



From your local **Liberal Democrat** team

What does Lucy Care do as a councillor?

(When she's not off somewhere on her bicycle!)

Lucy Care has lots of personal interests - from family and craftwork to gardening, reading and walking - but the Council and politics has rather taken over her life. So what does she actually do?

Lucy says "If the world, Derby and Littleover, were the places I wanted them to be I'd not be in politics. I'm a chartered engineer, and that was my first love."

Lucy is motivated by concerns about equality, the environment and opportunity for all. Which are all key strands running through **Liberal Democrat** thinking. She wants individuals, and communities, to be empowered and to be the best they can. High ideals!



Lucy Care has stood for Parliament several times, coming second in 2005 and needed only 2260 more votes to win in 2010.

Lucy Care isn't alone:

Lucy is just one in a number of teams. For example, she is:

- One of the three Littleover councillors
- One of Derby's nine **Lib Dem** councillors
- One of thousands of active **Lib Dems** across the country

Lucy is also active in a lots of local organisations, from Friends of Littleover Parks, Derby Climate Coalition, Derby Quakers and more.

More help is always needed...

Lib Dems win by working with people. The bigger the team, the more they can do.

Liberal Democrat members and supporters welcome other volunteers to work with them.

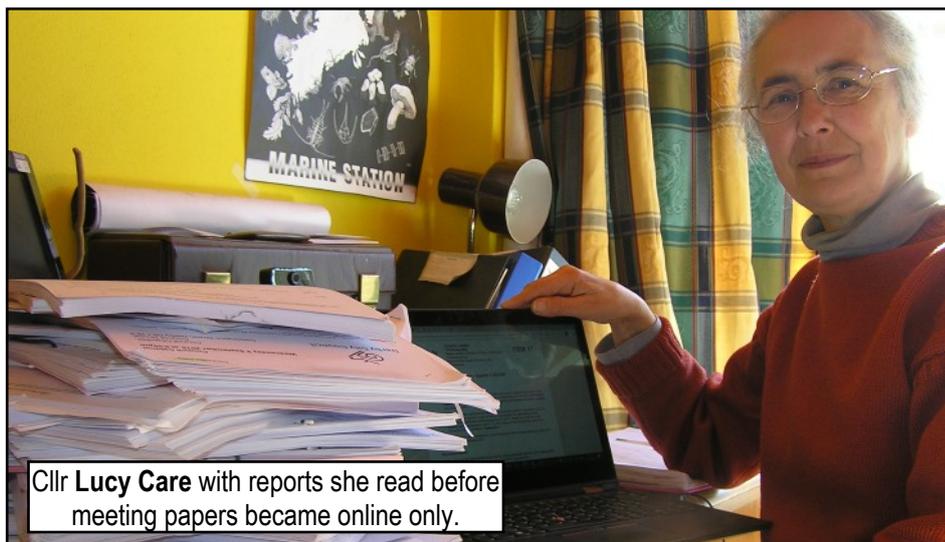
If you'd like to get more involved, do get in touch by phone 01332-721291, email littleover@derbylibdems.org.uk or sign up nationally at: www.libdems.org.uk/supporter



Lucy is...

Part of the Council..

Lucy Care is one of 51 councillors overseeing how Council services are delivered. Currently the largest Group on the Council is the Conservatives. Although they don't have half the councillors, they have all the seats on the powerful Executive or 'Cabinet' which most directly oversees how staff run the Council.



Lucy is one of nine councillors in the **Liberal Democrat**

Group. Opposition parties, and Conservative councillors not in the Cabinet, sit on different committees and boards.

Lucy is a member of

- Audit and Governance Committee,
- Executive Scrutiny Board and
- Planning Control Committee.

She is also a member of the Littleover Neighbourhood Committee, with the other Littleover councillors, the Lib Dems 'Climate Champion' and the 'Cycling Champion'.

If you want Lucy to go on being a councillor, you need to vote for her on 5th May...*

*Or sooner, if have a postal vote.

Lots of reading...

Until Covid, reports and other items to be discussed at meetings were sent on paper for councillors to read before the meeting. Now web links are emailed out. The amount to be read can be just as daunting!

Lucy Care said "Reading these papers helps one know what is going on. I also finds it prompts questions. At almost every meeting I'm asking questions and making suggestions."

There are some recent examples below.

Meeting	Action requested	Result
Exec Scrutiny	To reduce road construction waste by reusing road and footway material when resurfacing.	Cabinet accepted this in principle.
Exec Scrutiny	To have an annual report on infrastructure projects (like ward highway priorities).	Cabinet accepted. This should now happen.
Audit & Governance	To consider the impact of energy price rises on the Council, and what can be done.	To be considered for later in 22/23 Internal Audit work.
Planning	Soundproof materials and extra electric charging points for the new Royal Derby Hospital car park.	Conditions to include these points to be agreed.
Exec Scrutiny	To ask schools to start preparing plans to be 'zero carbon' by 2035.	

Lucy does... For the Council...

The Council appoints people to other organisations, usually for committee roles. **Lucy Care** is on:

- Derby Homes
- Derby Museums
- Derbyshire Pension Fund

Like Council meetings, all of these also have lots of reading to do...

Lucy said "One of the best training courses the Council sent me to was on speed reading!"

If you want Lucy to be able to do this, you need to vote for her on 5th May...*

*Or preferably sooner, if you have a postal vote.

Lucy writes:

"I really value learning more about these other organisations and being part of their decision-making. I urge them to share more of what they are doing, as all of them have good news to share." For example:

Derby Homes are well on the way to having all their properties well-insulated, well ahead of Government targets and far better than many privately owned homes. Work being planned for **Bretton Avenue** is part of this.

Derby Homes now lead on homelessness for the Council. **Lucy** has recently been asked for her thoughts on a new funding scheme, working with local charities, to provide extra support for people who are or have been homeless.



Lucy Care has encouraged Derby Homes to install more solar panels, like those on many **Bretton Avenue** homes, most of which are Council-owned.



Lucy Care by the iconic Silk Mill one of the three museums cared for by Derby Museums.

Derby Museums are doing amazing work with young people and diverse communities, as well as having redesigned the Silk Mill into the brilliant Museum of Making.

Derby Museums engage with lots of volunteers and help strengthen the city's economy, with schemes like last year's 'Ram Trail'.

Derby's three museums are all free to visit. Funding from the Council has reduced, so donations are increasingly important.

Derbyshire Pension Fund's Pensions and Investments Committee looks after the pension interests of Council employees and retirees. This area of finance - with over £6 billion of assets - is a very different scale of activity.

Lucy often speaks in support of engaging with companies to improve their 'social, environmental and governance'. This (in general) also improves their financial performance so is a win-win situation. At the last meeting she encouraged engagement with the few companies which have assets in Russia to try to influence the Ukraine war.

Lucy is...

For people...

What matters locally is often the most important to most people. It's where we live.

Lucy Care is often seen around on her bicycle and on foot (though she also has a car, and drives). People often stop her to ask questions, to let her know of problems or to share suggestions.

The all-year-round Focus newsletters are full of the ideas and concerns that people raise with **Lucy** and other members of the **Focus** team.

Thanks go to everyone who takes the time to get in touch.

If you want **Lucy** to go on working like this, you need to vote for her on 5th May...*

*Or if possible sooner, if you have a postal vote.

Helping you...

The Council and the Government fill our lives with rules that have to be followed. These are designed to help, but sometimes add to pressure and challenge.

When processes are failing, or things get too much, people get in touch with their councillors.

Lucy deals with queries from all areas of the Council, such as:

- School issues,
- Housing and homelessness,
- Planning applications,
- Social services, and more.

Sometimes a listening ear, explaining the system, finding an email address or phone number is all that is needed. At other times she is able to get answers or un-jam the system.

Personal questions like this are dealt with in confidence, and not (usually) suitable for Focus.

Sometimes a personal question opens up a wider issue, or trying to get the answer highlights the system needs changing. Lucy will then try to do something about that 'bigger' problem.

On the right is an example:

“Will I lose my 25% single person Council Tax discount if I take in a Ukrainian refugee?”

The Council's original answer was 'yes', as refugees are not a category (like children or students) to be 'disregarded' for Council Tax.

Lib Dems locally set up a petition to change this in Derby, and **Lucy** requested a petition on the Government's petitions website to do the same nationally.

The national petition was rejected as by the time it was considered a Cabinet Member had implied in a speech that there would be no change to Council Tax status.

There was still no formal change to Council Tax rules. **Lucy** asked **Lib Dem MP Tim Farron** to find out more. A formal written question in parliament confirm the intention. Councils had still not been officially told.

The Parliamentary Petitions team then accepted a petition asking for the formal change to happen.

Before it had gained many signatures, Councils were promised a letter to formally disregard Ukrainians in the Government scheme for Council Tax purposes...

The petition page that **Lucy Care** setup.

petition page

Ensure households housing refugees do not lose the 25% single person discount

People who live alone (or are treated as living alone) can get a 25% discount on their Council Tax. Some will have spare rooms that can be used by refugees.

The Government must take action to ensure that councils are not affected by housing refugees.

More details

Sign this petition

73 signatures

Show on a map

10,000

Success!
Even with few signatures

Lib Dems - Working hard all year round

