

Uncaring Labour increases Council Tax by 4.9% and Rents by 11.5%

Cllr Mike Heap said, "Once again the Labour Council has imposed crippling increases in rents, council tax and social care charges whilst drastically reducing services."

Council Tax will rise by twice the rate of inflation at 4.9%, rents have gone up an incredible 11.5% in just **five months** and charges in the social care area have also been hiked. This Labour Council blames a poor grant settlement from the Government but it is a Labour Government!

Mike went on to say, "Pensioners, people earning just above the subsidy level and the vulnerable and infirm are the most badly hit but no-one has escaped. It is time for this incompetent and uncaring administration to be removed from office. The opportunity for change comes on 3rd May when elections take place in all twenty wards. This City's uncaring Labour party do not deserve to be returned in any of them."

Stop Labour's Daylight Robbery!



Woodcross housing office



Cllrs Richard Whitehouse (centre), Mike Heap and Malcolm Gwinnett (right) with the protest outside the Woodcross Housing Office

As reported in the last Focus, Councillor Richard Whitehouse took to Full Council a motion calling for an end to the planned closures of the Area Housing Offices. Richard said, "The Labour party so amended the motion as to make it meaningless to get their own members off the hook. This meant they failed to support our moves to stop the closures and they will go ahead."

Councillor Mike Heap said, "This means that Woodcross has had its opening hours slashed, it is now open 9am – 1pm Monday, Wednesday and Thursday only. Once the new

office in Wolverhampton has opened and the welcome transfer of the Bilston office back to the refurbished Town Hall, then Woodcross Office will close without any justifiable reason. This is another example of your uncaring Labour council.

Travellers invade GKN site

At the end of February travellers invaded the GKN site in front of the old main block facing onto the Birmingham New Road. Your local councillors jumped swiftly into action insisting that the police use their section 61 powers to move them on. However the police failed to support your local councillors in their removal. Nevertheless, they then provided assistance to the land owners in applying for a court order to evict the travellers. Councillor Malcolm Gwinnett even went to court arguing for an immediate order, giving examples of the nuisance that had already been caused to local residents. He also got an assurance from the land owners that once the travellers had gone they would then arrange an immediate clear up of the site. Mike Heap said, "Unfortunately the main bunch of travellers crossed the road, into Blakenhall ward, onto the disused garage site whose owners, a development company from Coventry, will not be as co-operative in obtaining a court order. However, Malcolm has arranged a meeting with the new police Chief Superintendent to discuss the use of section 61 powers so that this issue does not arise again."

Lamppost boards

Councillor Mike Heap is very pleased to report that he has persuaded both the local Labour and Conservative Leaders to agree to a change in the rules and to ban lamppost boards at the local elections. Cllr Heap said, "These boards are environmentally unfriendly, an eyesore and many are smashed to the ground causing unwanted litter. I am really pleased we have taken this step to join our neighbours in Dudley who have never used them."

Of course we will still need a show of support for us and so we will need a good display of garden boards and/or window posters. If you are willing to display either of these please give either Richard Whitehouse (659835) or Mike Heap (754030) a ring.

Chris Caddick

High Class traditional
family butcher
Full range of groceries
and green groceries

Personal friendly service
124 Childs Avenue
Woodcross Est. Coseley
01902 663603

J.H. Property Specialists

Brickwork, Carpentry
Painting & decorating
plastering, tiling
roofing, guttering, fascias, plumbing

No job too small
tel: 01902 833131
mob: 07754 557861

13 Fieldhouse Road, Ettingshall Park
Wolverhampton WV4 6JS

PDM PAVING

Specialists in block paving, patios,
slabbing, driveways, pathways,
decorative walls and fencing.

All work guaranteed.

No job too big or too small
15 Fieldhouse Road, Parkfields,
Wolverhampton WV4 6JS
tel: 654255

BAN CLUSTER BOMBS NOW, SAYS MEP

The horrific toll of death and injury to innocent civilians in Lebanon has prompted Wolverhampton LibDem Euro MP Liz Lynne to launch a campaign to ban cluster bombs.

The European Parliament in Strasbourg has voted to back her joint resolution calling for a total ban on the production, stockpiling or use of cluster munitions.

Now Liz Lynne and county Liberal Democrats have launched a petition campaign to persuade Tony Blair and other governments to ban these barbaric weapons.

Liz said: "Cluster bombs were invented by the Nazis, and have devastating effect on civilians. Up to a quarter fail to go off, leaving thousands of unexploded 'bomblets' which kill or maim anyone who disturbs them, often children."

Four million bomblets in Lebanon

Aid group Handicap International found that up to 4 million bomblets were dropped on Lebanon by the Israeli military. Hizbollah has also been condemned for firing cluster munitions into Israel. 98% of casualties are civilian.

Liz added: "27 countries have called for a ban but Britain is dragging its heels, as it did over calling for a ceasefire."

"We must persuade Tony Blair to end his dog-like devotion to George Bush and stand up and be counted."



BAN CLUSTER BOMBS PETITION

TO: The Rt Hon Tony Blair, Prime Minister

We, the undersigned, believe cluster bomb munitions to be barbaric and urge HM Government to ban this kind of weapon from the UK armed forces and to encourage all other countries that have not already done so to ban their use or stockpiling.

Name	Address
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Cut this petition out

Return to your LibDem team in Wolverhampton, or post to:
Liz Lynne MEP, 55 Ely Street, Stratford upon Avon CV37 6LN

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 by Liz Lynne MEP and the ALDE Group, European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, Brussels 1047, Belgium.

Ettingshall Park Bus service

Councillor Richard Whitehouse unfortunately has to report that following the test runs of his suggested service to cover Ettingshall Park the running time prevented Travel West Midlands diverting a bus from the eastern side of the City. However, Cllr Whitehouse is Chair of the Transport & Highways Sub of the Local Area Forum and in that capacity he intends to call Centro and service providers together to consider using a bus service presently on the west side of the City. Richard said, "I will continue to push for a service by whatever means I find possible."

Rookery Lodge developments

Councillor Malcolm Gwinnett is pleased to report that because of his work with planning and highway officers, a recommendation to approve the planning application for a 60 bed nursing home and 23 houses on the site will be presented to planning committee as this Focus goes to press. As soon as permission is granted the bulldozers will be on site pulling down the derelict building. Mike Heap said, "Our thanks must go to Malcolm for the tenacious way he has tackled this issue."

Photo right:
Cllrs Mike Heap and Richard Whitehouse during their long campaign to save Rookery Lodge



Phone your Focus Team

Cllr Whitehouse 659835 1 pm- 5 pm
Cllr Mike Heap 754030
Office 555005 3 pm - 5 pm
24 hour answerphone at our office

Email:
Richard.Whitehouse@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Michael.Heap@wolverhampton.gov.uk

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

My problem is:

Teepee Accountancy Services Ltd.

43 Wendover Road Ettingshall Park
Wolverhampton WV4 6ND
01902 663125 or
07931 639 664

Accountancy and Taxation services
Fixed fee quotes at competitive rates
Call the above number for a
free initial consultation

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
rabbit food 26p 1/2kg
Sodium Chlorate weedkiller 77p 1/2kg
Keys Cut, Paint and electrical goods
open 7 days a week

Louise's Catering

All occasions catered for.

Discos, balloons

Chocolate fountains

for a free quote and menu

tel 01902 569700

mob 07929 797356