

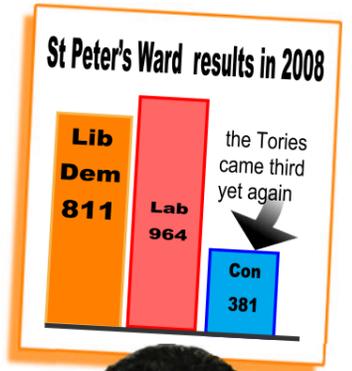
Zahid Shah and the Liberal Democrat Focus Team working for St Peter's Ward

FOCUS

On St Peter's Ward
www.wolverhamptonlibdems.co.uk



August- September



Wardens threat stopped

When they were in control of the Council local Labour councillors were happy to see the Street Wardens scheme scrapped. But last May's elections left the City Council with no party in control. The five Lib Dem councillors allowed the Tories to form a minority administration provided they kept a list of promises. Top of the list was to continue the Street Wardens scheme.

Then came reports of plans to take the wardens out of the communities they serve and base them in an office in the City centre.

Zahid Shah said, "We campaigned not only to keep the wardens but to keep them local.

I called on my Liberal Democrat colleagues who serve on the City Council to tell the Tory Council bosses in no uncertain words that their plans were a disaster for Whitmore Reans.



Zahid Shah backed the Save the Wardens campaign

The crazy plan has now been scrapped and the Whitmore Reans Street Wardens will be able to continue with their good work."

There is enough money to fund them until March 2009 but new money will have to be found to keep them going after that. Zahid Shah will keep up the pressure to make this happen

Zahid Shah comments on the News



Residents hit hard by rising prices

Residents in St Peter's Ward are being hit hard by rocketing costs for food, energy and fuel.

It doesn't matter how much you earn, all of us are paying more when we buy basic groceries, pay the gas bill or fill up the car. Hardest hit of all are those on fixed incomes – especially pensioners.

Everyone I meet is worried about rising prices. There is also a lot of fear about job losses and the threat of repossessions as house prices fall. People want to see action from Gordon Brown, but nothing seems to be happening.

Gordon Brown and Labour are simply out of touch with real life in our area. It is time for a change.

The Lib Dems are fighting for a better deal for local people hardest hit by rising prices. They want to see a big rise in the basic pension to make sure older people can afford to heat their homes properly this winter.

Pensioners were let down by Conservatives under Thatcher and now by Labour under Blair and Brown. We need to give older people a fair deal at last.

Brown - Time to go

Gordon Brown is the most unpopular Prime Minister since records began.

It's not surprising given Labour's record since he took over. Soaring prices of fuel, food and energy are hitting everyone

hard. Brown's decision earlier this year to increase taxes on

The least well off pensioners and families was a disgrace.

More and more people are saying that it's time for a change.



Prime Minister Brown goes from bad to worse

The Tories have no real ideas on how they will change Britain. Only the Liberal Democrats in our area are fighting for a better future for local people.

The Lib Dems are fighting for lower taxes for local families. They have real plans to tackle the rise of anti-social behaviour and violent crime. They will protect and improve vital local services like hospitals, schools and post offices. Only the Liberal Democrats will put protecting the environment at the heart of government.



Zahid Shah says "The rotting old wooden windows with peeling paint need to be replaced urgently."

Flats revamp shelved

Wolverhampton Homes has decided to shelve plans to revamp St Andrews House and Whitmore House.

Other similar blocks of flats in the City have had extensive improvements in recent years but these Whitmore Reans flats have had none.

Zahid Shah said, "Among other things these properties are in need of adequate insulation and effective double glazed windows now that heating bills are going sky high."

Labour's debt legacy

Figures recently revealed have shown that the Labour Party has left Wolverhampton Council in far more debt than previously imagined.

FOCUS warned back in March that Labour was mismanaging our finances. Local Liberal Democrat Campaigner, Zahid Shah, said "We thought it was bad, but these latest figures show that Labour had left the finances in a far worse state

than we imagined. It is only now Labour are out of office that we are beginning to see the full extent of the problems. I am concerned there is still more bad news to come."

The Liberal Democrats are committed to scrapping Council Tax completely and replacing it with a fairer form of tax altogether."



Our Focus in March warned of a coming disaster

LIB DEMS WORK ALL YEAR ROUND

Plastic Recycling - At Last!

Thanks to the many campaigns led by Liberal Democrat Councillors plastic and cardboard kerbside collections for recycling will be rolled out across the city this Autumn.

Zahid Shah said, "Wolverhampton Council was years behind other local authorities in its recycling. Liberal Democrats made it one of our many demands for the new minority administration to implement at the earliest possible opportunity."

Lib Dem Councillor Robin Lawrence told Focus "Labour councillors had previously told us that it would be impossible to introduce plastics and cardboard kerbside collections before 2011. Thanks to Liberal Democrats insistence, campaigning and hard-work this long awaited service will be introduced this year."

Zahid Shah and Focus Team members will now be pressing for other green initiatives.



The papers say things are getting worse under this Labour government



Inequality 'worse under Labour than during Margaret Thatcher's time'

Daily Telegraph

Gordon Brown's 10p tax fiasco to cost another £1 billion (Times 28th June 2008)

Labour no longer trusted on NHS reforms (Telegraph 30th June 2008)

One million lose out in NHS dental reforms (Telegraph 2nd July 2008)

Government has to delay SATS results (Guardian 4th July 2008)

Knife violence in Britain is far worse than official statistics suggest... (Independent on Sunday 6th July 2008)

All Brown has to show from his first year is bungling incompetence (Express 24th June 2008)

Gordon Brown is 'electoral liability' says anniversary poll (Telegraph 25th June 2008)

"Gordon should go," a key Labour figure insists privately. (Sun 3rd June 2008)

Community News

Trinity Training Services



Zahid Shah meets TTS Chief Executive, Raj Bansal

Trinity Training Services is a registered Charity which has moved into the Leicester Street buildings of the former Christchurch School. They work with 16 to 64 year olds and provide training, apprenticeships and work based learning relevant to the needs of the community.

www.trinity-training.com
tel 712402



1948 - The NHS is launched

1948

It was a Liberal - William Beveridge - who wrote the report in 1942 which led to the creation of the NHS in July 1948. For most of us the National Health Service is something we take for granted. Yet 60 or more years ago the cost of medical care was a source of real worry for many families, something some simply could not afford.

NHS 60



2008 - Zahid Shah visits Leicester Street Medical Centre

Prescription Charges

2008

Currently, only patients with certain specified long-term conditions qualify for free prescriptions. But this list has not been updated since 1968. Research shows that 800,000 people are going without vital medication because they cannot afford to pay for their prescriptions.

The present system is confusing and unfair. For example, patients with diabetes who require insulin treatment receive free medicines for all conditions whereas people whose diabetes is controlled by diet must pay for all their medication.

The system is behind the times. It excludes a number of long-term conditions and thanks to medical advances, people with

conditions such as cystic fibrosis are now living much longer and finding that they have to pay charges for all their long-term medications. Severe chronic diseases like HIV/AIDS and cancer are not covered at all. It is unfair that some people living with long-term conditions pay no prescription charges, while others with equally serious conditions have to pay for all their treatments.

Thanks to action by Liberal Democrats on the Welsh Assembly, people in Wales have no prescription charges at all. At the very least all people in England with long term condition should have equal access to free prescriptions.

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."

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