



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

Plastic Recycling - At Last!

Local Lib Dems succeed after three year campaign

Thanks to the many campaigns led by Park Ward's Liberal Democrat Councillors plastic and cardboard kerbside collections for recycling will be rolled out across the city this Autumn.

Councillor Claire Darke said, "Wolverhampton Council was years behind other local authorities in its recycling. Liberal Democrats made it one of our many demands for the new minority administration to implement at the earliest possible opportunity.



Councillor Robin Lawrence told Focus "Labour councillors had previously told residents that it would have been impossible to introduce plastics and cardboard kerbside collections before 2011. Thanks to Liberal Democrats

insistence, campaigning and hard-work this long awaited service will be introduced this year."

Liberal Democrat Councillors and Focus Team members will now be pressing for other green initiatives.



Just two of our Focus leaflets calling for plastic recycling. Left February 2007, right January 2008

Action on Road Safety & Parking



Cllr Claire Darke and Cllr Robin Lawrence examine the area where the missing speed table will soon be installed.

Clark Road

The traffic calming measures installed in Clark Road have been broadly welcomed by residents who have noticed the reduction in traffic speeds in the area.

However one of the speed tables in the original plan was not installed with the rest of the project because of drainage problems. Thanks to the work of Councillor Claire

Darke, the remaining speed table will soon be installed near to the entrance to St Jude's School. Commenting on the proposed work Councillor Darke said, "The speed table outside the school was probably the most important one in the whole road. Clearly traffic needs to be forced to drive as slowly as possible when passing St Jude's School."

Newhampton Road

Traffic warden Parking Services patrols have been increased along Newhampton Road East and West. Many residents have complained to Cllr Robin Lawrence about inconsiderate parking on double yellow lines near to the junction with Clifford and Hunter Street.

Councillor Robin Lawrence told Focus, "I am pleased that the



Cllr Claire Darke and Cllr Robin Lawrence make a note of illegal parking near the Clifford Street traffic lights

Merridale Road

Councillor Robin Lawrence, Councillor Claire Darke and the Liberal Democrat Focus Team have long been supporting residents' calls for action at the junction of Merridale Road and Finchfield Road. They have all welcomed a traffic claming

scheme that could begin to ease the problems at that traffic blackspot. Plans are being drawn up to calm traffic and reduce accidents along Merridale Road between Finchfield Road and Merridale Lane.

LABOUR'S DEBT LEGACY

Figures recently revealed have shown that the Labour Party has left Wolverhampton Council in far more debt than previously imagined.

FOCUS warned back in March that Labour was mismanaging our finances. Local Liberal Democrat Councillor Claire Darke said "We thought it was bad, but these latest figures show that Labour had left the

finances in a far worse state than we imagined. It is only now Labour are out of office that we are beginning to see the full extent of the problems. I am concerned there is still more bad news to come."

The Liberal Democrats are committed to scrapping Council Tax completely and replacing it with a fairer form of tax altogether.



Our Focus in March warned of a coming disaster

Park Road Hedge Cut Back



Before

Cllrs Claire Darke and Robin Lawrence fight their way round the overgrown hedge

At long last Wolverhampton Homes have cut back an overhanging hedge that has been blocking a busy stretch of pavement on Park Road East.

Local residents contacted the Liberal Democrats for help and thanks to pressure from Cllr Robin Lawrence, the problem hedge was finally cut down to size. Wolverhampton Homes also agreed to add the hedge to their routine maintenance schedule.



After

The pavement is clear again. Cllrs Claire Darke and Robin Lawrence have no problems now the hedge has been cut back.



Cllrs Claire Darke has called for anti squatter measures

Cllr Claire Darke acts on Anti social behaviour

Members of Crawford Road Neighbourhood Watch and residents in the Haden Hill and Compton Road area contacted Councillor Claire Darke with concerns about the security of the former Eye Infirmary site. In response to these concerns Claire Darke has contacted the police and also demanded that

the site be better secured to prevent it being targeted by squatters and others involved in anti-social behaviour.

Cllr Claire Darke said, "The strength of partnerships between local neighbourhood watch groups and Liberal Democrat councillors has helped

solve many issues of concern to residents across Wolverhampton. I will continue to put pressure on the police to make sure that the the former eye infirmary site is kept secure and the anti-social behaviour that is clearly taking place there is ended."

LOCAL POST OFFICE 'MASSACRE' IS NOTHING TO DO WITH EU



Wolverhampton LibDem MEP Liz Lynne is continuing to give strong support to campaigners across the region fighting to save their local Post Offices, after a massive new wave of closures was announced for the West Midlands.

Liz has refuted claims that EU rules prevent the Government from supporting the Post Office branch network.

She said: "The wave of closures across the West Midlands and nationally is nothing to do with an 'EU diktat' or the single market.

"This is a myth designed to get Gordon Brown off the hook - and it conveniently allows Conservative right wingers to avoid committing themselves to saving the network too - their last government closed over 2,500 post offices.

"Contrary to claims by Euro sceptics, the Government can subsidise Post Offices if it really wants to. They have been classed by the EU as an essential public service."

Liz Lynne has given strong support to local campaigns to protect Post Offices. She formally objected to plans to close branches at Marton and Worthen in Shropshire and joined a demonstration against leaked plans to close a popular post office in central Kenilworth (above).



LIZ LYNNE: "Don't let ministers off the hook over the Post Office closures - it's their fault."

Your local LibDem Euro MP LIZ LYNNE

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This panel published by Liz Lynne MEP and the ALDE Group, European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, Brussels 1047, Belgium.

260,000 unable to see a doctor

Commenting on the annual GP Patient Access Survey, which reveals that 260,000 patients questioned were unable to make an appointment to see their GP within 48 hours, Liberal Democrat Shadow Health Secretary, Norman Lamb MP said: "Patients are still having to wait for an unacceptable amount of time to see their GPs. "The Government guaranteed in 2004 that people would be able to see a doctor within 48 hours, and they have failed to keep this promise.

How to contact your Liberal Democrat Councillors Robin Lawrence, Claire Darke and the Focus Team

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Councillors' Surgeries

10 am to 11.30 am on these Saturdays

August 30th Bantock House

October 11th Tenants' Meeting Room, Upper Vauxhall

November 1st Bantock House

December 6th Tenants' Meeting Room, Upper Vauxhall

2009

January 10th Bantock House

February 7th Bantock House

March 7th Tenants' Meeting Room, Upper Vauxhall