

March 2006



www.greenwich.libdems.org.uk

# FOCUS

## on Middle Park & Sutcliffe

Lib  
Dems

Lab

Con  
can't win  
here

**From Cllr Ian Gerrard, Cllr Harry Potter,  
Paul Webbewood and Cllr Brian Woodcraft**

Remember only the  
Liberal Democrats can  
beat Labour in this area

Printed by T&B Printing Unit 2, 8a Chelsfield Rd, Orpington Published & promoted by Brian Woodcraft on behalf of MP&S Lib Dems all at 167 Dumbreck Rd SE9 1RH

# Labour puts up Council tax - again

Your local Liberal Democrat FOCUS team are calling on the government to scrap the council tax following Labour-run Greenwich council's decision to raise the tax by another 4%.

**Middle Park & Sutcliffe Councillor Ian Gerrard** says, "This increase comes on top of a massive increase in domestic electricity and gas bills and will cause financial hardship for many households."

"Last year there was a £200 subsidy from the government for pensioners to reduce the impact but it is unlikely that this will be paid again this year. Clearly this was simply an attempt to buy off pensioners and get Labour through the general election!"

### Massive tax rise

"Since the last council elections Labour has increased the council tax by almost 20% - if you include the Labour Mayor of London's tax increases it's a massive 28% rise," warns **Ian Gerrard**.

Fellow Lib Dem campaigner **Paul Webbewood** adds, "Labour's council tax record locally has been poor. Immediately after the last council elections Labour put up the council tax by 14% in a single year!"

"Council tax was unfair when the Tories invented it after their failed POLL TAX. The Lib Dems would replace it with a fairer system based on the ability to pay."

### Council Tax FACT FILE

- ❖ 4 years ago the Council Tax in the borough was £954. It now stands at £1,222 - a rise of over 28% (*Band D figures*)
- ❖ The year after the last council elections, Labour raised the council tax by over 14%
- ❖ The Council Tax was originally introduced by the Conservatives
- ❖ Labour recently announced that they were delaying any council tax reform

### LEE GREEN - THE END IN SIGHT!?

**Local residents will be relieved to hear that a date has finally been set for the completion of the improvement works at the Lee Green junction.**

**Cllr Brian Woodcraft** reports that, after months of lobbying by your local Lib Dem councillors,

Transport for London (TfL) have confirmed that the new junction scheme will be finished by 24 May.

Brian comments, "These very welcome improvements have taken far too long to implement but hopefully TfL can now finish the work to schedule - otherwise it will be a major embarrassment to Mayor Livingstone who is due to be opening the completed junction!"

# Your Local Liberal Democrats Working All Year Round

## Crime should be solved not dispersed

Your Lib Dem FOCUS team have been asking residents in Horn Park how effective they think local policing and the estate dispersal zone has been over the past year in tackling anti-social behaviour.

**Cllr Harry Potter** says, "Anti-social behaviour is a problem for all and everyone agrees it must be stamped out, and those responsible dealt with through the law. However, the effectiveness of the dispersal zone in permanently dealing with crime has still to be proved and we do not want every young person in the area to be viewed as a potential criminal."

The Lib Dems would use measures such as Acceptable Behaviour Agreements which have been used successfully in Islington and would seek to tackle the cause of the problems including the lack of local facilities for youngsters.

Harry adds, "The Liberal Democrats fully support the extra investment going into our police services and the creation of the Safer Neighbourhood teams in each ward but want to ensure they are used effectively to cut crime."

**HAVING YOUR SAY: What do you think about policing in your local area? Let us know your views on this and other local issues at [www.greenwich.libdems.org.uk/surveys](http://www.greenwich.libdems.org.uk/surveys)**

### CONTACT THE FOCUS TEAM

Cllr Ian Gerrard 020 8378 1976 [ian.gerrard@greenwich.gov.uk](mailto:ian.gerrard@greenwich.gov.uk)  
Cllr Harry Potter 020 8859 4238 [harry.potter@greenwich.gov.uk](mailto:harry.potter@greenwich.gov.uk)  
Paul Webbewood 020 8318 3295 [paul.eltham@virgin.net](mailto:paul.eltham@virgin.net)  
Cllr Brian Woodcraft 020 8850 2456  
[brian.woodcraft@greenwich.gov.uk](mailto:brian.woodcraft@greenwich.gov.uk)

## Ward news in brief

Your team of Liberal Democrat councillors have dealt with the following issues in recent weeks:

■ **Gregory Crescent** – subsidence has caused significant structural damage to a number of properties in the area. Following a lack of action by the Council your local councillors put pressure on them and as a result of a site meeting Council officers have agreed that urgent remedial works will be carried out and the damage repaired.

■ Elsewhere in **Middle Park** Cllr **Brian Woodcraft** has helped tenants get council action on the repointing of their brickwork.

■ **Eltham Road bus lane** - the Lib Dem FOCUS team has kept up the pressure on Transport for London to install an additional pedestrian crossing near Weigall Road. We hope to report progress in the next issue

■ **Westhorne Avenue** – followed up a complaint about additional traffic congestion caused by the operation of a car hand-wash business on land next to Gray's Tyre and Exhaust Centre. **Brian Woodcraft** has asked the council whether this operation has the necessary permissions and will let you know the outcome in a future FOCUS.

■ **Eltham Green** – damaged paving slabs between Eltham Road and Eltham Green Road have been replaced following pressure from your Lib Dem councillors.

## Help the winning team today

- I would be willing to put up a poster at election time.
- I can deliver FOCUS locally.
- I would like to join the Liberal Democrats

### YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

It is now easier to apply for a postal vote. If you would like us to send you a form, please tick here .

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone:

Email:

The FOCUS team may contact you from time to time to keep you informed on issues we think you may find of interest. Please let us know if you do not wish the information above to be used for this purpose.

**Return this form to: Greenwich Borough Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST LON15707, London SE9 5BR**