



FOCUS

Working Together

From your Liberal Democrat Focus Team
Cllr Mike Heap
Cllr Richard Whitehouse
Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett

June/July 2008

HILTON HALL UNDER THREAT OF CLOSURE



Cllrs Richard Whitehouse and Mike Heap outside the Hall

Focus has learnt that council officers are trying to justify the closure of Hilton Hall.

They say that the structure is unsound and will need demolishing. Cllr. Malcolm Gwinnett said, "As everyone knows this is just not true. The Hall is in need of a great deal of renovation but is still safe. I believe the Hall should continue to be used whilst officers of the Authority use all the time available to find funding to build Lanesfield the purpose built community centre that it deserves. I and my colleagues are committed to this course of action. Cllr. Richard Whitehouse has already handed in a large petition from the users of the Hall demanding action. As one tea dancer said, "I have been coming to the tea dances here for years. I do not want to go to Bilston Town Hall, its too far, so what am I and the wife to do." Cllr. Mike Heap said, "You can rest assured we will be doing all in our power to save the Hall."



Richard Whitehouse would like to thank all of you who voted for him in the May elections.

The result was:

Richard Whitehouse	Liberal Democrat	1987
	Labour	583
	Conservative	519



Richard Whitehouse said, "I will try and return your trust in me to the very best of my ability and will endeavour to represent everyone in the ward regardless of their political views."

The election results and what they mean for Wolverhampton

With 20 seats up for election Labour lost nine they were defending, winning only 5 seats in all. As a result the Council now has 28 Labour, 27 Conservative and 5 Liberal Democrat Councillors. Your Liberal Democrat Councillors agreed to fulfil the wishes of the electorate of Wolverhampton and allow the Conservatives to form a minority administration. The Liberal Democrats will remain separate and able to vote on individual issues. In return for this the Conservatives agreed a number of policy action points with the Liberal Democrats.

These were:

- **Abolition of the much hated Red Route**
- **The retention of the Neighbourhood Warden Scheme and extend it to wards like ours across the City.**
- **The introduction of kerb side plastic and cardboard collection as soon as possible.**
- **A review of young persons' provision across the city to help stop the slide into misuse of alcohol and drugs and the ever present gang culture.**

- **A review into the governance of Wolverhampton Homes which, as you know, has been strongly criticised by Cllr Mike Heap since day one.**

In order to make sure this happens Cllr Richard Whitehouse has been appointed Chair of the Scrutiny Board and Cllr Robin Lawrence (Park Ward) the Chair of the Young Persons Scrutiny Panel.

Also Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett will become Chair of Planning and Cllr Mike Heap Chair of the Superannuation Committee.

Your Liberal Democrat Focus Team working for you

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AROUND THE WARD WITH YOUR FOCUS TEAM

Poor road resurfacing corrected

The road resurfacing last year was so poor In Ward Grove, Wendover Road and Lapper Avenue that Cllr Richard Whitehouse demanded it be re done at the contractor's own expense. The very poor areas at road junctions and on bends have now been done. The remaining bald patches on the straight on Ward Grove will be surfaced dressed later this year. Hilton Road, Norbury Crescent and Hackford Road have already been resurfaced this year as promised.



Richard Whitehouse points to failing road surface



Malcolm Gwinnett at a flooded Spring Road

Action demanded over the flooding in Spring Road

The road flooding outside Club Africa in Spring Road is quite terrible. Whenever it rains Spring Road floods right across the highway and when it rains particularly hard the water can be up to a foot deep. Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett said, "This is both a danger to motorists and many a pedestrian has been soaked by passing traffic. Your Focus Team will be pursuing the matter with both the Council and Severn Trent."



The 224 bus in Spring Road

Review 224 Bus Route

Cllr Mike Heap can announce that there is to be a review into the route, timetable and reliability of the 224 route since it was introduced by Choice Travel following its abandonment by Travel West Midlands. Your Focus Team and the Local Neighbourhood Partnership have received a number of varied complaints. Mike Heap said, "This will give your representatives the opportunity to pass on your comments to Centro, who part fund the route, and to Choice Travel in order to get some real improvements."

EU COMMISSIONER BACKS LIZ'S CALL FOR CANCER ACTION



Wolverhampton MEP Liz Lynne with Commissioner Markos Kyprianou calling for more cancer screening.

With Cancer now killing 1.1 million people across Europe every year and huge variations in cancer screening programmes among EU Member States, local Euro MP Liz Lynne is calling for the disease to become a top public health priority.

The LibDem MEP is co-chair of MEPs Against Cancer (MAC), whose efforts are now being backed by EU Health Commissioner Markos Kyprianou.

The Commissioner and a host of academics and NGO representatives recently attended a MAC meeting chaired by Liz Lynne to assess the erratic way cancer screening is run across EU nations. The event discussed sharing best practice on how to reduce cancer deaths, how to promote effective information campaigns and the need for states to implement a 2003 resolution on cancer screening.

Cooperation can save lives

Liz Lynne said: "The statistics speak for themselves, cancer screening does save lives but with greater cooperation at EU level and between Member States many thousands more could be saved.

"I am delighted as co-founder of MAC that the Commissioner is backing our campaign. "Member States do need to implement the Council of Ministers Resolution which called for screening programmes. The death toll is rising, but the response by health services varies enormously. "Britain and all Member States need to do more at national level, to extend and improve their screening programmes and participation in them.

"Individuals also have a responsibility. We know for example that screening for cervical cancer can reduce mortality by 60 per cent. The message is simple; if you belong to a risk group or are invited for a test, please go; it could save your life."

Your local LibDem Euro MP LIZ LYNNE
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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 My problem is:

you can always write free of charge to:

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14 Broxwood Park
Wolverhampton WV6 8LZ

My Name.....

My Address.....

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3rd Saturday month

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Lanesfield school 12noon to 1pm

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