

# South Norfolk Chronicle

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**Election Special**  
**1 May 2003**

# SCRAP THE TAX

## Lib Dems call for an end to Council Tax

The dramatic rise in this year's Council Tax is attracting criticism right across the country. Everywhere people are saying it is time to scrap the Tax and come up with a fairer system of raising money to pay for local services.

### Tory County rise nudges 16%

Here in South Norfolk, the total Council Tax is going up by a massive 15%! The increase in the Liberal Democrat controlled district council's share is much lower, just 2.2% or less than inflation. Unfortunately, that is not the whole story. The Tories at County Hall are putting up their share, which makes up more than three-quarters of the total, by 15.9% and the police authority increase is even higher at 21.5%!

Much of the reason for this big rise lies in the way government grants are shared out. A new distribution formula has been introduced this year. Norfolk in general has suffered badly from these changes as central funds are switched away from councils in the south of the country to others in the north. Luckily, South Norfolk has fared better than many other areas.

### Local Income Tax "fairer"

The big increases have called into question the whole basis on which local councils are forced to raise their income. For many years Liberal Democrats have campaigned for a big shake up. They want to see two changes. Councils should be able to raise more of their funds locally, with a matching reduction in national taxation and Council Tax should be replaced with Local Income Tax. Ian Mack, South

Norfolk's Lib Dem Parliamentary Spokesperson said, "Local Income Tax would be much fairer for everyone and also very easy to collect. By linking the amount charged to each person's ability to pay it would help pensioners and those on low incomes."

Surprisingly, both the Conservatives, who only introduced Council Tax in a panic move to replace the dreaded Poll Tax, and the current Labour government seem quite happy to continue with the current system.

**"It is totally unfair because council tax is not calculated on an ability to pay but on where you live. For people on fixed incomes it is extremely unfair."**

Jim Wilson,  
 Chairman, Norfolk Police Authority  
*Eastern Daily Press, 4 February 2003*

The pressure is growing. Will the government listen? Add your support to the campaign by signing the petition below.



South Norfolk Council Leader, Richard Carden, and Cabinet member Jane Mackie, discuss the rise in Council Tax

### SCRAP THE TAX!

**YES**

I support the Liberal Democrats' plans to scrap the Council Tax and replace it with a fair alternative

Name	Address	Email address

Return to South Norfolk Liberal Democrats, Freepost NC783, Norwich NR15 2ZX

The Liberal Democrats may contact you from time to time to keep you informed on issues we think you may find of interest. Please let us know if you do not want the information above to be used for this purpose.