

BVM 13/05/05

## NORTH DORSET

IT was business as usual in the North Dorset constituency after a long night of counting at Blandford Leisure Centre from Thursday night into Friday morning.

Conservative Robert Walter was returned for a third term, but not before his Liberal Democrat opponent had a last minute surge, which took the candidates almost neck and neck.

The status quo was regained when the final votes were counted, and Mr Walter came out 2,244 ahead.

A 71.48% turnout brought 23,714 votes for the victorious Robert Walter, with 21,470 for Emily Gasson, 4,596 for Labour candidate John Yarwood, 1,918 for UKIP's Richard Frampton Hobbs and 1,117 for Green candidate Ralph Arliss.

Robert Walter pledged his continuing support against wind turbines particularly relevant as a scheme for the Winterbourne Valley was sent to appeal last week. He also promised to investigate plans for two microbiology waste treatment plants in the constituency.

Emily Gasson thanked her supporters for an incredible result one of only two constituencies in the country where the Tory vote had not increased. **G.P-W**