



# *Independent Health Concern*



## **Support Continues to Grow with Election Successes.**

*Independent Health Concern continued their resurgence as a political alternative in Wyre Forest by taking seats off both the ruling Tory Party and the Labour Party. By also holding seats in Broadwaters and Lickhill, IHC were the only party to increase their overall number of seats. IHC now hold 10, up from 9 (Tories - 18, Liberals – 7, Labour – 3 (4), Lib Dem – 2, Others – 2) and the percentage and numbers of votes received also went up for the second year running, underlining the continued growth in support for the party.*

*The outstanding success was the victory in Areley Kings where John Thomas won a close 3 way contest, defeating long serving and respected Labour leader Jamie Shaw. It is a pity Jamie blotted his copy book in a radio interview by attacking Health Concern. He lost because of the national situation, not because we stood against him – if we hadn't beaten him the Tories certainly would!*

*The other success was in Mitton where Dave Millis beat the long serving Tory by a handful of votes. Particularly sweet this one since we lost a seat here by a similar number of votes last year.*

*Our sincere congratulations also go to Tracy Onslow (Tory – Sutton Park) and Mike Price (Liberal – Offmore & Comberton), who both get elected for the first time after several previous attempts. We are sure they will both contribute well to Council activity and we welcome them. We also congratulate all other members who are re-elected. Commiserations to those who didn't make it.*

*We believe our success was achieved on a broad, issue based campaign, NOT just a single issue. We believe that local residents are now accepting IHC as a true alternative to traditional politics and are voting for us in increasing numbers because they do see us as more than just health issue campaigners. Our overall votes prove that. It is, however, interesting to note that the Tory “campaign” to say all was well at Kidderminster Hospital backfired and they lost two seats where they heavily promoted that piece of fiction! Clearly not a good idea to take us on over health matters!*

*We also stood, for the first time, for Stourport Town Council and won 9 of the 10 seats we contested – it makes us the largest party. It also clearly demonstrates the people of Stourport's total rejection of Tory plans for their ‘Civic Centre’.*

*During this election we have been variously described by other parties as “geriatric”, “single issue”, “dead in the water”, “no policy”, “amateur”, “no hoppers”. Umm – well .. if you still think that's the case, watch out if we ever get our act together!*