



No. 148

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Good News - on Churchfields Park

New park lighting agreed !

We have Area 2 Committee contribute to the cost of lighting along the path across the park with the balance coming from an underspend in one of the officers budgets.

The series of lights will make the area safer and less of a dark hole for residents living in and crossing the area.

We only got the money agreed at the meeting in St Mary's Church on Jan 31st. Thanks also to the Council officers who helped by trimming costs and finding spare money in their budget.

We don't have a date for completion of the work - but it will get done soon.

Nicola Sinclair, whose home overlooks the park, welcomed the news. She said " We have campaigned for better lighting to improve security.

**Good
News !**

The lights will help people feel safer as they walk through the park and along Churchfields.

Consultation opens on extending Residents Parking Scheme in Grove Hill, Lansdowne and Tavistock Roads.

Officers began consulting residents over extensions to the existing scheme on Feb 13th.

Residents are being asked if they want the scheme extended to the top of Grove Hill, the whole of Lansdowne and Tavistock Roads.

As we promised the residents of Fullers/Derby (see storyinside) when they were recently consulted - the decision is for residents. We won't let the Council ignore what you decide.

**BUT not so good news for Churchfields
Junior School - see inside**

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**Back the FOCUS Team that
works for you all year round**

Cabinet delays money to rebuild Churchfields Junior School !

The Tory administration has reneged on its promise to find the money to rebuild the Junior School over a two year period. Instead it wants to stretch the £6.1m rebuilding over four years from 2006 until 2010. And money previously promised here is going to be spent over in Ilford instead.

Five years ago the Council's own Engineers said the school must be rebuilt. Now officers say if it isn't it may result in partial closure of the existing school.

This delay is not a matter of 'balancing the budget'. It is a straight switch in spending from our area to the other side of the borough.

£35million sports complex at Seven Kings?



£35million ?

The Tory Council Cabinet wants to spend £35m on a sports complex in Seven Kings, Ilford.

Despite opposition from Lib Dem, Labour and 2 Tory Councillors, they pushed through plans to spend £1.5m 'exploring' the idea.

Mind you they still don't know where the rest of the £35 million will come from.

One way is to sell off land. Council allotments in Loxford have already been sold for housing. Are those in Lincoln Rd and Broadmead safe?

Just why is our Tory Council administration spending our money on a Seven Kings sports complex instead of improving local services and schools ?

Derby & Fullers Rd residents give thumbs down to parking scheme !

Residents in these roads gave an emphatic "NO" to the residents parking proposal for their roads.

The council consultation produced a high 50% response from residents in the area. Three quarters of people said they didn't want controlled parking in their streets.

More than half the residents wrote in that the problem was the ending of free parking in the Derby Road car park.

We have told the Council that anti-social behaviour in the carpark has got worse since charges began. Very few cars use it now displacing more cars onto surrounding streets.

Thank you to residents who backed our campaign for action over Derby Rd at Area 2 Committee.

A Council Scrutiny Committee will now investigate and we will continue the fight there.

Money for new Churchfields park fences at last !

The replacement of the park fences will go ahead at last. Earlier we had been told the work was due to take place last summer. But as you know it didn't.

Good News Again !

The explanation we were given was that the work and costs were much more than Leisure officers first realised. Then they said they didn't have any money in their budget for the work at all.

So we raised the problem at our Area 2 Committee. And it turned up trumps and found the money from its small budget.

Now the work will really get done - at last !

The result here In Church End Ward last time

LIB
DEM

CON

LAB



Will You Need A Postal Vote?

Anyone can now qualify for a postal vote for the Council elections on May 4th.

Away on holiday or work, awkward to get to the polling station or would just be more convenient to vote by post - **let us know now** Applications must be received by Council's Registration Officer by 5pm on 18th April

Lib Dem Councillors

A Message from Councillor Maureen Hoskins

As you may know we have Council Elections on May 4th this year. After a great deal of thought I have decided not to stand again. It wasn't an easy decision because I have both enjoyed and been honoured to be one of your three Councillors in Church End for the last 20 years.

But I have decided that it is time for someone younger to take up the reins on behalf of the residents of Church End. With both Richard and I on the Council we have very little spare time to spend together or with our family. My standing down will give us back some of that time.

And I will still be here, living in the Ward and working with the Focus team, if anyone wants advice or help. It will be that aspect of Council work that I shall miss the most - the ability to help make a difference for the people of the area. Thank you to all those who have elected me over the years and I hope you will give the same support to my successor

Maureen Hoskins



Maureen out campaigning with Nicola Sinclair

Better security for George Lane shops and shoppers

Redbridge Council has never redeemed its promise to bring CCTV to our area, in contrast with the Council's massive security spending in the Ilford Town Centre.

We backed the enterprising South Woodford Business Partnership traders who identified a security system called Alert, for local shops. Installed in shops it will enable them to put out warnings about criminals and summon help from police and surrounding shops.

At a demonstration in South Woodford last Autumn it got our support, as well as that of local traders and police.

Area 2 committee will fund a pilot project in 24 George Lane shops for Alert boxes and back up system from Ilford Town Centre. Their success will be evaluated after 12 months.

We hope this will add to the safety of George Lane, and encourage shops and shoppers alike.

Watch out there is National Grid (Transco) about

They will be digging up the High Road South Woodford, opposite numbers 127 to 161 from March 7th until March 28th - so they say.

There will be no road closures- just traffic hold ups, while new mains are laid. !

PLANNING NEWS UPDATES

16 Chelmsford Road

This application for flat development sent to the Council's Regulatory Meeting held on 1 March.

We understand that Planning Officers are recommending refusal.

29 St Ronans Crescent

This application for an extension will also go to that meeting. Cllr Richard Hoskins asked for a site visit so the other Councillors could see the house for themselves before making a final decision.

17 Carnarvon Road

Conversion of Garage to Dancing School. Planning Officers have refused permission for new business premises in this residential area.

Our campaigning over many years has moved most commercial/ industrial businesses out of local residential roads. In most cases we have seen them replaced with houses.

get things done locally !

New plans for 253 - 269 High Rd - site of the former Wells Garage

A planning application for 24, two-bedroom flats on three floors was passed back in June 2005. That plan left the petrol garage and car wash operating. This plan seemed to be generally accepted by residents, though some people told us it was a pity the whole garage area was not dealt with at one go.

Now the developers have come back with a new design which does cover the whole site. So the petrol garage etc could go as well.

The new application covers the whole site. It is for 23 two-bedroom flats, 427 square metres of offices, ground floor shops with basement and surface parking for 54 cars .

The building will be 3 floors above the basement, dropping to 2 floors on the north of the site behind Fullers Ave. There would be 3 flats on a roof garden level adjoining Derby Road.

The planning number is 0170/06 and copies of the plans are in the Library.

Please let us know what you think !

As this application will go to the Council's Regulatory Committee Cllr Maureen Hoskins cannot comment on this plan yet.

Cllrs Hugh Cleaver and Richard Hoskins are not on this committee and will be happy to hear your comments and discuss them with you.

**Next
Area 2 Meeting
Sir James Hawkey Hall
Tuesday April 11th
7.15 pm**

Residents are welcomed to speak at the meeting if they wish to raise any local matters or discuss items already on the agenda

Dogs are wonderful companions

Everyone is grateful to the caring owners who clean up after their pets in local streets.

But we have been told there is a problems in roads where many young children and their parents walk to and from Churchfields Schools.

Now that Churchfields is supposed to be swept every day it should help. And thank you to everyone who does clean up after their dog.



We want to hear from You

Please let us know of any concerns or complaints you may have.

Your name/s

Address

Phone **Email**

The Lib Dems may contact you from time to time to keep you informed on issues we think you may find of interest. Please let us know if you do not wish the information above to be used for this purpose

<input type="checkbox"/>	I/we will need a postal vote for the elections on May 4th
<input type="checkbox"/>	I can help deliver Focus newsletters
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to join the Liberal Democrats