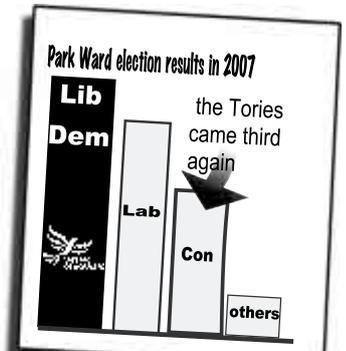


# FOCUS On The Vauxhalls

[www.wolverhamptomlibdems.co.uk](http://www.wolverhamptomlibdems.co.uk)



February 2008

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

# Record Rent Rises

Wolverhampton Homes residents are about to be hit with a double whammy by the Labour controlled City Council. Rents are set to rise by a staggering 6% and concierge charges are to rise by a similar amount. And everybody will be faced with large hikes in Council Tax from April this year.

Local campaigner and Park Ward Liberal Democrat candidate Claire Darke told Focus "Tenants who have contacted me are tired of hearing about tales of millions of pounds while at the same time having to stomach huge rent increases and uncertainties over concierge services. Tenants and leaseholders are also annoyed at having to pay inflated costs for basic common passage way repairs and maintenance."

Councillor Robin Lawrence commented "The increases in rents should be pegged to the rate of inflation, now that millions of pounds of tax-payers money has been promised for improvements in social housing in Wolverhampton. All rent increases should be kept to the rate of inflation until Wolverhampton Homes can demonstrate that tenants and leaseholders are receiving a higher standard of service."



Claire Darke says, "Many tenants are dissatisfied with Wolverhampton Homes and yet they are now being asked to pay huge rent rises."

*Claire Darke says " Vauxhall tenants are tired of having to stomach huge rent increases."*

# Lose Your Job and Lose Your Home!

## That's Labour's latest plan

Under suggestions put forward by Labour Housing Minister, Caroline Flint, tenants who become unemployed while living in council housing could find themselves chucked out onto the streets if they fail to meet certain strict conditions. Park Ward Liberal Democrat candidate Claire Darke told Focus "This sort of tough sounding rhetoric is a shallow attempt to mask the real problems that Labour has ignored for years: low skills, low aspiration, and poor access to professional support. Caroline Flint is dreaming if she thinks an empty threat of eviction is going to get

people back into long-term jobs. Training and support are what is needed, not a headline grabbing plan that will no doubt be quietly shelved in a few weeks."



*"Labour's Housing Minister is dreaming" says Claire Darke*

Claire Darke went on to say "Now is the right time to send a message to the unpopular Labour controlled Wolverhampton Council by voting for hard working, caring, socially minded Liberal Democrats instead of crazy Labour housing ideas."

# A Residents Parking Scheme is needed

Councillor Robin Lawrence shares the frustration of Vauxhall residents over the problems caused by match day parking. He said, "I welcome the many thousands of football fans that come to home games at The Molineux and the money that each fan brings to Wolverhampton. But many residents have told me that they are tired of being swamped by football parking on match days".

Councillor Robin Lawrence told Focus Special "Residents are also annoyed at problems caused by City centre workers who park for free in the area and clog up parking for residents.

Councillor Robin Lawrence and Claire Darke have demanded action from Wolverhampton Council and Wolverhampton Homes to solve the parking menace at The Vauxhalls. Thanks to pressure from Councillor Lawrence a residents only parking scheme for The Vauxhalls is being considered. "I am delighted that Wolverhampton Council is considering The Liberal Democrat's idea for a residents only parking scheme in The Vauxhalls," Robin Lawrence told Focus. He went on to say "However I am concerned that the scheme is progressing too slowly. It is the obvious solution to improved parking and the quality of life of Vauxhall residents."

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

### Cllr Robin Lawrence

Phone 555005

Email : [robin.lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:robin.lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

### Surgeries (no appointment needed)

Saturdays from 10 am to 11. 30 am.

Vauxhall Tenants' Meeting Room,  
Upper Vauxhall

8<sup>th</sup> March 2008

### Claire Darke

### and the Focus Team

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