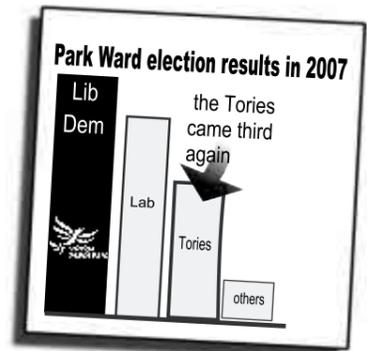


# FOCUS On Park Ward

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



**January  
2008**



## Flooding nuisance to end

Residents of Sweetman Street have been plagued by drainage problems for years.

A resident contacted Councillor Robin Lawrence to complain about flooding problems and he demanded an investigation from the City Council's Highways Division so as to put an end to the flooding nuisance. Thanks to these actions by Councillor Lawrence the Council has promised to repair the problem leaving the residents flood free.

Claire Darke said "You can rely on Park Ward Liberal Democrats to take residents' concerns seriously and deal with problems swiftly. A resident of Sweetman Place had been promised action by the Tories twenty years ago but nothing happened.



*A Sweetman Place resident shows Claire Darke and Cllr Robin Lawrence a letter she received 20 years ago promising that something would be done. It wasn't!*

### Flooding Update

Residents of Sweetman Street, Newbridge Street and St Judes Road have all become tired of getting wet feet while having to negotiate puddles at the busy junction near the The Newhampton Inn. Knowing that Park Ward Liberal Democrats are the only Party to contact when action is urgently needed residents were very pleased to learn that Claire Darke and Councillor Robin Lawrence have managed to persuade Wolverhampton Council to install better drainage at the junction to bring an end to the problem. Councillor Robin Lawrence told Focus "Regrettably the repairs will not be immediate but I will be pressing the Council to ensure that they are done in the next financial year as a matter of urgency."

## Traffic Calming in Larches Lane - Haden Hill area

Claire Darke and Councillor Robin Lawrence have both welcomed traffic calming plans for busy Larches Lane, Haden Hill and Clarendon Street. Liberal Democrats began consulting with residents on traffic calming in these streets in January 2006 and have been encouraging Wolverhampton Council to try to solve the traffic problems of the area ever since.

Residents of Larches Lane, Haden Hill and Clarendon Street who wish to comment can do this either in writing, by e-mail or by phone to Councillor Robin Lawrence who's contact details are on the back page.

Commenting on the proposals Park Ward Liberal Democrat candidate Claire Darke told Focus "I am very pleased that at long last there are plans for calming the traffic in this area. The Liberal Democrats have been right to call for such a scheme for so long. The roads are used far too often as rat-runs and speeding traffic is a dangerous nuisance for residents."



*Claire Darke and Cllr Robin Lawrence examine the plans for traffic calming in Larches Lane and Haden Hill.*

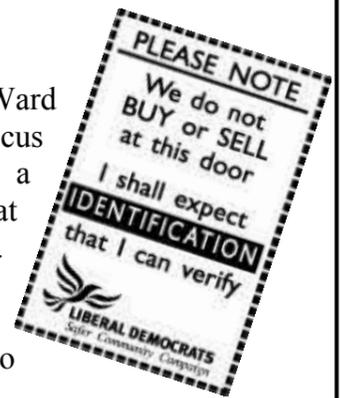
## Beating bogus callers

Over a year ago Park Ward Liberal Democrat Focus Team launched a campaign to help beat crime in our community. They wanted a crack down on BOGUS CALLERS who tried to gain entry into homes.

A special notice card to be stuck on a door's glass or next to the door was included in Focus. It warned callers that householders would not buy or sell at their door and told them that they would require IDENTIFICATION that could be verified.

Many cards are still on display throughout the Ward but other householders have asked Claire Darke for a replacement card.

Claire has arranged for a new set of cards to be printed and has included one with this Focus.



## Keep cars off the grass



*Cllr Robin Lawrence and Claire Darke inspect the new signs round West Park. Let's hope motorists respect them.*

Parking on the grass verges round West Park is causing considerable damage. Cllr Robin Lawrence has arranged for signs to be erected saying "NO PARKING ON VERGE". Robin said, "The grass verges add to the beauty of the Park and should not be churned up by tyre tracks."

### Crawford Road footpaths

Residents of Crawford Road have contacted Cllr Robin Lawrence asking for the footpaths along their road to be resurfaced. Cllr Lawrence has taken the problem to the Highways Department to see if this job can be included in their resurfacing programme in the near future.

# Liberal Democrats get things done

## Claire Darke welcomes new Lib Dem leader



**Claire is delighted that Nick Clegg is the new Leader of the Liberal Democrats.**

Claire Darke said "Unlike the Labour Party, who gave Gordon Brown a coronation and are already regretting it, we have had a vibrant contest with the leadership contenders travelling all round the country setting out their ideas and listening to the views and suggestions of party members. We showed once again how we are the most open, democratic party in British politics.

Gordon Brown's Labour Government is blundering from one disaster to another

yet the Conservatives' policy-lite PR agenda has failed to catch people's imagination here in Wolverhampton. Instead they are listening to what the Liberal Democrats have to offer.

Nick Clegg said: "This is an exciting time to be Leader of the Liberal Democrats. The Labour Government is no longer trusted to deliver vital services like our NHS, or to take the real action needed to cut crime - and the Conservatives don't stand for anything any more.

For more and more people across the country, the Liberal Democrats are providing a real alternative to Labour and Conservatives."

"I will support Britain's families so every child gets the best start in life and improve our NHS so it delivers the care people need"

Claire Darke added: "Nick's election as leader of the Liberal Democrats marks a new beginning. His leadership will be about making Britain a country where our rights, freedoms and privacy are not the playthings of politicians."

## Finchfield Road - Merridale Road Junction needs traffic lights

Residents of Richmond Road and Finchfield Road areas have become exasperated at the congestion at the junction of Merridale Road and Finchfield Road. The sheer amount of traffic now using these roads causes a massive build up of cars and in desperation some impatient drivers have been seen to force their way in front of oncoming vehicles.

### Traffic Lights

Cllr Robin Lawrence has been contacted by a number of residents in the area who all want the junction controlled by lights to ensure a safer flow of traffic. Robin said, "A recent traffic survey in the area only dealt with speed and a camera was installed at this junction. At some times of the day it isn't excessive speed that is the problem - cars can scarcely move at all!

I shall be talking to officers in the Highways Department to sort this problem out before it gets any worse.



A local resident shows Cllr Robin Lawrence and Claire Darke the danger spots at the junction.

### How to contact your Liberal Democrat Councillor, Claire Darke and the Focus Team

#### Cllr Robin Lawrence

Phone 555005

Email :

robin.lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk

#### Claire Darke

email

clairedarke@wolverhamptonlibdems.co.uk

Liberal Democrats, Freepost WV2092  
WOLVERHAMPTON WV4 4BR

#### Surgeries (no appointment needed)

Saturdays from 10 am to 11.30 am.

Cranmer Methodist Church,  
Newhampton Road West 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2008

Vauxhall Tenants' Meeting Room,  
Upper Vauxhall 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008

## No Plastic and Cardboard Recycling

Enterprise, the company responsible for removing household waste and recyclable materials have confirmed to Councillor Robin Lawrence that Wolverhampton Council does not have enough money to introduce kerbside collections of plastics and cardboard. Because of this appalling mismanagement residents of Park Ward will not be able to benefit from door-to-door collections of plastics and cardboard for the foreseeable future.

Councillor Robin Lawrence said "I am very disappointed with the Labour controlled Council. Introducing kerbside collections does have a cost, but the environmental cost of not doing so is far greater."

Environmental Campaigner and Liberal Democrat Candidate for Park Ward Claire Darke said, "It is crazy for householders to make special journeys to the Shaw Road waste site in Bushbury to recycle their plastics and cardboard. It would be a much more efficient use of energy for Wolverhampton Council to collect the waste at the kerbside. The Council does not appear to be interested in green issues." Claire Darke said "Residents of Park Ward are coming to understand that it is the Liberal Democrats who put the environment at the forefront of their policies."



Claire Darke has been campaigning for plastic recycling for a long time

## Cut excess packaging in Wolverhampton

Liberal Democrat Campaigner Claire Darke is leading the campaign against excess packaging locally. Claire has launched a petition calling for a reduction of excess packaging.

Claire said: "Too often, a simple trip to the shops can lead to a huge amount of waste packaging. Not only are consumers being forced to dispose of more packaging than they need, they pay for it too. I welcomed Wolverhampton Council's first steps to ban plastic shopping bags taken last December but I do hope that the project will proceed as a matter of urgency and not become the victim of bureaucratic procrastination. As well as the obvious environmental benefits of sending less waste to landfill, cutting down on excess packaging has financial benefits for consumers."

### Cut Excess Packaging Petition

I / we the undersigned, urge supermarkets in Wolverhampton, to adopt a green approach to product packaging by cutting excess packaging from products stocked where possible, encouraging other producers to reduce excess packaging and encouraging the re-use of carrier bags.

Name:

Address

Email

Postcode

**Return to: Liberal Democrats Freepost WV2092, WOLVERHAMPTON WV4 4BR**

If you return this form the Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you have provided to contact you from time to time about issues we think you may find of interest. Some of the contact may be automated. You can opt out of some or all contacts at any time by contacting us.