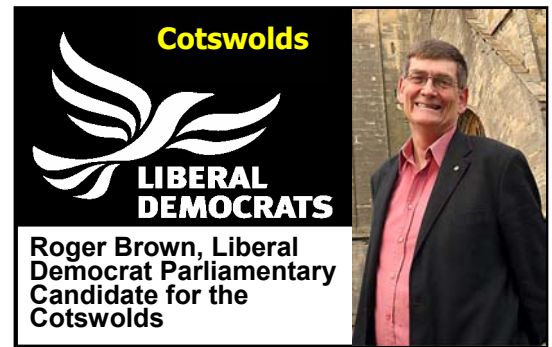
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Roger Calls for Real Recycling in the Cotswolds

- Councillor calls for plastics recycling at the kerbside throughout the Cotswolds.
- "Householders keen to do their bit are let down by this shambolic waste service".
- Plastics recycling roadshow in Cirencester this Saturday.

Following the bizarrely mishandled roll-out of the new waste collection service by Cotswold District Council, Roger Brown, LibDem green spokesman at Shire Hall (and Cirencester County Councillor) is calling for an immediate halt to land-filling of hundreds of tonnes of potentially recyclable plastics each week - now a main component of the 'micro-chipped' grey bin waste now going straight to landfill. He calls for a step change to 'Real' Recycling- not the half-hearted effort we are being asked to support

Roger said:-

"Although many people are still shell-shocked by the difficulties of the new waste collection, and the streets are awash with uncollected black bag waste and bins, many residents who have contacted me to complain about CDC have been under the impression that at least plastic bottles and wrappings in the grey bins are being recycled, as they are keen to 'do their bit'. This is totally wrong. If we continue to landfill plastics in order to save money in the short term, we not only use precious landfill space, but risk huge fines of up to £150 a tonne in the next few years for falling below government targets, which will be then added to our council tax charges. The additional cost of kerbside plastics collection will seem small change compared with these fines".

CDC repeatedly rejects kerbside recycling of plastics on cost grounds, but in nearby Stroud plastic bottles are already collected at the roadside. This pattern is continued throughout Gloucestershire, where each district council, which is in charge of collection only, has vastly different rules about what they will recycle. This is also leading to a threat by the County of a giant incinerator to burn the plastic and other rubbish rather than recycling and reducing our waste"

Roger said *"its a barmy situation where each district does its own thing with different contractors and the county has to dispose of the waste and charge the public. Surely we should be joined-up and have a single type of collection throughout the county, particularly as Tories run all the authorities except Cheltenham. Other counties already achieve up to 50% recycling and many have joined-up waste authorities where county and district work in partnership. We stagger along at 36%"*

To give the public a chance to demonstrate support for doorstep plastics recycling, Liberal Democrats are holding a series of plastics recycling roadshows. The first is in Cirencester this Saturday 12th by the Parish Church 10-30 -12-30 and the public are urged to bring a token plastic bottle to recycle and sign the petition (sorry- we can at present find no way to recycle other plastics!). They can also sign online at WWW.COTSWOLDLIBDEMS.ORG.UK.

Roger Brown