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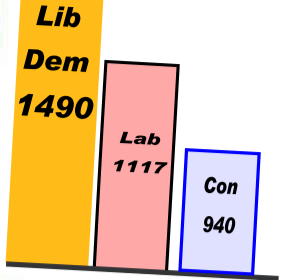
On Park Ward



WINTER
2008-2009

www.wolverhamptonlibdems.co.uk

Park Ward election results in 2008



Cllr Robin Lawrence, Cllr Claire Darke and the Liberal Democrat Focus Team working for Park Ward

New Focus Editor



Jonathan Webber (left) discusses the next Focus with Cllr Robin Lawrence and Cllr Claire Darke

Park Ward Liberal Democrats are delighted to have selected international trade expert and local resident Jonathan Webber as the new Focus editor. Hard-working Jonathan first joined the Park Ward Focus Team because of his commitment to making our city a better and more prosperous place to live and work. Jonathan is now campaigning to make sure that both local residents and small businesses are protected from the economic mismanagement and the corporate greed and big bonus culture that has led to the difficult and worrying economic situation we all find ourselves in today.

Jonathan said "Thanks to the residents of Park Ward two very hard-working and dedicated Liberal Democrats have been elected as Park Ward's Liberal Democrat Councillors. The campaigning conducted by Councillor Robin Lawrence and Councillor Claire Darke has impressed me no end – as have the results they've obtained - and so I am very pleased to have been selected by Park Ward's Liberal Democrats and look forward to joining Claire, Robin and Park's Focus Team".

You can keep up to date with Park Ward Liberal Democrats by visiting our website at www.wolverhamptonlibdems.org.uk.

Seasons' Greetings

Focus Editor Jonathan Webber, Your Liberal Democrat Councillors, Robin Lawrence and Claire Darke and the Focus Team send their seasons' greetings to all Park Ward residents. In spite of the state of the Nation's economy we wish you all a prosperous New Year!



Cllr Claire Darke says 'Don't mess with Parking Scheme'

Councillor Claire Darke has learned that the Conservative run City Council is planing to levy an annual £10 charge for Match Day Parking Permits.

They claim this is needed to pay for the scheme cost. Claire said, "This is ridiculous. The fines paid by illegal parkers should pay for the scheme and any car not showing a permit on a match day should have a ticket slapped on it without hesitation."

A Liberal Democrat campaign that started in 1999 helped a large area near Molineux Stadium benefit from a residents' parking scheme during Wolves' home matches.

New action by Liberal Democrat councillors stopped the Tories bulldozing the charges through and forced the matter onto the agenda of the next full Council meeting.



Councillor Claire Darke and Whitmore Reans resident, Zahid Shah, examine the Council's plans to make residents pay for match day parking permits

Councillors' Surgeries

10 am to 11.30 am on these Saturdays

January 10th The Tractor Shed, Bantock Park

February 7th The Tractor Shed, Bantock Park

March 7th Tenants' Meeting Room, Upper Vauxhall

How to contact Jonathan Webber and your Liberal Democrat Councillors Robin Lawrence & Claire Darke

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jonathan@wolverhamptonlibdems.org.uk

Cllr Robin Lawrence

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Cllr Claire Darke

claire.darke@wolverhampton.gov.uk



Action on Rubbish Chutes

Thanks to the combined work by local residents and your Liberal Democrat Councillors blocked rubbish chutes at the Vauxhalls could become a thing of the past. Wolverhampton Homes have agreed to put up notices on and around the chutes to remind people not to put oversized items of rubbish down the chutes. The Liberal Democrat Focus team are working hard to try to resolve the on-going problem with recycling provision, particularly for high-rise blocks.

Any Wolverhampton Homes tenants or residents who are experiencing housing problems are welcome to contact Councillor Claire Darke, Councillor Robin Lawrence or Jonathan Webber for assistance.

Pavements and drains

West Park

Working with residents from West Park area, Councillor Claire Darke and Councillor Robin Lawrence have managed to bring forward pavement repairs around the Park. Claire told Focus "Several patches of dangerous paving around the West Park have been repaired thanks to action from your Liberal Democrat Councillors. Now other much larger areas are being repaired or replaced to remove the blight of uneven and broken paving slabs. Walkers, joggers, residents and campaigners are all very pleased."



Cllr Claire Darke and Cllr Robin Lawrence were delighted to see these new paving slabs being put down



Left: Park Road East resident, Mr Bhuphinder Masaun, shows Cllr Robin Lawrence a completed section of new paving

For more information about the Liberal Democrats and their campaigns visit our web site at

www.wolverhamptonlibdems.co.uk

Westland Avenue and Gardens



Cllr Claire Darke and Cllr Robin Lawrence inspect the pot holes in Westland Gardens just before work began.

Westland Avenue and Gardens are being repaired at long last. Councillor Claire Darke told Focus, "The existing road surface was put down just after the end of the Second World War and was in a very bad state of repair. There were many pot holes making the road dangerous."

In 2007 Councillor Robin Lawrence persuaded the Council's Highways Division to repair several patches of tarmac that were crumbling away as an interim measure. Focus editor Jonathan Webber said, "Westland Avenue and especially Westland Gardens were in a terrible state of repair. The footpaths are now very much improved and work will be completed in the New Year."

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3 Merridale Crescent, WOLVERHAMPTON WV3 9QY

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I can help deliver Focus in my area

I would like to contribute to the cost of this Focus

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Please make cheques payable to "Wolverhampton South West Liberal Democrats".

A donation of £10 or more entitles you to membership of the Liberal Democrats Please tick here if you do not want to become a member.

The Lib Dems and their elected representatives may use the information you provide to contact you about issues you may find of interest. Some of these contacts may be automated. You can opt out of some or all contacts at any time by contacting us.

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Flooding Nuisance Fixed



Cllr Robin Lawrence checks out the Riches Street work

Councillor Robin Lawrence went to inspect drainage repair work that was taking place at the junction of Riches Street and Newbridge Street. Local residents had contacted the Focus Team about getting the flooding problem fixed. Thanks to the Liberal Democrats the problem has now been solved and residents should no longer be affected by flooding after heavy rain.

Councillors Claire Darke and Councillor Robin Lawrence are still working to improve the drainage in Gibbons Grove.

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
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