



FOCUS

on Middle Park & Sutcliffe



Edited by
**Cllrs Ian Gerrard,
Harry Potter &
Brian Woodcraft**

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Delivered to residents in Horn Park, Middle Park, Sutcliffe, & the Brooklands Park and Cator Estates

Anger over track closure



Cllr Harry Potter outside Sutcliffe Park athletics track

Your Lib Dem Councillors joined local residents, schools and sports club in expressing annoyance at the summer closure of Sutcliffe Park athletics track for construction work.

Cllr Harry Potter says, "While welcoming the improvements that the new facilities will bring to users of the track, the timing of the building work caused massive disruption during one of the busiest periods of the year."

Among those effected by the track closure were several local schools who had to find other venues for their sports days.

Harry added, "We need to know why this work was so delayed that it had to take place at the height of the athletics season. It was either bad financial planning, incompetence or carelessness - whichever was to blame the Labour-run council has questions to answer."

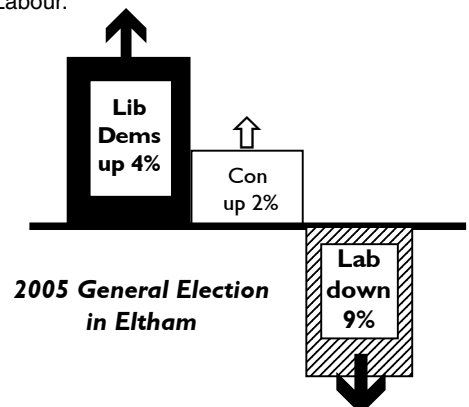
Ian says "Thanks for your support"

Middle Park & Sutcliffe Councillor Ian Gerrard (below) would like to thank all those residents who supported him and the Liberal Democrats in the recent General Election campaign in Eltham.



Locally the Lib Dem vote went up by nearly 4% with a 6.5% swing from Labour to the Lib Dems. It was the Party's best performance in Eltham since 1987!

Ian reports, "Local residents gave a positive response to our distinctive policies, such as abolishing the council tax, putting more police on the streets rather than introducing ID cards, scrapping university tuition fees and providing a decent old age pension without means testing - all the areas where people feel let down by Labour."



Transport for London ignore local concerns over bus lane

Your local Liberal Democrat Councillors, including **Brian Woodcraft** (pictured left), have expressed strong disappointment that Transport for London have ignored their representations and the concerns of many local residents over plans for a bus lane along Eltham Road.

- see over for more on this story

Liberal Democrats - working hard for our local communities

Your Local Liberal Democrats Working All Year Round

Transport for London ignore residents' concerns over bus lane

Transport for London (TfL) are ploughing ahead with their plans to provide a bus lane along the westbound Eltham Road despite a massive protest from local residents and your Lib Dem councillors.

The bus lane will be in two sections between Eltham Green and the Sidcup Road junction and then from Sheldon Close to Lee Green.

Cllr Brian Woodcraft comments, "Local residents who would be affected by the proposed bus lane have raised numerous concerns with myself and my fellow Lib Dem councillors and with TfL directly."

"I am disappointed that the scheme is going ahead since I still consider it unnecessary and unwanted by local residents – 99% of local residents who have contacted us are against it. The arguments against the scheme are overwhelming."

Brian adds, "Objections have been too readily dismissed by TfL and the consultation was too limited – I have urged them to consult more widely or drop the scheme completely."

Residents have their say

"TfL is out of control and not subject to proper public scrutiny"

"If the refuges go it will be very difficult to cross the road to get to bus stops."

"I think the proposal is deeply flawed"

"I am elderly and without the pedestrian islands I will be unable to cross the road"

"Where will cyclists go if a bus lane is introduced?"

The wrong kind of grass...

For the second year running Cllr Brian Woodcraft has been taking up local residents' complaints about the state of the Yorkshire Grey roundabout at Eltham Green during the summer. The grass at the centre of the roundabout became overgrown and was only cut back after complaints were made.

Brian Woodcraft has now established that Transport for London (TfL) had not foreseen the rapid growth of the meadow grass when the roundabout was re-landscaped. TfL has drawn a blank on how to deal with this annual situation and is now going back to the drawing board...



Cllr Brian Woodcraft at the Yorkshire Grey roundabout, Eltham Green

Councillor Contact details and surgeries

Councillor Brian Woodcraft:

1st Thursday of each month; 6 - 7:30 pm;

St. Peter's Church, Weigall Road (Corner of Eltham Road);

Contact: 167 Dumbreck Road, SE9 1RH, tel 8850 2456, email brian.woodcraft@greenwich.gov.uk

Councillor Ian Gerrard:

2nd Saturday of each month; 11am - 12noon;

Middle Park Community Centre (wooden hut at front), 150 Middle Park Avenue;

Contact: 19 Sandtoft Road, SE7 7LR, tel. 8378 1976, email ian.gerrard@greenwich.gov.uk

Councillor Harry Potter:

Last Saturday of each month; 11am - 12noon;

Horn Park Community Centre (main office building), 96 Sibthorpe Rd;

Contact: 19 Dobell Road, SE9 1HE tel. 8859 4238, email harry.potter@greenwich.gov.uk



Around the ward

Over the last few months your local ward councillors Ian Gerrard, Harry Potter and

Brian Woodcraft have been actively taking up issues on behalf of local residents, including in the following areas:

Rail safety - Network Rail have finally replaced a missing section of trackside fencing at Shrubsall Close after Cllr Harry Potter raised the safety concerns of local residents.

Gavestone Road - Following complaints from residents about faulty entry phones on two blocks of flats in Gavestone Road (138-157 and 11-30) your local Lib Dem councillors have worked with the Council to get the problems sorted out.

Losing the plot

Local Lib Dem Cllr Ian Gerrard has been calling on the Council to help the Middle Park allotment holders clear a number of overgrown plots so that they can be brought back into use.

Ian Gerrard comments, "The allotments are an important community resource but the overgrown state of the many vacant plots can be daunting to potential new allotment holders."

The Labour Council has so far refused to help, saying there is no money available, however the local Lib Dems will continue to press for action - Ian says, "The money spent on clearing the plots can then be recovered by the rental income from an increased number of plot holders."

Ian added, "Existing plotters are very concerned that the Council are letting the site decline so that it can eventually be closed like the former allotments in Kingsground."

If you would be interested in taking a plot or want to know more about the allotments, contact Andy at the Eltham Allotment & Garden Society at eags@fuzzy.org.uk or on 07981 608237.

It matters what you think..

Please use this space to let us know of any further views or problems.

Help the local team

- I can deliver FOCUS in my road.
- I can display a poster at election time.
- I would like to join the Liberal Democrats.
- I would like to make a donation (please make cheques payable to Greenwich Borough Liberal Democrats).

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