



Your Council Tax and you

In March Wolverhampton Council will be considering the levels of service and Council Tax for the residents of Wolverhampton. Your Liberal Democrat Councillors would like **you** to have an input into our recommendations.

The controlling Labour Party will move their budget but we can move

amendments. So we would like your **opinions**.

Background

The majority of council expenditure is on schools and social services. Much of this is on pay. These pay rates are covered by national agreements.

The government gives a grant which covers about 40% of expenditure. However, because of cut backs by

Labour in Government, it is only going to increase the level of grant by 1% (well below inflation). They have also ordered equal pay across all council employees to be brought in next year (costing £5m) and paid for by us the Council Taxpayers. As a result of both these actions we are expecting a Labour Council tax rise of around 5% (well above inflation) just to maintain existing services.

Have Your say

I would like to increase expenditure for :

A) _____

B) _____

C) _____

I would like to cut or reduce expenditure on :

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Please return free of charge to:
Councillor Richard Whitehouse at :
Wolverhampton Liberal Democrats,
Freepost WV2092
18 Ettingshall Park Farm Lane,
Wolverhampton WV4 4BR

My name is _____

My address is _____

I am willing to help the Focus team Yes/No



Councillor Richard Whitehouse discusses budget options with the Lib Dem Finance spokesman Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett



Lottery bids for Springvale Park

There were two lottery bids for Springvale Park , one for play which was successful and one which was part of the 'People's Millions' televised bid which was unsuccessful. Cllr Richard Whitehouse said, "This means the plans for a children's natural play area can

now go ahead but the Friends of the Park will be bidding elsewhere for improved paths and the restoration of the pool. Our thanks must go to the Friends of the Park Committee and Chair Cllr. Malcolm Gwinnett for working behind the scenes to ensure a successful bid."

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WEST MIDLANDS NEEDS EUROSTAR LINK, SAYS MEP



LibDem MEP Liz Lynne is calling for Eurostar to link their new services to the West Midlands.

After the launch of the new ultra high speed train link from St Pancras International to Paris and Brussels, a West Midlands MEP has lamented that there is still no sign of direct Eurostar services from the regions.

LibDem Liz Lynne said: "When I first became an MEP in 1999 there were plans for a Eurostar service from Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Rugby via the Tunnel to Brussels. The trains were built, the service even appeared in the timetable, but it never ran.



LibDem MEP Liz Lynne has asked Eurostar to assess the commercial case for a high speed link from Wolverhampton and Birmingham to Brussels and Paris.

"I welcome the new faster link for London but it is such a shame that just a fraction of the government's transport plans ever come to pass, and most involve London. Ministers have just announced approval for CrossRail, useful but it will cost a staggering £16 billion, mostly from public funds. Services in the regions could be transformed for a fraction of that kind of money.

"The High Speed Line from the Tunnel to St Pancras is a stunning achievement, so it is a great shame there is no progress on links to the country's second city.

"But with Birmingham now surely within the magic three hours for a direct service to Brussels and close to that for Paris, I really hope Eurostar looks again at a dedicated service from the Midlands as a commercial proposition. They could use the regional Eurostar trains on the existing West Coast Main Line.

"Even without a dedicated high speed route, a through Eurostar service from Wolverhampton could compete directly with airliners and divert traffic from air to rail, with huge savings in carbon emissions."

AROUND THE WARD WITH YOUR FOCUS TEAM

Nature area to be created

The land at the back of Norbury Crescent/Hilton hall playing fields/the former BT site on Hilton Road is to be opened up for the public. New footpaths are to be laid. Two new bridges to walk over the stream are to be built and the general environment improved by some forestry management.

At the GKN end of the site a new play area is to be built, which was one of the planning conditions obtained from the developers by your Lib Dem Focus Team Councillors. Councillor Richard Whitehouse said, "This is not only good news for the residents of the immediate estate but also for the wider community who are interested in wild life."



A view of part of the site from the rear of Norbury Crescent as it looks today.

Cllr. Richard Whitehouse viewing the new communal windows at Woodcross Lane/Bellevue Street maisonettes



Completion of communal windows to all Council properties

Following on the success of being the first ward to have all its council properties with UPVCu windows Cllr Richard Whitehouse can report that the last set of communal windows have now been installed. He said, "The Housing Department had no plans to do these communal areas so any energy savings achieved within the flats was wasted because of the continued energy loss on the landings. We campaigned hard to get these communal areas double glazed using whatever source of funding we could, such as the housing minor works programme, and at last they are complete."



Phone your Focus Team

Cllr Gwinnett 398800
Cllr Whitehouse 659835 1pm- 5pm
Cllr Mike Heap 754030
Office 555005 3pm- 5pm

24 hour answerphone at our office

Email: richard.whitehouse@wolverhampton.gov.uk

michael.heap@wolverhampton.gov.uk

malcolm.gwinnett@wolverhampton.gov.uk



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3rd Saturday in the month

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55 Ely Street,
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CV37 6LN



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

No problem too small

If you spot something that needs attention contact

Cllr Whitehouse, Cllr Heap or Cllr Gwinnett.

If you have a problem

you can always write free of charge to:

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