

Woodcross Housing Office Closure

Wolverhampton Homes has decided to close Woodcross Housing Office from February



Cllr Richard Whitehouse (centre) leads the protest outside the Woodcross Housing Office

Your Councillors along with all three Tenants and Residents Associations and the local Labour Party are totally opposed to this closure. A vote of no confidence in Wolverhampton Homes has already been passed at the South East Housing Consultation Committee and Cllr Whitehouse is moving a similar motion at the next Full Council Meeting on February 7th. Cllr Mike Heap said, "This plan must be resisted at all costs because many people only trust paying their council rent and/or council tax across a counter to receive a receipt. To make residents, especially the elderly and infirm, to travel either into Wolverhampton or Bilston to do so, is simply unfair." Cllr Richard Whitehouse added, "Wolverhampton Homes intend to open an office, at great expense, in the City centre using funds saved from closing branch offices. They should be forced to remain in the Civic Centre and keep the branch offices open."

Working Together

Your Liberal Democrat Councillors Mike Heap and Richard Whitehouse are working closely with your Liberal Councillor Malcolm Gwinnett on a number of ward issues for the benefit of all. On one issue, the closure of Woodcross Housing Office, they are also working closely with the Tenants and Residents Associations and the local Labour candidate.

Ettingshall Park Bus Services



Springvale's three councillors on their way to present the petition

Cllrs Mike Heap, Richard Whitehouse and Malcolm Gwinnett handed in the Focus petition regarding the loss of the 223 service to the Black Country Regional Director of Travel West Midlands. At the meeting a detailed discussion was held and a number of alternatives suggested by Cllr Richard Whitehouse were debated. The bus company then agreed to investigate in detail a couple of suggestions and have subsequently driven a test bus over one route. Cllr Whitehouse said, "I am confident that we may have a new service in the spring. I will keep you informed through Focus of any developments."

Telecommunications Mast on Hurst Hill

It is with regret that Focus brings you the news that on appeal to the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol permission has been granted for a new O₂ telecommunications mast near to the Gate Hangs Well public house. This is despite Wolverhampton Council turning down the original application following our petition and your Councillors objections to the planning inspectorate once the appeal had been lodged. The inspector, as we advised in our own letter to the petitioners, ignored any health ground objections as the



Coming soon to Hurst Hill - at least one of these

Government has directed that these must not be taken into account. Unfortunately, other than our own objections on the grounds of visual amenity and highway grounds very few were submitted by others. Thus the appeal was allowed. A second company has now applied for a very similar mast on the same location and subsequent to the first being allowed we believe it is certain that this also will be granted. This is sad news for the residents of Hurst Road and adjacent streets.

Rookery Lodge

This eyesore building is to be demolished very shortly and building work to provide a small care facility and 22 houses is to be started soon after ground stabilisation measures have been taken. Cllr Mike Heap said, "The whole sorry saga of this former nursing home closure, sale and then slow destruction by vandals is nearing an end. The new development is at least something we can say will improve this site and remove the ugly eyesore local people have had to endure."

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