



Spring 2007

FOCUS

on Eltham South

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Delivered free by volunteers to Avery Hill, Crown Woods, Eltham Town Centre and New Eltham

Ken's U-turn over local green spaces

Local residents have been betrayed by Labour Mayor Ken Livingstone after he changed his mind and supported building houses on the GAA sports ground in Avery Hill Road.

Local Lib Dem campaigner **Mark Pattenden** condemned the Mayor's decision: "Local residents had expected Mr Livingstone to stick to his original opposition to the development. Now it seems that he will sell out local people to developers whenever it suits him."

"The Mayor's support for building on this green space appears to be as a result of the developers' plans to include a mini-soccer pitch in the proposed housing estate. He seems to think this makes the loss of community land OK"



Mark Pattenden outside the gates to the under threat GAA sports ground



Mark at the former Co-op sports ground in Footscray Road which may also be under threat of development

Speaking up for local residents

Former local Lib Dem councillor Mark Pattenden argued the case for keeping green spaces at the recent public enquiry into plans to build housing on the GAA sports ground.

Mark was asked to speak by local residents campaigning against the development because of his local knowledge and experience.

"Protecting our green spaces against development is vital to keep Eltham a desirable place to live."

Local Liberal Democrats believe local people deserve to be treated better than this and have backed residents campaigning to bring the land back into community use.

The public inquiry into the plans finished in February and a decision is expected by June.

Mark Pattenden says, "These plans are still bad for the local environment and for the local community. I hope the public enquiry recognises this and refuses planning permission."

You can support the Lib Dem campaign to save our local green spaces from developers backed by the Mayor of London by signing the petition below.

Save our green spaces

To: Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London

I/We oppose the development of sports grounds in Eltham for housing and demand that you act to protect them from developers.

Name/s _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Send to: **Eltham South Lib Dems, Freepost LON15707, London SE9 5BR**

The Lib Dems may use the information you provide to contact you about issues you may find of interest. Some of these contacts may be automated. If you wish to opt out of some or all contacts please tick here

Labour fails to reform unfair Council Tax

Local Liberal Democrats have criticised the Labour government for deciding to do nothing after the Lyons' Review of council funding.

"3 years have been wasted with this expensive inquiry. To ignore the proposals and do nothing is scandalous", says Eltham South Lib Dem **Mark Pattenden**.

"Labour has sent a clear signal that they won't do anything to change the unfair council tax introduced by the Tories. They don't care that pensioners and the low paid are suffering because council tax in Greenwich has risen 33% in the last 5 years.

"Only the Liberal Democrats would abolish the council tax and replace it with a local income tax based on the ability to pay."

Flytipping warning as Council makes residents pay for rubbish collection

Eltham South FOCUS editor **Mark Pattenden** has warned that flytipping could increase in the local area now that the Labour Council has voted to make residents pay for bulk rubbish collection.

"This service used to be free," says Mark, "But now the Council will charge people to remove bulky items of rubbish. They do not realise that this will increase the risk of more rubbish being dumped to avoid the charges."

Liberal Democrat councillors voted against the decision to charge for rubbish collection stating that, "People already pay for rubbish collection through council tax. This is just another Labour stealth tax."

"We can cut crime" say Lib Dems

Local campaigner **Mark Pattenden** has welcomed the national Liberal Democrat campaign to take real action to cut crime.

"Liberal Democrat councils across the country are taking effective action to reduce crime," reports Mark. "For example in Lib Dem run Newcastle violent crime is down 12% in just two years. In Lib Dem Kingston robbery has fallen 16%."

"The Lib Dem action plan for a safer local community would cut crime and anti-social behaviour. Rather than simply talking tough, we will deliver effective action to cut crime."

5 steps to a safer Britain

- **More police on patrol** - don't waste billions on ID cards
- **Take back our town centres** - let communities close pubs and clubs that cause trouble
- **Make sentences mean what they say** - life should mean life
- **Compulsory work and training in prison** - to cut reoffending
- **Better compensation for victims** - paid for by prison work

Visit www.wecanreducecrime.com or contact **Mark Pattenden** for more details.

Liberal Democrats - still working all-year-round for you

It matters what YOU think...

If you know of a local problem which needs attention, contact your local Liberal Democrat Focus Team today. Use this space to have your own say...

Name/s _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Return to: Greenwich Borough Liberal Democrats,
Freepost LON15707, London SE9 5BR

I would like to help

I/we want to support the local Lib Dem team by:

- Delivering FOCUS in my local area
- Joining the Liberal Democrats
- Making a donation
- Displaying a poster at elections
- Coming along to social events