

Fed up with today's politics and politicians?

Vote **SAM CROOKS**  
for a different approach

and a  
**FAIRER, SAFER, CLEANER,  
GREENER**  
**Milton Keynes**



**Focus # 394.** Nine issues per year since 1979. Not just at election time

**WE MAKE YOU TWO PROMISES**



**Sam, Kerrie & Uroy**  
The **Focus** team



**TO KEEP IN TOUCH**

Asking you what **YOU** think. Trying to achieve what **YOU** want. Reporting back in **Focus**. Being honest where we don't agree, or can't deliver.



**TO GET THINGS  
DONE, LIKE:**



The speedy removal of graffiti, an eyesore in our city



Our monthly Oakgrove litter picks,

**A resident emails:**

Firstly I'd like to thank the Focus team for all their continued efforts to resolve local issues and for being the first port of call for most residents. Your continued commitment to the local area does not go unnoticed and I have regularly seen you all out in all weathers serving your local community - a great effort and that is why in the upcoming elections you will receive my full support.

**WHY I WANT YOU TO VOTE FOR ME**



- I believe in a different kind of politics, based on what communities want, and not traditional party politics.
- I hate all the mud-slinging on the Council (and nationally) - instead, we should be proud of our city.
- This is the future I want - to maintain our green spaces, to improve our congested roads and to build affordable homes for our children.
- You see me around, and hear from me regularly in **Focus** or facebook.
- I'm one of a great team, backed by Kerrie Bradburn & Uroy Clarke. You're voting for the team as well as me.

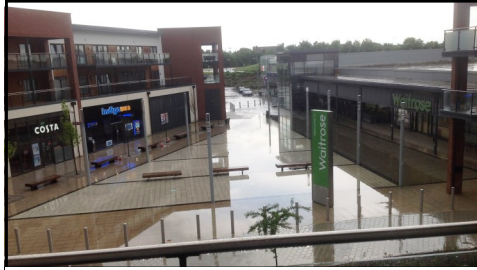
**Sam Crooks**

**Lib Dem *Focus* team**





# Fairer, Safer, Cleaner, Greener



Flooding issues on Oakgrove resolved

Whether Oakgrove School can sell the blue land (marked) for housing requires Government permission. Meanwhile Sam has supported the Parish Council in resisting access across parish land.



The Parks Trust is about to take over Oakgrove's cycle track so remedial work will soon begin.



For 4 years Sam was responsible for the city's new school build programme, then the largest in Europe, including both Oakgrove Sixth Form Centre & Middleton School.



No more plastic bags. Wheelie bins for **all** our rubbish are coming to MK from April 2023 thanks to Kerrie's Council motion. There'll still be weekly collections (*don't believe what you read elsewhere*) General & garden / food waste every week; recycling fortnightly.



The Council's litter enforcement officers have handed out nearly 3,000 fines this year. Fly-tipping is down 21%



Planting the jubilee tree which Sam contributed from his ward budget to commemorate 50 years since MK Village gave its name to the new city.

Here's the link to our manifesto for Milton Keynes: <https://mklibdems.co.uk/en/article/2022/1427071/putting-people-first-mk-lib-dem-2022-local-election-manifesto>



## THE COST OF LIVING

It affects us all, and people are getting frightened

## HERE'S WHAT WE'D DO

### NATIONALLY, WE WOULD:

- Reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20% to 17.5% for a year.
- Introduce a windfall tax on oil & gas profits.
- Use this to double the Warm Home Discount & extend it to everyone on Pension & Universal Credit.
- Double the Winter Fuel Allowance.
- Roll out an emergency home & business insulation programme.
- Re-instate & make permanent the £1,000 Universal Credit boost.
- Raise benefits by the true rate of inflation (now 7%) rather than by 3.1 %

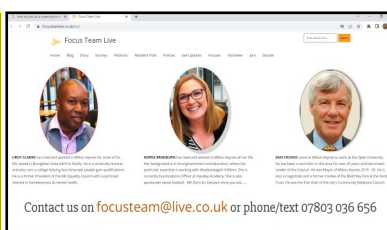
### LOCALLY, WE HAVE ALREADY:

- Set aside over £15 million to help residents on low incomes pay their council tax bill.
- Provided £3 million for concessionary public transport fares and £500,000 to help with insulation & heating costs for those worst off.
- Supported the MK Foodbank Xtra, community food larders & a Local Welfare Provision Scheme to help residents in need with essential furniture & kitchen equipment.
- Offered grants for childcare deposits & after school support.

We will also provide a council tax discount to many residents who are currently ineligible for the Government's council tax rebate scheme.



**394** Focuses since January 1979 keeping you in touch, asking your views, and sorting out local issues. That's over **9** a year, for **43** years. Not just at election time.



We've our own website & facebook page with regular petitions, surveys, email updates and a twitter feed: [www.focusteamlive.co.uk](http://www.focusteamlive.co.uk)

[f focusteamlive](https://www.facebook.com/focusteamlive) [t @focusteamlive](https://twitter.com/focusteamlive)

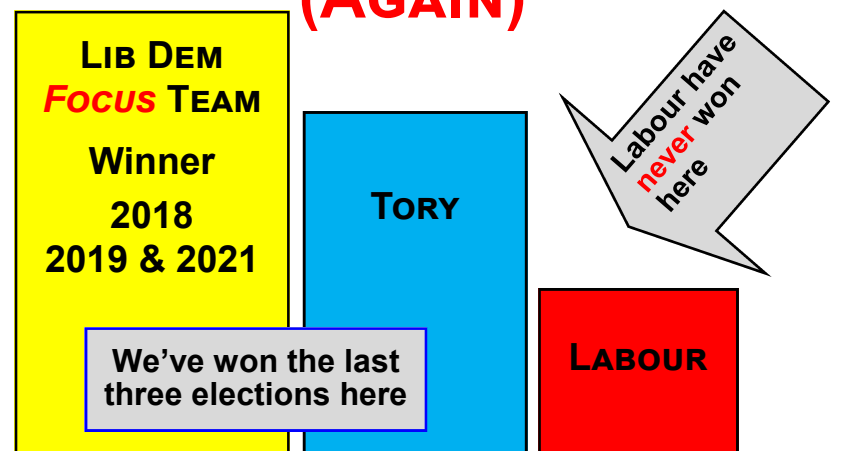
### SAM CROOKS...

...came to Milton Keynes to work at the Open University. He has also worked in France, America, Pakistan & Hong Kong. For 10 years he has run the annual Cornerstone Christmas Appeal, collecting over £120,000 for local charities.

He has been a councillor in this area for over 20 years and was Mayor of Milton Keynes 2019 - 20. He has twice been Leader of the Council. He has been a magistrate, a member of the Milton Keynes Health Authority, the Thames Valley Police Authority and a trustee of the Bletchley Park Trust and the Parks Trust. He was the first chair of the city's Community Relations Council.

He has been a school governor of Middleton primary school and was a member of the national General Teaching Council (the professional body for teachers) until its abolition in 2012. He is currently a trustee of the MK Dons Sports and Education Trust.

### HELP THE WORKERS TO WIN (AGAIN)



**Sam Crooks**

**Lib Dem Focus team**

