



Issue 176
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FOCUS

Forward Together



Sandra Terry

Council Tax up again

Yet again the Labour controlled Council is raising council tax by an inflation beating rise; this time of 4.9%. The only year in recent memory when tax did not rise was in 1994, the last year the Liberal Democrats had a controlling influence on power.

Much of these rises have been because of Government policies which have reduced grants to local councils whilst expecting them to deliver more – especially in the area of Social Services. In effect it is another Labour tax increase. **Sandra Terry** said, “I sense a change coming in this country where people are demanding responsible representation with expensive, grandiose schemes replaced with improvements in basic services”.

Stop Labour's Daylight Robbery!



Rubbish Action Zones



Malcolm Gwinnett, Mike Heap and Richard Whitehouse seen helping in a Rubbish Action Zone

Your Liberal Democrat Focus Team will be completing the Ward with Rubbish Action Zones this month. Every property will have had an opportunity to get rid of their bulk rubbish over the last twelve months thanks to your Team. At the end of the Action Zone on 18th February which was for lower Woodcross and Deepfields, your Team also managed to clear the remaining fly-tipped rubbish in the lane between Fieldhouse Road and Wolverhampton Road East. During this month on March 4th the team went to the Hill Avenue/Lapper Avenue area as well as the Cinder Hill area. Also on March

18th the remaining part of Ettingshall Park is to be done. **Sandra Terry** said, “I have enjoyed helping and meeting many residents during these rubbish action days. It is quite an experience working on a refuse lorry!”

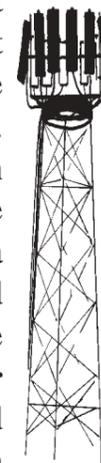
Garage Improvements

Further to articles in previous Focus newsletters **Cllr Richard Whitehouse** is pleased to report that his applications to the Housing Minor Works programme for this coming financial year have been successful. In addition to Hackett Close site B garage site which has had lighting and surfacing this year, Hackett Close site C is to get new lighting. Painting to garage doors at Hackett Close/Clare Crescent/Mount Road/Pointon

Close/Hessian Close has been agreed along with replacement doors where needed. Genge Avenue site is to be gated along with a general upgrade which is being done through the main programme. **Cllr Whitehouse** said “I hope garage tenants are pleased with this progress. I am now putting together plans for what to apply for in the 2007/8 programme, so if you have anything you would like to be included please contact me”.

O₂ Mast application

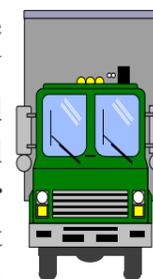
Focus learned of a plan by O₂ to put a 35ft high telecommunication mast in Hurst Road between the Gate Hangs Well pub and Hurst Hill shops. Not only would this be an environmental eyesore for those living near the mast but it would be a driver distraction, being sited between the pelican crossing and the traffic lights at Hall Lane. **Cllr Richard Whitehouse** jumped straight in to action and launched a



petition - which gained 188 signatures. This was then handed to Planning once the application had been submitted. This month the Planning department is expected to refuse the application. **Sandra Terry** said, “We must not get too excited if this application is refused because experience has shown these companies often apply again for a mast in a similar position in the area.” Your Focus Team recognises these masts are needed for improved telecommunications but it is all about where they are sited. Next to shops, houses and a major road junction is not appropriate!

Traffic on Hilton Road

Following requests for an update to the development at the GKN site made by tenants and residents at the Lanesfield Association. **Councillor**



Richard Whitehouse can report that the construction company is due to start putting in speed tables at the end of Hilton Road and the service road along the Birmingham New Road some time this month. He can also report that he has asked for weight restrictions to be considered on Hilton Road along with the planned 20 mph speed limit for sometime next year

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LABOUR'S LIES and HALF TRUTHS – a response

As readers know your Liberal Democrat Focus Team usually does not respond to attacks from opponents. However, recent publications from the Labour Party have either contained lies or half truths and need a response in case residents are taken in by anything contained in them.

One leaflet attempts to portray the Liberal Democrats as a benefit cutting unfeeling party. How far from the truth can this be? The Liberal Democrats would get more money to the people who need it compared to what Labour has ever done although it would be as different kinds benefits, . It is fact that the gap between rich and poor and INCREASED SINCE LABOUR CAME TO POWER. The National Health Service was introduced by a Liberal, Lord Beverage and our party is steadfast and unshakeable supporters whereas Blair is steadily privatising the service in the name of choice. For instance most dentists will no longer offer National Health cover from April and when ID (identity) cards become compulsory you will not be able to access NHS treatment unless you have paid for an ID card. We would scrap the intended national Identity Card scheme and spend the billions (costing up to £19 billion) on extra police on the beat.

Another leaflet makes claims that the local Labour candidate has achieved all sorts of things.

1. **Green Corns:** as most readers are aware it was Focus Team **Councillor Malcolm Gwinnett** who achieved most in getting Green Corns to leave. He researched planning acts and then insisted Green Corns would have to apply for planning permission for each property – which Green Corns believed they would lose.
2. **Bus:** The alteration of the 223 bus route through Ettingshall Park had nothing to do with the Labour candidate at all. It was a commercial decision following a forced diversion of the route because of speed humps on the Beacon Hill estate, Sedgley. Travel West Midlands had heard a large number of representations made at a public meeting, advertised by your Focus Team in June 2003 and followed up by Springvale/ Blakenhall Area Forum at subsequent meetings. These had persuaded Travel West Midlands the diversion should be through Ettingshall Park.

3. **Footpaths Miller Crescent/Hackett Close:** these were repaired as part of the ongoing maintenance programme, nothing to do with the local Labour Team.
4. **Woodcross Park:** the 'no motorcycles sign' were erected as a result of the efforts of our last local police beat officer. **Councillor Gwinnett** went around with him on a number of occasions and motorbikes were confiscated. What has this to do with the Labour candidate?
5. **Alley ways:** Focus concedes that the Labour MP is campaigning for the alleyway between Bate Street and Brynmawr Road to be closed. However, it is your local Liberal Democrat Focus Team that is attempting to get the little used Clare Crescent/Smout Crescent alley closed and we want the Dawson Avenue/Woodcross Lane/Beach Avenue footpath gated. We have listened to residents who would prefer this option so that the path is closed at night only and still open during the day.

Hill Avenue/Pritchett Avenue/Crawford Avenue High Hedges street lighting

Councillor Mike Heap can report that the new street lighting he pushed through following a number of attacks in the area is now fully operational. Residents have been in contact with Focus to say how delighted they are with the new lights and to say that they now feel much safer at night. Mike is now trying to get the scheme extended to Sunset Place, Ward Grove, and Gordon Avenue. He will keep readers informed of progress.



Cllr Mike Heap with a new lamp post

If you have a hedge of over 2 metres high next to your property and you object to it, but your neighbour will not do anything about it, then there is a solution. New legislation means the council can intercede. Most councils do this at a charge but Wolverhampton has decided to offer this as a free service initially. You will need to contact Environmental Services which you can do through City Direct on 551155.

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

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
Feed & weed 27p 1/2kg cat litter 15p 1/2kg
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Wolverhampton WV4 6JS



Phone your Focus Team

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