



# Mackinlay ready to tackle town's graffiti

IT was a split between Labour and Conservative in River ward which covers the controversial Medway Street area of Chatham where businesses have been campaigning against the two-way system.

Labour councillor Bill Esterson,

■ **Craig Mackinlay and Tashi Tamang-Bhutia celebrate**

who has been backing the traders' campaign, was re-elected but fellow Labour candidate Mark Jones lost his seat to Conservative Craig Mackinlay.

Cllr Mackinlay, a former UK Independence Party candidate, said he was "relieved" with the result.

He said: "We have had to face a lot of problems with the town

centre roads and I think if it wasn't for these problems the Conservatives could have won both seats in the ward.

"One of the big issues I want to tackle is graffiti. I really want to clean up the town centre. I also want to address the problems with drugs and prostitution because we have been putting up with it for too long."