



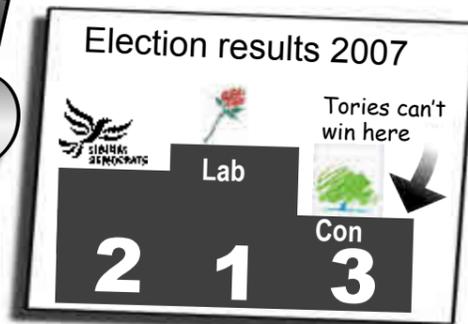
March 2008

# FOCUS

## On St. Peter's Ward

Zahid Shah

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



# Massive tax hike as City faces ruin

Shocking documents seen by Zahid Shah and Wolverhampton Liberal Democrats show that Labour-controlled Wolverhampton City Council is facing financial ruin. Years of poor financial planning 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 services and job losses.

Due to 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 much more if the savings hoped for from a soon to be signed partnership agreement between the Labour-controlled Council and a private service provider does not save the cash that the council is hoping for.

To make matters worse Wolverhampton Council is losing an extra £5 million pounds in direct government grants and has yet to receive a further £5 million promised in November 2007 from its holdings in Birmingham Airport.

To put Wolverhampton Council in an even worse position financial projections suggest that the £30 million allocated to cover the costs of equal pay settlements under the single status reviews is more than £5 million short of what will be needed. Zahid Shah said "I don't know how Labour councillors dare show their faces to the electorate. They must know that due to



Zahid Shah says, "The Labour run Council bleeds the poor old taxpayer dry."

years of mismanagement they are causing real hardship for residents and users of council services. Labour have presided over a complete mess. It will take years to clear up their mistakes. The sooner they are voted out then the sooner Wolverhampton can be put back on a safer financial footing."

## Newhampton Road traffic Calming



Zahid Shah tries to cross the busy junction of Newhampton Road East and Waterloo Road

Zahid Shah has welcomed the much needed road safety improvements that are planned.

With more and more cars on the road traffic calming schemes are becoming vital parts of city planning. Newhampton Road has suffered scores of accidents in recent years and the traffic calming that is taking place in is long over due.

Zahid Shah told Focus, "Narrowing junctions where side roads join Newhampton Road should cut traffic speeds. Making junction markings on side roads so that they are level with parked cars will also make the roads safer for cyclists and drivers."

Zahid Shah said, "Newhampton Road is one of the busiest main roads in the area and I welcome all measures that will make it safer for everyone to use."



Zahid Shah makes a record of the heap of rat infested dumped rubbish

Zahid Shah spotted a pile of rubbish dumped on land by Craddock Street. He was appalled at what he found. Zahid spoke to local residents living near by and they all told him they had seen rats which had even come into their gardens. One lady told Zahid she had tried to get the mess removed but no action was taken.

Zahid said, "I am determined that health hazards like this must not be tolerated by anyone and have taken immediate steps to get the area cleaned up."

If there is a problem like this near you then tell Zahid Shah. Use the contact form on the other side.

# Where's Gatis St?



There once was a street name plate on each side of Gatis Street at its junction with Craddock Street but Zahid Shah noticed that one had disappeared.

Zahid investigated and found the missing sign broken off and thrown into bushes. He has already taken action to have the name plate reinstated.

If the name plate in your road is damaged or missing contact Zahid Shah through our Freepost address.

FREEPOST RRSZ-EATX-GEKC  
Wolverhampton S.W. Lib Dems  
3 Merridale Crescent  
WOLVERHAMPTON WV3 9QY

*Look what I've found!  
Zahid Shah rescues the broken  
off Gatis Street name plate*

# Massive Rises in Council Tax

Wolverhampton's Labour controlled Council is imposing a Council Tax rise of 4.75%. This is the 14th year in a row that the rise has been above inflation. The Council blames the government for a poor grant settlement - but we also have a Labour Government!

## Labour is to blame!

Zahid Shah said, "It has become blatantly obvious that the only way the Labour Party knows how to manage our economy both nationally and locally is to bleed the poor old taxpayer dry."

## Local Income Tax needed

Council Tax is a most unfair tax. It raises the same money from a single



*Zahid Shah (left) discusses the Labour Council's tax hike plans with a Dunkley Street businessman*

pensioner household a similar house with a number people in work.

Zahid Shah says this tax must be replaced by a Local Income Tax which would be based on a person's ability to pay and not where they live.

# 'DISABLED PEOPLE MUST NOT BE IGNORED BY EU' - MEP

A local Euro-MP's campaign to get more countries to sign up for greater rights for disabled people stepped up a gear when she met a delegation of leading disability organisations at the European Parliament in Brussels.

The UN Convention on Disabled People's Rights was enthusiastically backed by a number of countries at the launch last year but since then, far fewer have signed up than was hoped.

This prompted Wolverhampton's LibDem MEP Liz Lynne to launch a Written Declaration, which if signed by enough Euro-MPs will force a debate on the issue in the European Parliament.

## MORE COUNTRIES MUST BACK CONVENTION

Liz is a longstanding disability rights campaigner and is Vice President of the all-party Disability Intergroup of MEPs. She said: "Achieving a legally binding UN convention was a milestone, but it is no use if countries do not sign and ratify it.

"The declaration needs the support of half the 785 MEPs to achieve a debate in the European Parliament. This will send a strong message on the importance of this Convention in the fight to secure fundamental human rights for all disabled people.

"I encourage people to write to their MEPs of all parties asking them to sign, so this issue gets the attention it deserves across the EU and beyond."



**Liz Lynne at the launch of the Declaration in Brussels with Christine Naughton (Christian Blind Mission), Isabella Wahedova (Light for the World), Lars Bosselman (Christian Blind Mission), Cecilia Cranfield, and Fiona Thornton (CORD, Christian Organisations in Relief and Development). So far, 185 MEPs have signed the declaration.**

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

## SIGN THE PETITION TO AXE THE TAX

### Axe the Tax Petition

Please Sign and return to our Freepost address as shown below right

To: The Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP, Department for Communities and Local Government

The Council Tax is an unfair tax, based simply on outdated valuations of property and with no link to ability to pay. It should be scrapped and replaced with a system based on people's ability to pay.

Name	Signature	address

## Help Zahid Shah win in St Peter's

I will Display a poster at the election on 1st May

I would like to vote by post in future . . . . .

I would like to contribute to the cost of this Focus

£5  £10  £20  Other £\_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to "Wolverhampton South West Liberal Democrats".

(A donation of £10 or more entitles you to membership of the Liberal Democrats Please tick here if you do not want to become a member.)

The Lib Dems may use the information you provide to contact you about issues you may find of interest. Some of these contacts may be automated. You can opt out of some or all contacts at any time by contacting us.

No stamp is needed to reply to  
FREEPOST RRSZ-EATX-GEKC  
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