



Issue 174

FOCUS

From your Liberal Democrat
Focus Team
Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett
Cllr Mike Heap
Cllr Richard Whitehouse
Mrs Sandra Terry

Jan - Feb 2006

Forward Together

Bus Service for Ettingshall Park

Following a long campaign to get a bus to serve Ettingshall Park a service is to be provided from 29th January. The campaign involved a public meeting with the Area Forum at Dudley Road schools and reports from Centro and West Midlands travel representatives to various subsequent meetings of the Forum. Cllr Richard Whitehouse also took the campaign to the Transport Users Area Committee and had the need for a bus route included in an independent report for the City Council. Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett pushed Centro and WMT all the way with a barrage of phone calls and letters.

As a result the 223 route from Bilston to Gornal Wood via Sedgley is to be rerouted to run from the top of Mount Road onto Dovedale Road into Camberley Crescent then along the full length of Farrington Road back onto Dovedale Road and then up Wolverhampton Road East to Sedgley. Approximate timings at Holy Trinity Church will be hourly from 9.40am to 4.40 pm to Sedgley and hourly 9.23am to 3.23pm to Bilston. Time table copies are available from Richard Whitehouse. Sandra Terry said, "This service will enable the elderly and infirm of Ettingshall Park to get out much more easily." Cllr Mike Heap added, "Residents must now use the bus or they may lose it which would be a pity after the long fight to get it introduced."



Labour waste

Labour are to spend £500,000 of your money on one set of super loos in Wolverhampton that is about £8 per household in the City. What about Bilston, Wednesfield and Tettenhall. If they are prepared to spend this amount of your money then surely less grandiose schemes would have provided facilities in Bilston, Wednesfield and Tettenhall as well as the City centre. Sandra Terry said, "This is yet another example of outlandish spending by this Labour Council. They need to be replaced!"

Reduced hours at local housing office

Your Focus team can report that Labour led Wolverhampton Homes have reduced the opening hours at Woodcross Housing Office. The office will now only be open :-
Monday 9 to 4.30, Wednesday 9 to 1 and Thursday 9 to 4.30.

Traffic Calming Hill Avenue/Ward Grove estate

Following enquiries from Cllr Richard Whitehouse he has discovered the suggested traffic calming on the Ward Grove/Hill Avenue estate has been put on the back burner by the Highways department because of a lack of response to the last consultation sent out by them. They have, though, acknowledged that their original letter did not really invite positive responses so they are going to consult again with a new letter which will ask for good as well as negative comment. Cllr Mike Heap said, "I do urge residents to respond when they get the letter if they want traffic calming, otherwise the opportunity will be lost."



Rookery Lodge

Focus has learnt that Cambrian Health Care have withdrawn their interest in Rookery Lodge. This will mean the former nursing home will remain an eyesore to neighbours. Cllr Mike Heap said, "Your Focus Team campaigned against the closure of the home but Labour insisted and then rushed to an early sale without any thought to the consequences of their actions. We can all now see the resulting eyesore being used for numerous illegal activities."



Cllrs Richard Whitehouse and Mike Heap during the campaign to save Rookery Lodge

Garage site and rear courtyards Ettingshall Road

Cllr Richard Whitehouse has been in discussions with housing officers to have the run down, unoccupied garage site in Ettingshall Road combined with part of the rear courtyards to the maisonettes in Ettingshall Road and sold for development probably for a pair of bungalows. As part of the package the remaining courtyard area would be very much improved and become a nice focal point for residents. Contrary to our opponents view Focus can report plans are moving along these lines.

Bus Shelters

Two new bus shelters have been erected in Woodcross. One on Woodcross Street near Bellevue Court and one on Hall Lane near the top of the steps to Abney Drive. There are discussions about the possible siting of one on Mount road but because of very valid objections this may require moving the bus stop.



The Eye Infirmary in Chapel Ash

Battle for the Eye Infirmary

As you may have read in the press Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett is leading the campaign along with the staff to have a purpose built eye infirmary with its own parking not the redevelopment of T-block at New Cross. This month they are off to lobby the Prime Minister. If you would like to help in any way please give Malcolm a ring.

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MEP's action for climate change



Local MEP Liz Lynne with some of the household items affected by the new energy laws.



KEY FACTS SINCE 1997:

- Overall UK consumption of energy has gone up nearly 7%
 - Carbon dioxide up 2.1%
 - Carbon dioxide emissions from Power Stations up 9%
 - Road traffic up by nearly 8%
- Between 1979 and 1997 CO2 emissions from transport rose by 50 percent and deadly particulates by 25 percent.*

Local LibDem Euro MP Liz Lynne has welcomed the introduction of new EU laws she supported to make electrical products more efficient.

But she is also calling for the British Government to go further and take the lead in the battle to stop climate change.

Tumble dryers, microwave ovens, hairdryers, computers and fridges are all affected by a new energy law agreed by the European Parliament.

Liz said: "Consumers will benefit from new minimum standards and less waste. We

will cut electricity use and carbon dioxide emissions too. The law will apply both to imports and those made in Europe."

"But we want Britain to take a lead in cutting CO2 emissions. With hurricanes in America, droughts in Portugal, and two tornadoes recently in Birmingham, it must be a priority.

"The recent Montreal talks were a step forward. But I really hope Tony Blair can be persuaded to go back to more radical CO2 targets for Britain."

Your local LibDem Euro MP LIZ LYNNE Tel: 01789 266354
www.lizlynne.org.uk email: lizlynne@cix.co.uk
 55 Ely Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6LN

This panel published and promoted by Liz Lynne MEP on behalf of the Liberal Democrats and the ALDE Group, Rue Wiertz, Brussels, Belgium.

Quick updates

- The redundant road signs have been removed on Hall Lane and part of the pavement resurfaced following representations by your Focus Team.
- The Communal windows obtained by your Liberal Democrat Focus Team have now been installed on the Dovedale Road/Mount Road/Falcon Crescent flatted estate.
- New fencing has been provided, as promised, around bungalows on Beach Avenue/Brynmaur Road and the less damaged ones repaired

Chewing gum littering outlawed

Following a motion to Council by Richard Whitehouse, Wolverhampton City Council is to fine those who drop chewing gum all over our streets. Richard said, "This habit is leaving an unsightly mess wherever you go, people must learn to dispose of their gum properly not leave it for others to walk in." As a consequence of moving the motion Richard was also promised that the bird droppings covering many seats in our centres would also be cleaned off to improve our environment."

2nd Rate Central Heating Systems

The central heating systems fitted to the Council properties in Hill Avenue/Ward Grove/Crawford & Pritchett Avenues is of such a poor standard that a number of families were left over Christmas and the New Year without heating or hot water. Cllr Mike Heap said, "The residents have raised the issue of these substandard heating systems with Housing officials at their monthly meetings ever since they were installed. Some tenants have problems getting sufficient hot water to even have a bath. Now that these relatively new systems are failing altogether I have written to the Chief Executive of Wolverhampton Homes demanding urgent action."

Senior Citizen Link Line in Springvale....

Working across Wolverhampton, the Senior Citizen Link Line, is a pro-active telephone support service working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week which offers every person over 65 who lives alone the opportunity to chat and make new friends. This is a free service and to join all you have to do is **telephone Tracy Scarratt on 01902 405878**. You may be that person who needs someone to chat to or someone who has the time to listen and cares how you feel?

We telephone you on the same day at the same time each week for a friendly social chat. You may just want to pass the time of day or you may have concerns that you would like to share. We can help when you may not be physically able to do a minor task, or feel confident enough to question other agencies to solve problems

Gary and Bev at the Spread Eagle pub are looking forward to supporting the Link Line with their charity nights so we can always respond to older people in Springvale who need support. We do ask for donations for some of the services that are expensive to run and still we can save you money and give you one to one support.

We take members to hospital, health care appointments and opticians. We change light bulbs, provide a gardening service and minor repair service. If you would like us to call and see you to explain our services, you may feel safer knowing all our staff are CRB checked and experienced in advocacy with older people.



Phone your Focus Team

Cllr Whitehouse 659835 1 pm - 5 pm
 Cllr Gwinnett 398800 10 am - 1 pm
 Cllr Mike Heap 754030
 Sandra Terry 650088
 Office 555005 3 pm - 5 pm

24 hour answerphone at our office

Email:

Richard.Whitehouse@wolverhampton.gov.uk

If you have a problem

you can always write free of charge to

Liberal Democrats
FREEPOST WV 2092
 18 Ettingshall Park Farm Lane
WOLVERHAMPTON WV4 4BR

My name

address

.....

Lanesfield Hardware

49 Wood Street, Lanesfield
 tel 353234

Prop. Mrs Blackford

Curtain wire 15p /metre compost 11p 1/2kg
 Growmore 15p 1/2kg grass seed £1.54 1/2kg
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Councillors' Saturday Advice Centres

no appointment necessary

1st Saturday in the month

Hill Avenue School 11 am to 12 noon
 Manor School 12 noon to 1 pm

3rd Saturday in the month

Springvale School 11 am to 12 noon
 Lanesfield School 12 noon to 1 pm

Except Bank holiday weekends