

Working for you all the year round

Massive rises in Council Tax and Rent

Wolverhampton Labour controlled Council is imposing a Council Tax rise of an inflation busting 4.75%. This is the 14th successive year in a row that the rise has been above inflation. Not since the last Liberal Democrat/Conservative administration has it been below inflation (in fact it was cut by 1.1%). This Labour Council blame the government for a poor grant settlement - but it is also a Labour Government!



Labour is to blame!

Cllr Richard Whitehouse said, "It is now becoming blatantly clear that the only way the Labour Party seem to know how to manage our economy both nationally and locally is to bleed the poor old taxpayer dry."

Local Income Tax

To make matters worse Council Tax is a most unfair tax which raises money equally from a pensioner household to a household with a number working.

The Liberal Democrats have said, for a long time, that this tax must be replaced by Local Income Tax which would be based on a persons ability to pay, not which house or flat they live in.

An unbelievable rent rise (18% in 17months!)

On top of the Council Tax rise council tenants are to have a rise of 6%, this is after rises 17 months ago and a year ago amounting to a total of 11.51% . This equates to a rise of 18.2% in just 17 months !

Cllr Mike Heap said, "The Liberal Democrats were the only party in Wolverhampton to question the management structure of Wolverhampton Homes, which took over the management of our council housing. Their record of managing the rent account has proved us correct to do so."

APPALLING ROAD RESURFACING

Ward Grove, Lapper Avenue and Wendover Road were resurfaced in the Autumn. "They are an absolute disgrace," said Cllr Richard Whitehouse. "The surface is already breaking up in places. There are loose chippings everywhere and the white lines have not been replaced at a number of road junctions. I have contacted Highways and insisted that the contractors put the job right at their expense and this has been agreed." However work

cannot start until the weather is favourable but I have insisted that in the meantime the road junctions are relaid with high quality tarmac.

Hilton Road area work to commence

Focus berated Highways for missing out Hilton Road, Hackford Road and Norbury Crescent last year but it may well have been a blessing in disguise to be done this year, and as we can now announce, from this March!



Cllr Richard Whitehouse at one of the bad spots, at the junction of Wendover Road and Ward Grove

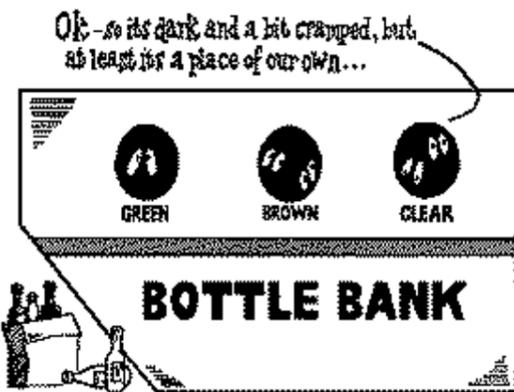
Recycling boxes to be extended to all flats in our ward

Following pressure by your local Liberal Democrat councillors the recycling initiative is to be rolled out to all the flats in our area. Cllr Richard Whitehouse said, "Many residents have approached your Focus Team asking why they haven't got green recycling boxes. The Council has now responded by promising to roll out the boxes to all in the 3 story flats that want it." However, Focus knows that many people in maisonettes and 2 story flats across

the ward have not got the recycling boxes and so we have been promised that if **anyone in one of these properties contacts us wanting one then it will be supplied.**

Community Recycling Initiative

The Local Neighbourhood Partnership Environmental sub committee have arranged a recycling day for residents excess rubbish on one half of the Hilton Road Estate on June 7th (leaflets will be delivered nearer the time) with the other half, along with the new estate on the former GKN Site, later in the year.



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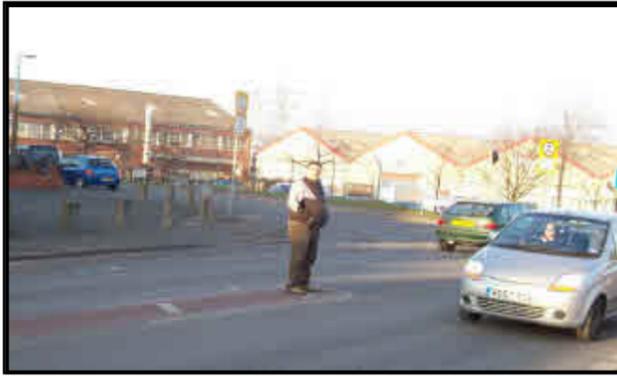
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AROUND THE WARD WITH YOUR FOCUS TEAM

Pedestrian crossing wanted at Shaw Road/Biddings Lane

Cllr Richard Whitehouse has recently learnt that Wolverhampton City Council have revised their criteria for considering new pedestrian crossings. Consequently, he has now asked the Highways Department to take a fresh look at the request that was made a few years ago for a crossing at Biddings Lane/Shaw Road. Richard said, "The residents of the sheltered scheme at Hinchliffe Avenue particularly need this crossing and because they are unable to cross Biddings Lane/Shaw Road. They are now



Cllr Richard Whitehouse at the junction of Hinchliffe Avenue and Biddings Lane/Shaw Road.

becoming prisoners in their own complex. I have been told the new guidelines will take this into account. I really hope that we may now be successful in getting a crossing."

Speed measures sought for Dovedale Road

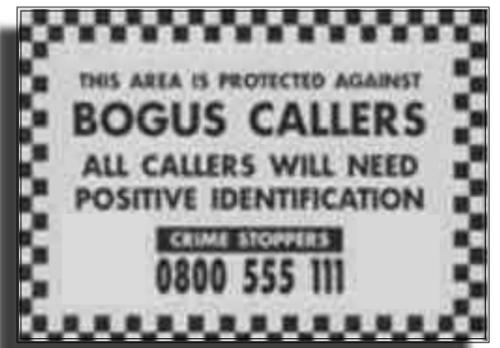


Cllr Richard Whitehouse looking at speeding traffic on Dovedale Road

Cllr Richard Whitehouse, as a member of Wolverhampton's Road Safety Panel, has requested that a trial 9 week programme to

help cut road speeds be done on Dovedale Road. This will involve the first week, using tubes across the road to measure initial speeds. Then there will be an introduction of speed slow signs on lampposts and a flashing speed monitoring sign for a few weeks. After that the police will be doing speed checks, with prosecutions, for two weeks. Finally, the tubes will be put across the road again to measure whether there has been any impact on average speeds. Richard said, "This is a problem that affects many residents on and around Ettingshall Park and if, in the next few months when this programme is initiated, speeds are reduced then it can only be of benefit to the residents and pedestrians."

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Pensioners are left with a choice of meat or heat as fuel hikes add to burden

Wolverhampton's Liberal Democrats are calling on the Government to protect pensioners from energy price rises. They have made the call following recent figures that showed the increases in the cost of gas and electricity are set to wipe out pensioners' winter fuel payments. A typical pensioner household aged 65 - 74 have seen gas bills go up by £260 pa and electricity by £160 pa a combined total of £420. The value of the Winter Fuel Payment per household for those aged 60 - 79 is £200, and £300 for those aged over 80. "The £300 rate for over 80's was first introduced in the winter of 2003/04 and hasn't risen in line with the recent fuel hikes making the value of the Winter Fuel Payment virtually redundant in comparison," said Cllr Richard Whitehouse, your Liberal Democrat Councillor for Springvale Ward. "The Government must be seen to be doing more to combat fuel poverty our pensioners should not have to choose between having a warm home or eating a meal."

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

No problem too small

If you spot something that needs attention contact
Cllr Whitehouse,
Cllr Heap or
Cllr Gwinnett.

If you have a problem My problem is:

you can always write free of charge to:

Liberal Democrats
Freepost WV2092
18 Ettingshall Park Farm Lane
Wolverhampton WV4 4BR

My Name.....

My Address.....

I will be voting for the Lib Dems at the next election

I will display a poster in my window at election time

I would like a postal vote

I want to join the Lib Dems

Phone your Focus Team

Cllr Gwinnett 398800
Cllr Whitehouse 659835 1pm - 5pm
Cllr Mike Heap 754030
Office 555005 3pm - 5pm
24 hour answer phone at our office
Email:
richard.whitehouse@wolverhampton.gov.uk
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