

FOCUS

Putting People First



No. 219

Printed by West Essex Litho Unit 12 Maybank Industrial Estate 109 Maybank Road E18 1EJ. Published and promoted by the Liberal Democrats at 24 Thornhill Road E10 5LL

Lib Dems Stun Labour in Huge By-Election Victory

Liberal Democrats in Waltham Forest are celebrating after taking back the Leyton seat left vacant after the expulsion of Labour councillor Miranda Grell.

Liberal Democrat community activist **Winnie Smith** scored an overwhelming victory, taking over 55% of the vote. The 1360 votes received was almost double the number cast for Labour. Liberal Democrats now hold a third of all council seats in Waltham Forest, the highest in the local party's history.



Cann Hall councillor Keith Rayner believed that the result was reward for the party's positive campaign during the run-up to the by-election: *"This result goes to show that Waltham Forest residents continue to recognise the unparalleled hard work which our members and councillors put into working within their communities all year round – not just at election time. By resorting again to desperate attacks during this by-election campaign, the local Labour party is showing that that they clearly haven't learnt any lessons from the Miranda Grell saga."*

"We are able to run positive campaigns which show residents the work which we have been doing for our residents over a number of years. "



Council Tax - rise held at 2½%

Your **Liberal Democrat councillors** have held Council Tax increases to only 2½%. This, despite the fact that the Labour government has not funded local councils to a level that keeps pace with either the cost of living or the level of need.

Your **Cann Hall councillors** have also made sure that funding for vital services for vulnerable people in the community, such as the elderly and the young, have been protected to the tune of £6 million. For Children Services the **Liberal Democrats** have fought to ensure the provision of nearly £2½ million to support the fostering and adoption services.

In addition, more than £1 million is to be invested to create a greener environment to live in, and continue expansion of recycling in the ward.

FOCUS says: *"The Labour Government is not interested in funding much needed council services. It is reducing the amount of money given to councils, and its only Liberal Democrats who are fighting to maintain much-needed vital services for local people. No council services are being cut at all despite the lack of proper investment by this Labour Government."*

Our Area Matters

FOCUS 218 reported on 'ward walks' by your local **Lib Dem Councillors** to pick up on issues coming to light in Cann Hall. Recently your ward councillors took part in a ward blitz called **'Our Area Matters'**. Many issues picked up during the 'ward walks' were highlighted.

The Blitz involved officers from some 15 council departments, including Highways, Trading Standards, Housing & Youth Services. External agencies including the Police and the DVLA were also involved. Issues noted included:

- Fly tipping
- Dumped motor vehicles
- Rubbish in front gardens and on street corners
- Unlicensed houses in multiple use
- Cleaning up council estates
- Visits to local schools
- Cutting back hedges and bushes to increase visibility
- Visiting local shops to combat under age drinking and the sale of cigarettes to under 16s.

Your **Cann Hall councillors** would like to thank everyone involved in the Blitz, including local residents, Neighbourhood Watches, Street Watchers and Tenants Associations.

FOCUS says: *"Let's keep the good work being done between your Lib Dem cllrs and local residents. Keep the reports coming, and together we can help to improve Cann Hall."*

Liberal Democrats - working for you all year round

Leytonstone Police Station – gone but not forgotten!

Despite over 30,000 people, and your local **Liberal Democrat councillors** campaigning to keep your local Police Station open, it has been closed.



The local Police have finally written to Keith giving their reasons for closing the Police Station in the High Road. These included a lack of money, and having to review all its assets, including police stations, not just in our borough, but across London.

Keith had also asked where local Police officers were to be based, including the Cann Hall Safer Neighbourhood Team. In response the Police have not found anywhere to base local officers and PCSO's for the ward. This is, despite a number of suggestions from Keith and his colleagues Liz and Laura.

If you know of a possible base in Cann Hall for our local officers and Safer Neighbourhood Team, please let **FOCUS** know, and your councillors will continue to fight for local Police.

FOCUS says: *“The Labour Party and Labour Government continue to under fund essential services, like the Police. As a result Police Stations are closing across London.*

They say one thing by claiming to invest in law and order, but in reality do the opposite.”

Woodhouse Road - success

Lib Dem Cllr Liz Phillips is pleased to report that after many months of negotiations with the Council and Circle 33 Housing Association has resulted in **Woodhouse Road**, between the side of Jay's Shop and Robinson Close, being raised to alleviate the large puddle of water collecting every time it rains. This has also resulted in the shortening of the double yellow lines by the side of the shop.



We want to hear from YOU

Name Tel. No.

Address E. Mail

I think something should be done about.....

**RETURN TO: THE FOCUS TEAM, 53 SANSOM RD E11 3HD,
88 HARROW RD E11 3QE OR 16 CLARENDON RD E11 1DA**

Councillor's Surgery

Cann Hall Ward councillors hold a confidential surgery every Saturday morning in **St. Margaret's Church Hall, Woodhouse Road**, from 10.00am - 12.00 noon, (except bank holidays). You do not need an appointment. Just turn up.

On-going Housing Improvements

Money, through the Decent Homes Strategy is continuing to be spent on Housing across the Ward, in places such as:

- **PLAXTON COURT** – new security system, and new door entry system
- **MILLS COURT** – roof repairs, new entry doors, electrical and lighting upgrades, re-pointing and repairs to balconies
- **TILSTON CLOSE** – new entry system, improved security with new fencing and lighting repairs

Lib Dem Cllr Keith Rayner says:

“This investment is much needed and very welcome news for the housing estates in Cann Hall ward. Its just a shame that it cannot go one stage further and allow for insulation of buildings and provide renewable energy sources such as solar panels on roofs, allowing the residents to save money as well as reducing Co2 emissions and add to the borough's green footprint.”

Your Liberal Democrat FOCUS Team

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Working for YOU

Liberal Democrats - Getting Things Done