

FOCUS

on Middle Park & Sutcliffe ward

Autumn 2009

Edited by:

Cllr Paul Webbewood
Cllr Brian Woodcraft

www.greenwich.libdems.org.uk

Just ONE vote in it!

Lib
Dem
1368

Lab
1367

Can't win
here

Only the Lib Dems can
beat Labour here in Middle
Park & Sutcliffe ward

Con
773

Working for residents in Horn Park, Middle Park, Lee, Sutcliffe and the Brooklands Park & Cator Estates

Lib Dems slam Boris' fare hike

Local Liberal Democrats have criticised the decision by the Conservative Mayor of London Boris Johnson to increase tube and bus fares.

Local Lib Dem Councillor Brian Woodcraft says, "For the 2nd year in a row the Mayor is punishing local residents with an inflation busting increase in fares. Incredibly even a short bus journey with just one change will set people back £2.40.

"Boris Johnson boasts about freezing his share of the council tax bill but continually raising fares means he is taking significantly more from residents already hit by the recession.

"This is a Mayor who gives with one hand and takes not once but twice with the other hand."

Support our one-hour bus ticket campaign

The Liberal Democrats are calling for a one hour bus ticket to be introduced to give residents the opportunity to switch from bus to bus without the need to pay again.

On the tube you can change trains without having to pay twice. Our scheme would offer this benefit on buses too.

You can back the campaign by signing our petition online at www.ourcampaign.org.uk/1hourbusticket

Your FOCUS team

Cllr Paul Webbewood Cllr Brian Woodcraft

Tel. 020 8318 3295

Tel. 020 8850 2456

mps@greenwich-libdems.org.uk



Labour's tunnel vision

Your local Lib Dem councillors have joined Liberal Democrats from across South East London and local cyclists to plead with Greenwich Council and Transport for London to provide an alternative when the Greenwich Foot Tunnel closes for repairs.

Both Greenwich and Woolwich foot tunnels are being closed at the same time this autumn for refurbishment and may be shut for up for unspecified lengths of time.

The Liberal Democrats have written to the Leader of Greenwich Council, urging him to work with other agencies to find a practical solution to the problem.

Local Lib Dem councillor Paul Webbewood says, "Cyclists have chosen to live in South East London knowing they can use this route to work every day. We need to ensure they can continue to cycle and find a solution with a ferry operator."

"We appreciate this repair work needs to be done but the Council must work with others to minimise disruption for the tunnel users."

Lib Dems oppose Blackheath train cuts

Local residents are worried that changes to train services from December will mean a poorer service for passengers at Blackheath Station.

Local Lib Dem councillors **Paul Webbewood** and **Brian Woodcraft** joined London Assembly Liberal Democrat Transport spokesperson Caroline Pidgeon to lobby South Eastern Trains about plans to cut commuter train services.

Caroline, who is Chair of the London Assembly Transport Committee commented: "It does seem extraordinary that with more and more passengers using rail to get to work, a train operator is withdrawing commuter trains."

The train company say that the timetable changes are required by the Department for Transport who want more rail passengers to change to the DLR at Lewisham to reduce the pressure on central London stations.

South Eastern have said they will monitor travel patterns and passenger usage during January and February.



Cllr Brian Woodcraft, outside Blackheath station, is calling for the service cuts to be reversed.

Cllr Paul Webbewood says, "I hope that South Eastern trains will look very carefully at the impact the change of timetable will have on local passengers and lobby the Government for more stopping trains at Blackheath."

Become a Friend of Leegate

Supported by their local Liberal Democrat councillors, residents in next door Lee Green ward have set up the Friends of Leegate. Their aim is to ensure that any redevelopment of the Leegate Shopping Centre meets community requirements and to try and make good use of empty shops pending redevelopment.

Those local residents interested in becoming a friend should contact the Local Assemblies Team at Lewisham Council on (020) 8314 7034 or localassemblies@lewisham.gov.uk.

Huntsman - planning update

Residents are awaiting a fresh planning application for building on the former Huntsman playing fields in Kidbrooke, following the withdrawal of an earlier application.

Cllr Brian Woodcraft says, "In an ideal world I would prefer to see Huntsman restored to use as a sports ground. But since it lost its status as Metropolitan Open Land the area is available for housing.

"Unfortunately the present Labour Council seems to think more equals better and I understand they advised the developer to withdraw the earlier application and come back with something more extensive.

The local Lib Dems believe that any new development should minimise the impact on existing homes.

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

It matters what YOU think...

If you know of a local problem which needs attention use this space to have your own say...

Name/s _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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

The Liberal Democrats would like to use the information above to contact you from time to time to keep you informed of campaigns we may think of interest to you. Please write to us if you do not wish to be contacted in this way.

Return to: **Greenwich Borough Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST RRLH-HACR-EZLG, LONDON, SE9 3XD**

Labour's pathway to nowhere

Local Liberal Democrats have been pressing Greenwich Council for an explanation following the appearance of paths across Eltham Green and Queenscroft Park over the summer which no-one wanted.

Councillor Brian Woodcraft quizzed Council leader Chris Roberts at a recent meeting. Brian reports, "Cllr Roberts told me that council officers exceeded their authority in giving the green light to the work and that he knew nothing about it."

Your local councillors called on the council to ensure proper reinstatement at the sites and continue to monitor the situation.

The Eltham Green lease

Further investigation of the legal status of Eltham Green has revealed that it is Crown Estate property which is leased to Greenwich Council. The terms of that lease are that it is only to be used as 'a place of public pleasure or recreation ground and no alterations are permitted'. The council are also required to maintain the grass, bushes and trees.

Others do it, why can't Greenwich

Lewisham Council allocated £35,000 to be spent in each ward this year at the discretion of local councillors and residents. On their side of Blackheath part of this fund has been used for a day trip to Eastbourne for elderly people and to set up a girls' football team.

Central Government encourages such schemes and Lewisham is not alone in taking the initiative. However in Greenwich the Labour leadership have consistently refused to do anything and Labour members voted down a Liberal Democrat proposal for a pilot project.

Local Lib Dem Councillor **Paul Webbewood** says, "The Council leadership want to control everything and to make all decisions at the Town Hall. It is disappointing that Labour councillors are too timid to allow local residents to control even a small amount of money for their area. No wonder the Audit Commission considers Greenwich to be a below average London Borough."

Councillors see red over Big Yellow

Your Lib Dem councillors reacted angrily to the news that the Government appointed planning inspector had decided to ignore local residents and give approval to the Big Yellow warehouse proposal for Clifton's roundabout on Westhorpe Avenue.

Cllr Paul Webbewood said, "We were very disappointed that the inspector ignored the many valid objections from local residents to this development as well as going against the democratic decision of the local authority."



Cllr Webbewood at the site of the proposed development

It matters what YOU think...

If you know of a local problem which needs attention use this space to have your own say...

Name/s _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

The Liberal Democrats would like to use the information above to contact you from time to time to keep you informed of campaigns we may think of interest to you. Please write to us if you do not wish to be contacted in this way.

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

Return to: **Greenwich Borough Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST RRLH-HACR-EZLG, LONDON, SE9 3XD**