

# FOCUS

on Eltham South ward

Edited by  
**Mark Pattenden,  
Boba Rangelov  
and Steven Toole**

February 2010

[www.greenwich-libdems.org.uk](http://www.greenwich-libdems.org.uk)

Lib  
Dem  
1386

Con  
1443

Can't  
win here

Lab 667

Only the Lib Dems can beat the  
Conservatives here in Eltham South



Funded by local donations and delivered FREE by volunteers to  
Avery Hill, Crown Woods, Eltham Town Centre and New Eltham

## Lib Dem plans will give every child a real chance

Twelve years after Labour came to power, children still aren't getting the opportunities they deserve. Labour's own figures show that children from the poorest families still struggle to succeed.

Eltham Liberal Democrat parliamentary spokesperson **Steven Toole** said, "Education is the key to our future. It should give every child a chance to make a success of their life. Instead under Labour, many children are being written off and others are not being allowed to reach their potential. It's got to change."

The Liberal Democrats plan to revolutionise education by:

- Giving Primary schools extra funding to cut class sizes to just fifteen for early years classes.
- Giving ALL schools extra resources to improve school discipline, reduce class sizes and to increase the number of teachers.
- ABOLISH Labour's unfair tuition fees for those who want to go to university.

**Steven Toole** added, "This is about investing in our future. If we want a cleaner, safer, better place to live in, then we need to give every child a real chance in life."



## Boba joins the team

**FOCUS** editor **Mark Pattenden** has welcomed **Dr Boba Rangelov** (above) to the local Lib Dem **FOCUS** team.

**Boba**, who was born in Sarajevo, has lived in Greenwich for the last 10 years and works for Greenwich Community Health Services.

**Boba** says, "I am delighted to be joining **Mark** and the local Lib Dem team in campaigning for this area. I am looking forward to meeting local residents and starting to tackle the many failures of our Labour Council."

**Mark** added, "**Boba** brings an excellent knowledge of local education and health issues to the Lib Dem team."

## Campaign launched for better rail stations

Local Liberal Democrats are calling for a 5 point plan to tackle rail stations that are just not up to the mark.

The Lib Dem plan would tackle issues such as staffing, cleanliness and safety.

You can read more about the Lib Dem 5 point plan and sign our petition at [www.ourcampaign.org.uk/betterstations](http://www.ourcampaign.org.uk/betterstations)



## Better rail stations...NOW!

I / We the undersigned support the Lib Dem plan for better rail stations. We call on the Mayor to sit down with the rail companies and work to make our rail stations better.

Name(s) ..... Tel .....

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Name(s) ..... Tel .....

Address .....

Email

Return to:  
Greenwich  
Borough  
Liberal Democrats,  
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The Lib Dems and their elected representatives may use the information you provide to contact you about issues you may find of interest. Some of these contacts may be automated. You can opt out of some or all contacts at any time by contacting us.

# A fresh start for our local area - Liberal Democrats

## Lib Dems slam school building delays

Liberal Democrats have called on Greenwich Council to explain the severe delays in its Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.



Your local Lib Dem FOCUS team are demanding to know why it has taken so long to start work on improving facilities at local schools

BSF is the Government's investment programme for secondary schools. Greenwich was one of the first authorities to be selected but according to Government figures it is lagging seriously behind other Councils.

Lib-Dem led Southwark has been praised for meeting all its deadlines and has won an award for the best BSF programme. In Lewisham over 2,500 children are already benefiting from improved school facilities.

**Meanwhile of the five BSF programmes in Greenwich Schools, none is complete.**

Local Lib Dem campaigner **Boba Rangelov** says, "It's great to see that work has finally started on Crown Woods school after long delays. However in many other schools, such as Eltham Hill, work hasn't even started yet.

"It's time the Labour council apologised and explained why they have got it so badly wrong. It is not fair that local children's education is suffering as a result."

## Council must do better on results

Recent Government figures show that 43.4% of pupils in Greenwich schools got five or more good GCSEs in 2009. This compares to a London average of 54% and puts Greenwich in last place among the 32 London Boroughs.

Eltham South Lib Dem campaigner **Mark Pattenden** said "Greenwich schools have shared in the London-wide improvement in exam results over the last few years, which is to the credit of our students and teachers. However we can't get away from the fact that we are still not doing as well as similar boroughs. This is not acceptable and reflects badly on the local Labour Party which has been in power in Greenwich for the last 39 years."



## ANGER AT FREEDOM PASS CUTS

**Local Liberal Democrats have reacted angrily to news that the concessionary fares scheme in London will be cut by £29m this coming year.**

Local campaigner **Boba Rangelov** says: "After Boris Johnson's decision to hike bus fares by 20% Londoners now face a double whammy with this savage cut in funding for the Freedom Pass.

"Hard up council taxpayers, who are already facing a steep rise in fares, will now have to pay even more in their council tax to maintain London's Freedom Pass.

"This is an outrageous decision by the Labour Government. It is insulting to pensioners and disabled people in Greenwich as well as council taxpayers across the borough."

## Labour Council's Christmas Spending Spree

Greenwich Council has been criticised for deciding to spend large sums of money at a sudden meeting held between Christmas and the New Year. This included allocating £1.5 million to facilitate the move of Ravensbourne College to North Greenwich.

Local Lib Dem **Mark Pattenden**, a former councillor, said "These spending decisions should have received more scrutiny. Councillors only received the papers at very short notice and any concerned members of the public may not have known about the meeting at all. This behaviour is a sign that the Labour Party has controlled Greenwich Council for far too long and that as a result standards are slipping."

## Putting money back in your pocket

- No income tax if you earn less than £10,000 a year
- £700 tax cut for workers
- £100 tax cut for pensioners

All paid for by closing tax loopholes exploited by the very rich, taxes on pollution and the new 'mansion tax' on houses over £2million.



## have your say...

use the space below to tell us about problems in your area ....

## your details here...

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email.....  
phone .....  
mobile.....

**return free to:**  
**Greenwich Borough**  
**Liberal Democrats,**  
**FREEPOST RRLH-**  
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**London SE9 3XD**

## I can help!

- I can help to deliver a few FOCUS newsletters
- I would like a Postal Vote application form
- I will display a poster at election time
- I will vote for the Liberal Democrats at the next council election
- I enclose a donation to help pay for the FOCUS newsletters £30  £15  Other  £\_\_ please make cheque's payable to "Liberal Democrats"

A donation of £10 or more entitles you to membership of the Liberal Democrats. Please tick here  if you do not wish to join.

## Your Focus team here to help you!

Mark Pattenden  
Boba Rangelov

☎ 020 8857 3060

✉ elthamsouth@greenwich-libdems.org.uk

Parliamentary spokesperson  
Steven Toole

☎ 07570 579154

✉ steven.toole@greenwich-libdems.org.uk

