



Issue 180

# FOCUS

Forward Together

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

July August 2006

## Massive Blows For Tenants And Home Owners

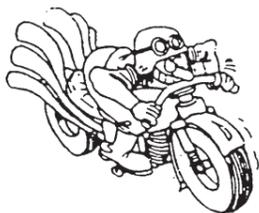
Wolverhampton Homes have failed in their bid to achieve 2\* status and so will not be receiving the £288 million to bring properties up to “decent homes standards”, Furthermore, the Labour council has endorsed rent increases for council tenants of a huge 7%. Garage rentals have also been hiked for everyone, but for homeowners they have been almost doubled to £5 weekly.

The news comes less than two months after the local elections and 18 months or so in to the life of “Wolverhampton Homes”. Many repairs have been put in to programmes but no dates for completion of fences and other repairs have been fixed. Colossal amounts of money were spent to persuade tenants to vote for the ALMO (Wolverhampton Homes) and the organisation is deeply in debt – hence the huge increases. Cllr Richard Whitehouse said, “This rise is just a foretaste of increasing cuts in council services and a projected further rise in Council Tax of 5% next year”.

Your councillors did warn everyone but voters were persuaded by the £1 million propaganda campaign to support the new organisation. Don't let them get away with it again!



### Motor Cycle Nuisance



Finally, Dudley police have been taking some action against the off-road motorcycles using Sedgley Beacon. This follows complaints from Councillors in Dudley and your Liberal Democrat Focus Team Councillors.

The problem has not gone away but we are confident that it is on the way to being totally solved. However, on Hilton Playing Fields, Lanesfield, the problem has been horrendous. Even with the fencing put up following the successful application to the Area Forum for funding, they are getting in through the stile. The stile has to be there to allow disabled access but a redesign is being investigated. Councillor Richard Whitehouse has been on to the local Police Inspector who has detailed officers to the site and some motorcycles have been seized. He also had the council erect an official ‘No Motorcycling’ sign which was promptly vandalised! He requested, and has had this replaced. Councillor Richard Whitehouse said, “If you can identify anyone who is taking part in this very antisocial behaviour or where the motorcycles are coming from please let me or Councillor Mike Heap know and we will pass the information, in confidence, on to the police”.

### Antisocial Behaviour



We are pleased to inform everyone that three police officers have been allocated to SpringVale Ward with immediate effect. The original plan to have three Police Support Officers from early June was postponed, but this recent news is excellent for the Ward. Further more it is now planned to have the three Support Officers in November or December this year as well. Along with housing problems, antisocial behaviour - particularly by youths – is the topic which concerns all residents and we are determined to work with all agencies to help stamp it out.

### Take Away Planning Application Thrown Out

Early in May an application was made for a takeaway in the former grocer's shop on Ettingshall Road. Sandra Terry then helped collect a petition against this application on behalf of the residents. Cllr Richard Whitehouse also advised residents to put in letters of objection and on what to include. Sandra and Richard are pleased to announce that the application was refused on the grounds of ‘detrimental to highways safety due to proximity to school entrance and road junction, detrimental to neighbours amenity due to vehicular activity – particularly late at night, detrimental to visual amenity because of proposed installation of a large metal flue and lack of details of proposed storage arrangement for waste or customer litter bins’. Cllr Mike Heap said, “This is another example of what we can achieve with your Liberal Democrat Focus Team working with local residents”.

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Walsall Street  
BILSTON WV14 0AT  
tel: 01902 405878

#### Michael Reaney Decorators

Social Enterprise of the  
Parish of Bilston Special Projects

# Local MEP slams waste of second EU Parliament



**Wolverhampton's MEP Liz Lynne is furious that all 732 MEPs have to carry 3,500 trunks of documents like these every month from Brussels to the second EU Parliament in Strasbourg.**

Liz Lynne, LibDem Euro MP for Wolverhampton and the West Midlands, has joined MEPs from all over Europe in a petition to scrap the European Parliament's costly monthly trips from Brussels to Strasbourg.

The Campaign for Parliamentary Reform, a cross-party group of British, German and Scandinavian MEPs, hope to collect a million signatures for its "one seat" petition to the European Commission. It calls for MEPs to do all their work in Brussels instead of being forced to travel to Strasbourg for full sessions of the parliament.

## £100 million wasted on travel

Liz Lynne, a member of the Campaign, said: "It is absurd that all 732 MEPs, with 2,500 assistants and staff and 3,500 trunks full of files and papers have to make the monthly 250 mile trek from Brussels to Strasbourg. Not only is it a waste of taxpayers' money - probably £100 million a year, but all the travelling causes unnecessary carbon emissions.

"The national governments are responsible for this circus, as the twin location of the Parliament is written into the EU treaties they signed. Most MEPs are fed up and embarrassed by the waste - its time it was changed. France must recognise that pride is not reason enough to keep this second Parliament."

To sign the petition, visit the website [www.oneseat.eu](http://www.oneseat.eu).

**Your local LibDem Euro MP LIZ LYNNE**

**Tel: 01789 266354**

**[www.lizlynnne.org.uk](http://www.lizlynnne.org.uk)**

email:

**[lizlynnne@cix.co.uk](mailto:lizlynnne@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.



Phone your Focus Team

Cllr Whitehouse 659835 1 pm- 5 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](mailto:Richard.Whitehouse@wolverhampton.gov.uk)**

**[Michael.Heap@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.Heap@wolverhampton.gov.uk)**

## Swann Road Garage Site

Cllr Richard Whitehouse is pleased to announce that the gating of this garage site (that he applied for) is in this year's programme. He said, "Every user will be issued a key and if everyone locks the gate after them then we can be much happier regarding site security".

## 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

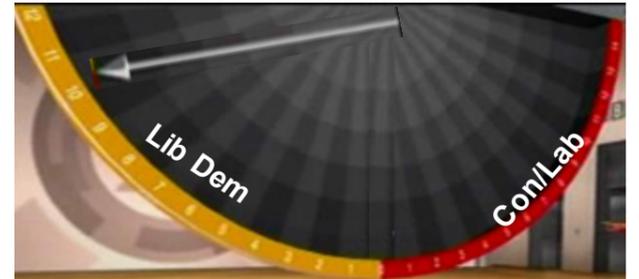
### 3rd Saturday in the month

Springvale School 11 am to 12 noon

Lanesfield School 12 noon to 1 pm

**Except Bank holiday weekends**

# Massive swings to Lib Dems



**Massive swings to the Lib Dems challenges both Labour and the Tories in their heartlands**

In a Parliamentary by-election in Bromley at the end of June there was a swing of 14% from the Conservatives to the Liberal Democrats and 16% from the Labour Party to the Liberal Democrats.

The Conservatives only just retained one of their safest seats with a tiny majority. This was the worst by-election result for the Conservative party in a Tory held seat since John Major's premiership. Labour was beaten into fourth place.

And on the same day Labour was trounced in Blaenau Gwent, what was once one of their safest seats held by Michael Foot and before him by Aneurin Bevan.

Labour are obviously on a rapid downward spiral as shown by these by-elections, and the Cameron bubble has burst for the Tories. The choice is now the new Tories under Tony Blair, the confused Tories/New Labour under David Cameron (very little difference) or the one major party that believes in social justice, opposes illegal wars and stands for greener policies - the Lib Dems.

## FOCUS DISTRIBUTION

Cllr Mike Heap is aware that Focus issues are very well received and welcomed by residents.

They are distributed regularly to 5,000 homes in the Ward and enable your councillors to give up-to-date information. We would welcome your help in distribution and if you could deliver a few leaflets - 50 or 100 in your neighbourhood - every two months or so.

Please let Mike know on 01902 754030 or 01902 555005.

We need to carry on the fight for a fairer society and we would welcome your help.

Please give him a ring!

## STOP PRESS

Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett has joined Cllrs Richard Whitehouse and Mike Heap in a new Liberal Democrat / Liberal Group on the Council. This will strengthen the group for tenants and residents in the Ward.

## 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

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Prop. Mrs Blackford

Curtain wire 15p /metre compost 11p 1/2kg

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