

WE LOVE

WINTER 2023

OXFORDSHIRE



A local champion

Charlie is working to get a fair deal for Western Oxfordshire



Taking on Thames Water

Safeguarding our local rivers and streams

NO MORE WAITING

It's time to fix our local NHS

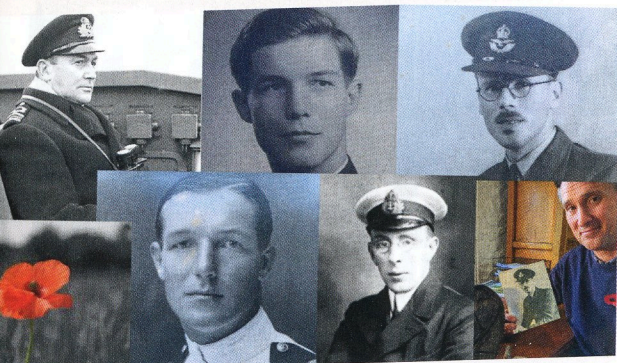
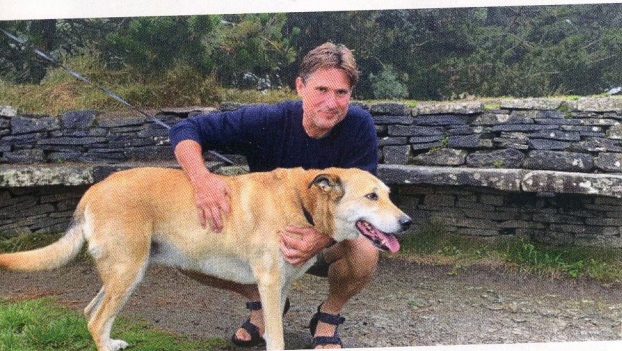
CHARLIE

MAYNARD



The man tipped to be our next local MP

THE BIG INTERVIEW



Charlie Maynard

THE HARD WORKING CHOICE AS WEST OXFORDSHIRE'S NEXT MP

Charlie Maynard is a man driven by a desire to help people.

That much is clear to us as we sit down with him at his home near Stanton Harcourt, where he is a local councillor.

“My father, grandfather, uncles and great uncle risked their lives fighting for our country. I’m not running the risks they did, but we’ve got huge challenges today, both nationally and locally. I’m standing to be an MP because I want to play my part in solving them.”

Charlie bounced back from breaking his neck aged 18 to found a world-leading business just seven years later.

Charlie’s life story is a reflection of a man not afraid of hard work and adversity.

Aged 18, Charlie broke his neck and spent six months in and out of hospital. Just seven years later, Charlie started his own company, which went on to employ over 100 people around the world and become a leader in its field.

“I’ve faced challenges, both in life and in business,” says Charlie, “I want to use that experience to our community’s advantage.”

In 2021, Charlie stepped back from his business to



All about Charlie...

Lives:

In Stanton Harcourt, with his wife, Sophie, and their three children.

Professional experience:

Studied Geography at Oxford University. Aged 25, he set up a business which he grew to include over 100 colleagues across nine offices around the world.

Helping those in need:

When the refugee crisis accelerated in 2015, Charlie's family took in Syrian refugees, who lived with them for a year. They also took in two Ukrainian students last year.

Hobbies:

Charlie loves the outdoors and nature, swimming in rivers and running along muddy footpaths

focus full time on helping his local community. He became a local councillor and started work on his biggest project yet, campaigning to bring back the train line linking Oxford, Witney and Carterton.

"I went out in my hiking boots and running shoes, scouting where the rail line used to run and figuring out how it could be re-routed to avoid places that have been built up."

"Sitting in traffic for hours on the A40 is no fun," says Charlie. "The additional 4 miles of bus lane, planned by the Conservatives at a price tag of £180 million, is not a long-term solution,

Charlie is campaigning to restore the train line that used to link Oxford, Witney and Carterton.

and possibly not even a short-term one." As the Chair of Witney Oxford Transport Group, Charlie persuaded Oxfordshire County Council to fund a feasibility study which shows that the benefits will be outweigh the costs by nearly four times.

As our interview comes to a close, we ask Charlie what he'd bring to our area as its next MP.

"I believe in hard work, in trusting people and working as a team to solve problems. I'm focused on what unites rather than what divides us. The Conservatives have made bad decisions and taken our area for granted for too long. I will work hard for the good of everyone."

Our local NHS is on life support

There is no issue closer to the hearts of local residents than our NHS. Years of underinvestment, cuts to local services and GP shortages have left people worried for the future.

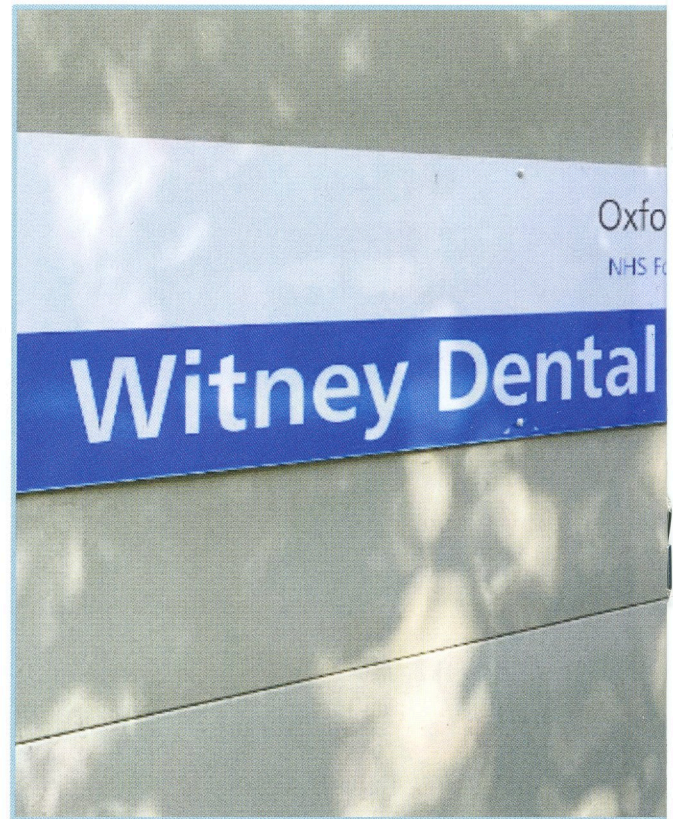
Local Lib Dem candidate Charlie Maynard has made the NHS a top campaigning priority.

“The NHS is on its knees and that’s making life miserable and scary. Hard working staff are doing their best, but people we love are waiting weeks and weeks for life-or-death operations. We have dire access to mental health, to social care services and to dentistry. In our constituency there’s not a single NHS dental surgery accepting new patients and even if you are on the list it’s typically a six month wait. Carterton has only 1.5 NHS

““ People we love are waiting weeks and weeks for life-or-death operations

dentists for nearly 20,000 people”.

“Having been in power for 13 years, the Conservatives are responsible for this. Their mismanagement of the NHS is damaging our nation’s health and has led to 7.5 million people being on a waiting list. Our healthcare service should be the envy of the world, but the Conservatives are letting us down,” said Charlie.



Patients in Witney are struggling to get a dentist, forcing many to have to travel to other areas.

Charlie says that access to GPs and dentists and the stress and uncertainty of being able to get to the JR and Churchill for appointments come up time and again when he’s out listening to voters on the doorstep.

“Residents are frustrated that something as simple as getting a dentist appointment in good time is now too close to impossible, and yet the government isn’t willing to do anything about it.”

“It just adds to people’s sense that the Conservatives are taking them for granted - Conservative MPs expect residents to ignore the massive drop in local services and still vote them in again.”

With Labour and the Green Party finishing so far behind last time in our constituency, Charlie knows that the hopes of those who want to see the NHS taken seriously rest on his shoulders.

“The choice at the next election will be a vote for myself and fixing the NHS, or a vote for the Conservative candidate and continued inaction. Labour and the Green Party cannot win here,” Charlie said.



appointments with their local NHS doctors
to costly private care.

Carterton's dentist crisis in numbers

13,000
patients

FOR EVERY 1
NHS DENTIST



RECIPE

CORNER



Charlie Maynard's 'Henry Hedgehog' Recipe

Our family birthday cake! It's the cake we always had growing up and my kids insist on having it now, too. The recipe went global after my sister, Alex, put it into the Leon cookbook she designed. Fortunately, it's very easy to make. One bonus: you only need three Smarties which means you have the rest of the packet left over to gobble.

Ingredients:

- 12 oz (350g) digestive biscuits, crumbled
- 12 oz (350g) chocolate, melted
- 4 oz (125g) butter, melted
- 3 eggs
- 3 oz (75g) sugar
- 4 oz (125g) flaked almonds
- 3 Smarties

Method:

Beat the eggs in a large bowl. Add the melted butter, followed by the melted chocolate and then, finally, the digestive biscuits (which you've crumbled with your hands into small pieces). Line a cake tin with cling film and pour in the gooey mixture. Leave in the fridge until it's almost set. When it's ready, shape on a wooden board into a hedgehog shape. Use the almonds to make the spikes and the Smarties to make the eyes and nose. Et voilà!

A NEW VISION FOR OUR AREA



By Charlie Maynard
Liberal Democrat
candidate for Witney

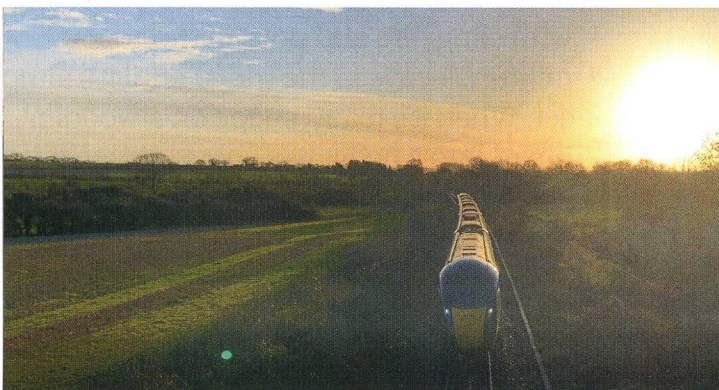
Western Oxfordshire is beautiful. We've got the Cotswolds, the Vale, lovely rivers and stunning historic towns. These are unique places that attract tourists from around the world. We also have the wonderful city of Oxford, an economic powerhouse, down the road.

That economic dynamism creates jobs but also puts enormous pressure on our district, particularly when it comes to housing and transport. We need to stop putting down thousands of unaffordable houses when we don't have the health, school, sewage or transport infrastructure to support them.

We need a viable long-term plan which addresses these problems. Since taking leadership of West Oxfordshire District Council last May, we've cut the ludicrously high housing targets set by the Tories—10,000 houses in ten years—in half. We need to explore a viable long-term alternative which provides fast, reliable, clean public

transportation. Witney is one of the largest towns in the country without a rail link. To that end, I've worked my socks off exploring the restoration of a railway between Oxford, Witney and Carterton. I persuaded Oxfordshire County Council to fund the feasibility study which shows that the benefits to the area are 3.7x greater than the costs. My view is that we should, for the most part, be building the houses we so urgently need around railway stations, and making sure these new homes are truly affordable and secure for local people.

That's my vision for this area, one that embraces both its economic realities and housing needs with preserving its natural and historic beauty. If you have better ideas, let's talk about it. But one thing is clear: the ad hoc, hand-to-mouth approach isn't working. We need a vision and then we need to work together to make it a reality.

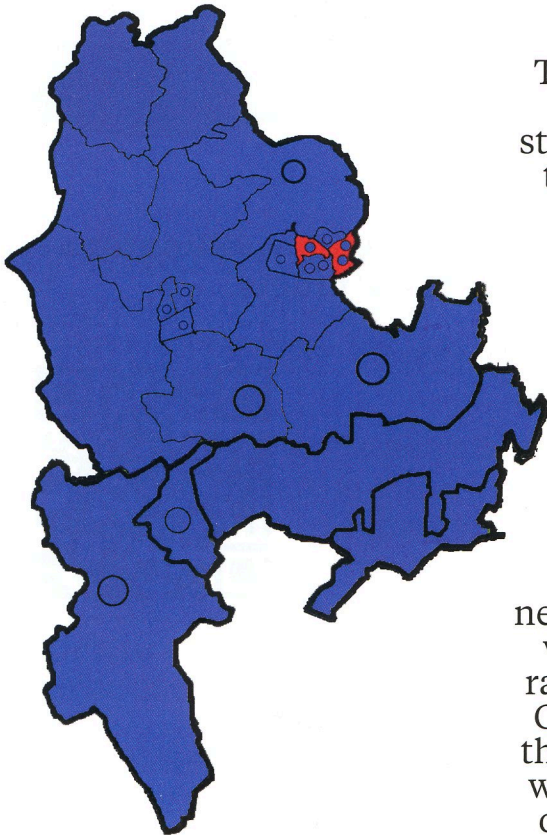


Lib Dem Charlie Maynard is the challenger to the Conservatives in the new Witney Constituency

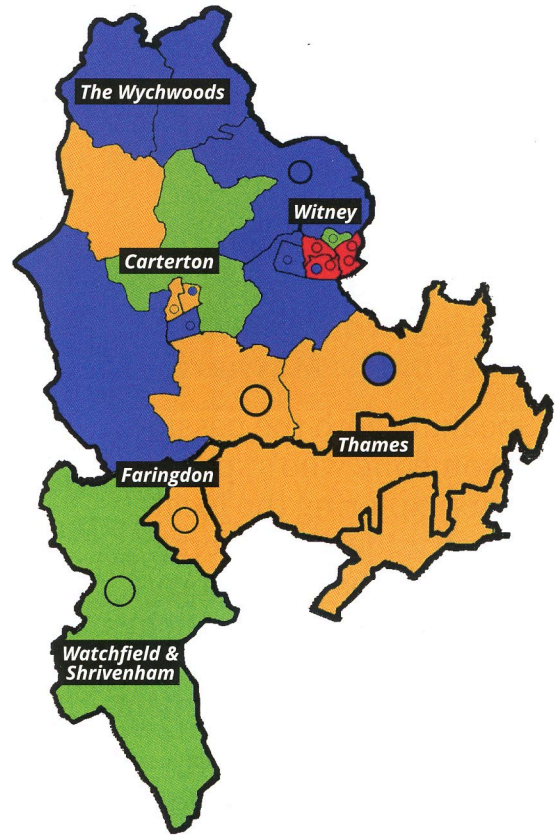
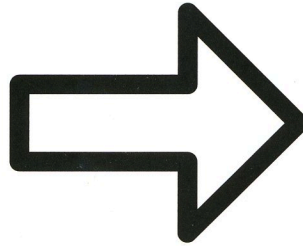
2015

District Council

2023



Two areas of growing Liberal Democrat strength have been put together to form the new Witney constituency



It's clear that at the next general election, it will be a really close race between Lib Dem Charlie Maynard and the Conservative Party who have been taking our area for granted.

It's so close here:

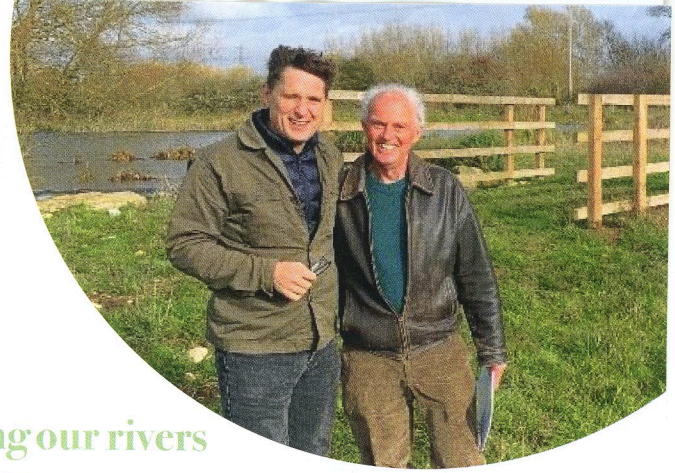
Total votes across the new Witney constituency in the most recent district council elections



We need your help. Please get in touch, join our team, or cheer us on with a poster at election time:
OXONLD.UK/GET-INVOLVED
contact.witney@oxonlibdems.uk



Protecting our rivers



Charlie Maynard speaks about the sewage plaguing our rivers and streams - and what he will do to fight for change.

“Thames Water are endlessly dumping sewage in our rivers,” says Charlie Maynard.

Speaking with the passion of someone who’s spent years exploring the local countryside, the Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate pulls no punches in his defence of West Oxfordshire’s environment.

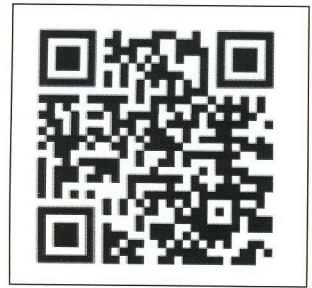
“We’re taking Thames Water to task. We’ve worked closely with Windrush Against Sewage Pollution (WASP) to force Thames Water to improve and share their data so we can see the extent of the problems and we’ve changed planning rules so that Thames Water have to increase their sewage treatment capacity before adding more housing,” Charlie explains.

“We still have a long way to go. Water companies are profit-seekers, and with no one keeping an eye on them, they will get away with everything they can. Now, with government’s help, they’re trying to make us, the consumers, pay for their greed and mistakes over the past three decades. The overall picture is

Charlie Maynard has launched a petition calling for a “Sewage Tax” on water companies’ profits.

terrible, with Thames Water unwilling to spend what’s needed to clear up the problem and our MP repeatedly voting to let them continue to dump sewage.”

Charlie has launched his own campaign to put a stop to Thames Water dumping sewage into local rivers which has already attracted the support of hundreds of local residents. “If you, too, think that Thames Waters’ behaviour is unacceptable, then please sign my petition,” Charlie said.



**Back
Charlie’s
campaign
at:**

oxonld.uk/charlie/stop-sewage

