



## Labour's flagrant deceit on £5m bid

Just before the elections last May an the official Labour Party leaflet stated the following:

*"I am particularly pleased with the securing of £5 million from the lottery to refurbish the band stand, clock tower and improve East Park generally."*



East Park's Bandstand - Local children enjoy a Punch and Judy show back in 1960



East Park's paddling pool as it used to be - bustling with children and parents on a summer's day.

This was a flagrant deception, calculated to deceive the electorate. No money whatsoever has been obtained as a result of their blatant bragging in the Express & Star and through their own leaflets. A considerable expenditure was incurred as a result of this failed bid and nothing more. The Liberal Democrat are totally committed to East Park and if any opportunity arises to refurbish the Park we will give it our full backing but we will not raise false hopes. East Park is in desperate need of refurbishment and has always lost out to its bigger sister, The West Park.

The Focus Team would like to hear the views and opinions of residents regarding East Park's current facilities. Please contact the Focus Team via the Free post address or 560398 / 555005. Darren Friel said "The Labour group has already proved they cannot be trusted and judging by this deceit they should never be trusted again."

## Cover replaced in Tyburn Road

Local resident, Ms Wendy Collett, contacted the Focus Team when she spotted that a drain head cover had been removed from the corner of Tyburn Road. Ms Collett contacted Darren Friel as she was worried that someone may injure themselves stepping off the kerbside. The Focus Team asked the Highways Department to make it safe as a matter of urgency. A new drain cover is now in situ thanks to the vigilance of Ms Collett and Darren's prompt action. If you know of similar dangers contact Darren Friel on 560398 / 555005.

## Flooding problem solved!

Local resident Miss Donna Wright contacted Darren Friel and the Focus Team after rain water was seen pooling outside her home in Hollington Road, East Park. On closer inspection it was discovered that recent work carried out by contractors to form a new crossing for school children as part of the safer routes to school scheme had covered up the existing drain gully with tarmac.



Darren Friel and Miss Donna Wright welcome the new drain gully in Hollington Road.



Rain water pooling outside Miss Wright's property in Hollington Road, East Park.



Darren Friel asked the Council to have the contractors rectify the problem at once. The highways department worked swiftly with the contractors and a new drain gully was installed. This has proved very successful in solving the problem.

Darren said, "Local residents can always contact me about any problem no matter how small."

## Call for full consultation on Bail Hostels in our City



An ordinary house in any ordinary Street could be turned into a bail hostel, without prior consultation between ClearSprings and residents

A recent report in the Express & Star highlighted a leaked government minister's memo that had revealed a deal had been struck between The Home Office and a private firm called ClearSprings to run 200 hostels for bailed offenders. ClearSprings is planning to open bail hostels in several parts of the West Midlands including Wolverhampton. As it stands at present the firm does not have to consult either residents or local councillors.

Darren Friel said, "This is simply not good enough and the Liberal Democrats will press for full consultation on any plans for bail hostels in our area. I welcome any opinions on this topic and can be contacted on 560398 or 555005."

## In at the deep end

Darren Friel and the Focus Team found themselves in deep water when they came across a burst water main flooding the footpath and grass verge outside Mount Shiloh House in Hickman Avenue, East Park. Pedestrians and school children were forced to walk in the road to get round the flood until Severn Trent fixed it.

Darren Friel said, "Severn Trent were very helpful and the work was carried out immediately bringing the footpath back into use for children walking to the nearby primary schools and other pedestrians."



Darren Friel at the burst water main outside Mount Shiloh house in Hickman Avenue

**Your Liberal Democrat Focus Team working for you all year round**

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**Your friendly local store**

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Hollington Road East Park Tel: 457712

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Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton

# City's Lib Dem Group backs call for Code of Conduct for public bodies

Over a million people nationwide were summoned to court last year because they failed to pay their Council Tax in full, research by the Liberal Democrats found:-

- People struggling in times of economic hardship have been summoned to our courts for falling behind in their Council Tax payments often without the root cause being established;
- Bailiffs were called to collect Council Tax arrears from almost 600,000 people;
- Councils filed for bankruptcy for over 1,700 people in order to collect Council Tax arrears.

The Liberal Democrats are calling for all public bodies, including local authorities and government departments, to follow a Code of Conduct to ensure that families are not bankrupted unnecessarily during the recession. Darren Friel added; "This survey shows the devastating effect that failing to pay Council Tax can have on families, especially those already struggling to cope with mortgage repayments, rent and rising bills. Just as lenders are being asked not to repossess houses too hastily, public bodies should also be doing everything they can to ensure that bankruptcy is only ever the last resort. This is not a licence to avoid paying bills; it is about ensuring that court appearances and bankruptcy are avoided wherever possible. It is high time the unfair Council Tax was scrapped and replaced with a fair tax based on the ability to pay."

## RESIDENTS' SURVEY

Many people have said how pleased they are that the local Liberal Democrat FOCUS Team works all year round to tackle problems in our neighbourhood.

In this issue, the FOCUS team is conducting a survey of local residents' views. **This is your chance to have your say on two important topics.**

Please return this survey to:

**Darren Friel, Liberal Democrats**  
**Free post RRXR-REST-TCZE**  
**14 Broxwood Park**  
**Wolverhampton WV6 8LZ**

No stamp is needed

Thank you for your help!

( All replies are kept confidential )

### Safer Neighbourhoods

Safer streets is one of the most important issues to Darren Friel and the Liberal Democrats.

Do you think we need more police on the beat?

- Yes
- No
- It's about right



Do you see the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in your area?

- Often
- Rarely
- Never

Do you think the level of crime is rising in the area?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Where do you think resources should be targeted (tick more than one if appropriate):

- Neighbourhood watch
- Increase the sense of community
- Longer sentences for convicted criminals
- Curfews for rowdy teenagers
- Funding for youth workers and facilities
- Making parents responsible for under-16s
- Using anti-social behaviour orders

### Your views

Which party would you support if there was an election tomorrow?

- Lib Dem
- Labour
- Conservative
- Labour/Lib Dem
- Cons/Lib Dem
- Green
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Traffic

Has the traffic increased in your street in the last few years?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure



Do you support speed cameras as a way of controlling the speed of traffic?

- Yes
- No

Do you support speed humps as a way of controlling the speed of traffic?

- Yes
- No

Do you support chicanes as a way of controlling the speed of traffic?

- Yes
- No

Are there any particular issues you would like to raise about traffic?

## Euro MPs crack down on loan companies



News programmes have been dominated in recent months by stories about the level of debt faced by British households. Loans and credit cards are a major part of the problem.

Steps have now been taken in the European Parliament to make personal loans cheaper, safer and more competitive by forcing all the loan companies to play by the same rules and ensure that loan offers are easy to compare with each other. Wolverhampton's LibDem MEP Liz Lynne said: "Excessive borrowing is wrong, but loans must be responsible and fair."

### Unfair bank charges

MEPs have also been keeping a close eye on the Courts in the UK. An appeal judgement is being considered on the huge, and in Liz's opinion, unfair charges that banks slap on accounts that exceed their overdraft limits – even by only a few pounds.

An alliance of banks lost the first round of the legal battle, with a judge ruling that their charges were unfair, but no refunds will be made until after an appeal is heard – which may take until summer 2009.

Meanwhile the banks are still levying huge charges, even for only small amounts over an agreed limit.

Liz said: "These bank charges mean that once you fall into the red it is nearly impossible to climb out. Very few people would choose to go overdrawn. Those that do tend to be the most in need.

"It is unfair for banks to make huge sums from the less well off, pushing them further into debt."

### Positive action

Liz added: "LibDem MEPs will continue to lobby the Parliament and EU Commission for more positive action to bring relief to responsible people who face debt."



LibDem MEP Liz Lynne: action to help people facing debts.

Your local LibDem Euro MP LIZ LYNNE

Tel: 01789 266354

www.lizlynne.org.uk email:liz@lizlynne.org.uk

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.

### Can you help us?

- I Would like to join the Liberal Democrats
- I'll display a poster in elections
- I Would like a postal vote
- I can deliver Focus in my area

### About you

Please fill in your details so we can tell you what we've done.

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Rev/Dr

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If you return this survey the Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you've given to contact you. Some contacts may be automated. You can always opt out of communications at any time by contacting us.