

## Do you remember this Focus Story back in April?

### City Council faces financial ruin at the hands of Labour Group Report by Richard Whitehouse



Shocking documents seen by  
Wolverhampton Liberal  
Democrat, Richard  
Whitehouse show that our  
Labour - controlled  
Wolverhampton City Council is  
facing financial ruin.

Richard Whitehouse can report that, years of poor financial and lack of control from elected Labour councillors combined with lower than expected contributions from the Labour Government are likely to result in huge cuts in existing services and job losses.

Due to the Labour groups mismanagement of Wolverhampton's taxpayer's money there is a predicted shortfall in the budget for 2010 of a staggering £10.3 million. This gap could be even more if the savings hoped for from a soon to be signed partnership agreement between the Labour - controlled Council and a private service provider fails to save the cash that the council is hoping for. To make matters even worse Wolverhampton Council is losing an extra £5 million pounds in direct government grants and has yet to receive a further £5 million promised back in November 2007 from its holdings in Birmingham Airport. The Council's current financial projections suggest that the £30 million allocated to cover the costs of equal pay settlements under the single status review is more than £5 million short of what will be needed.

Richard Whitehouse said; "I don't know how Labour candidates can dare to show their faces to the electorate knowing that due to the Labour Group's successive years of mismanagement and lack of control they are causing real hardship to our residents and the users of council services. "This Labour group and it's Councillors don't know what they are doing." "They can't be trusted to stage a donkey derby let alone steer our City clear of the financial mess they have concocted." Richard Whitehouse added, "Labour has presided over a complete mess. It

Will take years to clear up their mistakes. The sooner they are voted out by you the electorate the sooner Wolverhampton can be put back on an even financial footing."

## It has proved to be completely true

Labour has left the Council finances in an even worse state than what we described in April. The new administration is going to have to make some very tough decisions to balance the books. Jobs may go. However, the Liberal Democrats will seek to preserve important front line services, we will be looking for savings from the bureaucracy not those that deliver our services and we will still strive to have as low a Council Tax rise as possible. Councillor Malcolm Gwinnett said, "Labour should be ashamed of themselves in how they have left the City's finances and we believe they are secretly relieved that they have lost control of the Council, for others to clear up their mess."

## AROUND THE WARD WITH YOUR FOCUS TEAM

### Plastics and Cardboard collections from October



Your Focus Team are pleased to report that their promise, if in any form of control,

to introduce extended recycling through kerb side collections of plastics and cardboard is to happen from this October. Financial spokesman for the Liberal Democrats Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett said, "If there is sufficient take up by residents of the City not only will this collection pay for itself but could even make a profit for the City. Cllr Mike Heap said, "Not only will we have the financial benefits but we should significantly increase our recycling rates which is good for the environment."

### New motor cycle barriers installed

Following complaints from residents in the Lanesfield area concerning youths on motorcycles riding along the public right of way between Wood Street and Dresden Close there was a good suggestion of barriers from one resident. Cllr Richard Whitehouse contacted the Highways Department after getting support from our local police and a barrier was installed early in August.



Cllr Richard Whitehouse seen with a local resident at the new barrier.

Vandals removed it the same day, before the concrete had set! However, undeterred the barrier is back ready for the safety of the children attending Lanesfield school from September.

## Your Liberal Democrat

### Teepee Accountancy Services Ltd.

Certified Chartered Accountants  
43 Wendover Road  
Ettingshall Park  
Wolverhampton WV4 6ND  
01902 663125 or  
07931

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

### Chris Caddick High Class traditional family butcher

Full range of  
groceries and green grocery  
Personal friendly service

124 Childs Avenue  
Woodcross Est. Coseley  
01902 663603

### PDM PAVING

Specialists in block paving, patios,  
slabbing, driveways, pathways,  
decorative walls, fencing and  
tarmac with a block edging  
ALL WORK GUARANTEED

No job too big or too small  
15 Fieldhouse Road, Parkfields,  
Wolverhampton WV4 6JS  
tel: 654255  
mob 07989 238510

### Louise's Catering

All occasions catered for  
Discos, balloons  
Chocolate fountains

for a free quote and menu  
Tel 01902 569700

mob 07929 797356

# LOCAL POST OFFICE 'MASSACRE' IS NOTHING TO DO WITH EU



Wolverhampton LibDem MEP Liz Lynne is continuing to give strong support to campaigners across the region fighting to save their local Post Offices, after a massive new wave of closures was announced for the West Midlands.

Liz has refuted claims that EU rules prevent the Government from supporting the Post Office branch network.

She said: "The wave of closures across the West Midlands and nationally is nothing to do with an 'EU diktat' or the single market.

"This is a myth designed to get Gordon Brown off the hook and it is the Wolverhampton South East MP who is orchestrating the closures. And it conveniently allows Conservative right wingers to avoid committing themselves to saving the network too - their last government closed over 2,500 post offices."

"Contrary to claims by Euro sceptics, the Government can subsidise Post Offices if it really wants to. They have been classed by the EU as an essential public service."

Liz Lynne has given strong support to local campaigns to protect Post Offices. She formally objected to plans to close branches at Marton and Worthen in Shropshire and joined a demonstration against leaked plans to close a popular post office in central Kenilworth (above).



**LIZ LYNNE:**  
"Don't let ministers off the hook over the Post Office closures - it's their fault."

Your local LibDem Euro MP LIZ LYNNE Tel: 01789 266354

www.lizlynne.org.uk email:liz@lizlynne.org.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.

# NEW COUNCILLOR ADVICE SURGERIES

Your Focus Team Liberal Democrat councillors have reviewed the timings of the present advice centres that have been running for a long time. They have decided to improve the service by giving different day and times for your convenience.

These are:

## Councillor Malcolm Gwinnett:

All at Hilton Hall, Hilton Road, Lanesfield	5pm to 6pm
Monday 22nd September 2008	Monday 2nd March 2009
Monday 17th November 2008	Monday 11th May 2009
Monday 12th January 2009	Monday 15th June 2009

## Councillor Michael Heap:

Saturday 4th October 2008	Manor School, Ettingshall Road	10am to 11am
Saturday 8th November 2008	Manor School, Ettingshall Road	10am to 11am
Saturday 13th December 2008	Lanesfield Com Centre, Ward Grove	10am to 11am
Saturday 21st February 2009	Manor School, Ettingshall Road	10am to 11am
Saturday 28th March 2009	Lanesfield Com Centre, Ward Grove	10am to 11am
Saturday 18th April 2009	Manor School, Ettingshall Road	10am to 11am

## Councillor Richard Whitehouse:

All at Springvale School, Hateley Drive/Kenilworth Crescent	4pm to 5pm
Wednesday 29th October 2008	Wednesday 18th March 2009
Tuesday 25th November 2008	
Monday 15th December 2008	

Plus one in April 2009 and one in July 2009 to be arranged

# Punish those selling knives to our children

Liberal Democrats in Wolverhampton are calling for tougher action against those selling knives to children and young people. Latest figures for prosecutions that were uncovered by Liberal Democrat Shadow Home Secretary Chris Huhne MP, revealed that only 71 people have been successfully prosecuted for selling knives to children in the last five years. None were sent to prison and only one received a community sentence, 56 people received fines, but 21 of those prosecuted were given fines of less than £200. "This is a completely inadequate deterrent to unscrupulous shop keepers who flout the law to sell these potential weapons to our children," said Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett. 2,303 serious crimes in the West Midlands alone involved the use of a knife in 2007/08 and knife crime makes up for 22% of all serious crimes taking place in the West Midlands area, "cutting the supply of knives has got to be one of the most effective ways to reducing knife crime in the first place", added Malcolm. He then added, "This can only be achieved if our courts take a much stronger stance against those who are fuelling knife crime by illegally selling such implements to our children through tougher custodial sentences."

## 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:

**Liberal Democrats  
Freepost RRXR-REST-TCZE  
14 Broxwood Park  
Wolverhampton WV6 8LZ**

My name and address are: \_\_\_\_\_

My problem is: \_\_\_\_\_

## Phone your Focus Team

M. Gwinnett 398800  
R.F. Whitehouse 659835/07796341647  
Mike Heap 754030  
Office 555005  
**24 hour answer phone at our office**

## Email :

richard.whitehouse@wolverhampton.gov.uk  
michael.heap@wolverhampton.gov.uk  
malcolm.gwinnett@wolverhampton.gov.uk

## 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

## Lanesfield Hardware

49 Wood Street, Lanesfield  
Tel 353234  
Prop. Mrs Blackford  
Curtain wire 15p/metre Compost 11p/Kg  
Growmore 15p /1/2 Kg Grass seed £1.54 1/2Kg  
Feed & weed 27p 1/2Kg Catlitter 15p 1/2Kg  
Rabbit food 26p /1/2 Kg  
Sodium Chlorate weed killer 77p /1/2 Kg  
Keys cut, paint and electrical goods  
**open 7 days  
a week**

## HILTON

163 Hilton Road, Lanesfield

*Quality Property Repairs & Maintenance*

Roofing, Fascias, Guttering,  
brickwork and all types of  
work undertaken

For a personal service call Colin  
telephone: 01902 655278  
mobile: 07812 109365