

FOCUS

On East Park Ward
www.wolverhamptonlibdems.co.uk

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March
2008

Darren Friel
and the Liberal Democrat Focus Team working for East Park Ward
Putting people first

"The race is on between Liberal Democrats and Labour!



It's a two horse race

East Park Ward

has only ever been a Labour - Liberal Democrat controlled Ward..

The Conservatives can't Win Here!

Darren can do it this time

With your support!

Massive rises in Council Tax and Rent



Wolverhampton Labour controlled Council is imposing a Council Tax rise of an inflation busting 4.75%. This is the 14th successive year in a row that the rise has been above inflation. Not since the last Liberal Democrat/Conservative administration has it been below inflation (in fact it was cut by 1.1%). This Labour Council blame the government for a poor grant settlement - but it is also a Labour Government!

Labour is to blame!

Darren Friel Liberal Democrat candidate for East Park Ward said, "It is now becoming blatantly clear that the only way the Labour Party seem to know how to manage our economy both nationally and locally is to bleed the poor old taxpayer dry."

Local Income Tax

To make matters worse Council Tax is a most unfair tax which raises money equally from a pensioner household to a household with a number working.

The Liberal Democrats have said, for a long time, that this tax must be replaced by Local Income Tax which would be based on a persons ability to pay, not which house or flat they live in.

An unbelievable rent rise (18% in 17months!)

On top of the Council Tax rise council tenants are to have a rise of 6%, this is after rises 17 months ago and a year ago amounting to a total of 11.51% . This equates to a rise of 18.2% in just 17 months !

Darren Friel said, "The Liberal Democrats were the only party in Wolverhampton to question the management structure of Wolverhampton Homes, which took over the management of our council housing. Their record of managing the rent account has so far proved us correct to do so."

FREE WITH THIS EDITION



Keep Bogus Callers at bay
With your Free Door Display
Delivered with this Focus



Pensioners are left with a choice of meat or heat as fuel hikes add to burden

Wolverhampton's Liberal Democrats are calling on the Government to protect pensioners from energy price rises. They have made the call following recent figures that showed the increases in the cost of gas and electricity are set to wipe out pensioners' winter fuel payments. A typical pensioner household aged 65 - 74 have seen gas bills go up by £260 pa and electricity by £160 pa a combined total of £420. The value of the Winter Fuel Payment per household for those aged 60 - 79 is £200, and £300 for those aged over 80. "The £300 rate for over 80's was first introduced in the winter of 2003/04 and hasn't risen in line with the recent fuel hikes making the value of the Winter Fuel Payment virtually redundant in comparison," said Darren Friel, Liberal Democrat Candidate for East Park ward. "The Government must be seen to be doing more to combat fuel poverty. Our pensioners should not have to choose between having a warm home or eating a meal. Energy supplier British Gas has reported annual profits of £571m at its residential arm, up from £95m in 2006, So much for the care of our elderly residents."

Fly tipping in Brooklands Parade Darren takes Action!

Lib Dem candidate Darren Friel has called for tough action to be taken by the council to stop fly - tippers dumping their rubbish on open land in Brooklands Parade. The land in Brooklands Parade is littered with everything from old settees to mattresses and household waste. Darren said; "The thoughtless people responsible for the rubbish are turning the area into an eyesore and causing a public health hazard. It will attract vermin and there is simply no excuse for this antisocial behaviour. Its an added cost to tax payers to clean up after them". This tipping will be searched for evidence by enforcement officers for prosecution purposes. Offenders can be fined up to £20,000 and/or 6 months' imprisonment. **SO BEWARE.**



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East Park Ward Focus Team Launch Campaign against Bogus Callers!

Darren Friel and the East Park Ward Liberal Democrat Focus Team have launched a campaign to help crack down on Bogus Callers who try to gain entry into homes. This comes after several vulnerable residents in the area were approached at their front doors by Bogus charity callers asking for donations for numerous different charities that don't exist.

With this edition of Focus you will find a special notice card which you can place on the glass or next to your door, to warn callers that you will not buy or sell at your door.

STAY SAFE

Check - ask to see identification and double check this by calling the company they say they are representing on the specific numbers below, before letting anyone into your home.

- 1) **British Gas Meter Readers - 0800 393 4499**
- 2) **British Gas Sales Reps - 0800 300 100**
- 3) **BT Staff - 0800 321 999**
- 4) **Npower - 0800 0733 355 / 0800 0730 030**
- 5) **Powergen - 0800 0152 221**
- 6) **Severn Trent Water - 0800 783 4444**
- 7) **Transco Gas Staff - 0845 605 6677**



All legitimate officials carry identification that can be verified
Ask to see it!

We can cut crime!

If in any doubt... Phone your local Police Station
0845 113 5000

Help the Lib Dem campaign in East Park ward

- | | |
|--|---|
| I will be voting for the Lib Dems at the next election
<input type="checkbox"/> | I will display a poster in my window at election time
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| I would like a postal vote
<input type="checkbox"/> | I want to join the Lib Dems
<input type="checkbox"/> |

Please Return to: Name :

Darren Friel Address :

Liberal Democrats Free Post WV2092
WV4 4BR Tel :

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS Email :

How to contact Darren Friel and the Focus Team

Darren Friel *Working for you & Putting people first*
Phone : 01902 560398
Email : darrenfriel@blueyonder.co.uk
Lib Dem Office : 01902 555005 between 3 pm - 5 pm
24 hour answer phone at our office

'DISABLED PEOPLE MUST NOT BE IGNORED BY EU' - MEP

A local Euro-MP's campaign to get more countries to sign up for greater rights for disabled people stepped up a gear when she met a delegation of leading disability organisations at the European Parliament in Brussels.

The UN Convention on Disabled People's Rights was enthusiastically backed by a number of countries at the launch last year but since then, far fewer have signed up than was hoped.

This prompted Wolverhampton's LibDem MEP Liz Lynne to launch a Written Declaration, which if signed by enough Euro-MPs will force a debate on the issue in the European Parliament.

MORE COUNTRIES MUST BACK CONVENTION

Liz is a longstanding disability rights campaigner and is Vice President of the all-party Disability Intergroup of MEPs. She said: "Achieving a legally binding UN convention was a milestone, but it is no use if countries do not sign and ratify it.

"The declaration needs the support of half the 785 MEPs to achieve a debate in the European Parliament. This will send a strong message on the importance of this Convention in the fight to secure fundamental human rights for all disabled people.

"I encourage people to write to their MEPs of all parties asking them to sign, so this issue gets the attention it deserves across the EU and beyond."



Liz Lynne at the launch of the Declaration in Brussels with Christine Naughton (Christian Blind Mission), Isabella Wahedova (Light for the World), Lars Bosselman (Christian Blind Mission), Cecilia Cranfield, and Fiona Thornton (CORD, Christian Organisations in Relief and Development). So far, 185 MEPs have signed the declaration.

Your local LibDem Euro MP LIZ LYNNE
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55 Ely Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6LN
This panel published by Liz Lynne MEP and the ALDE Group, European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, Brussels 1047, Belgium.

If you have a problem you can always write free of charge to:

Darren Friel
Liberal Democrats
Free post WV 2092
Wolverhampton WV4 4BR

My name.....
address

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If you spot something that needs attention Contact

Darren Friel

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Aid of New Cross Hospital

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