

MEET NICK CLEGG, OUR NEW LEADER

On December 18th 2007 Nick Clegg became the elected leader of the Liberal Democrats, narrowly beating his rival Chris Huhne, the party's environment spokesman, by 511 votes (20,988 to 20,477). He vowed that his leadership would be about ambition and change, saying "I want the Liberal Democrats to be the future of politics. I have one sole ambition – to change Britain to make it the liberal country the British people want it to be."

He set out his vision for a "people's politics" promising to hold regular town hall meetings with voters. He said that he would be the voice of "millions who feel let down, frustrated and angry" by the "stifling grip" of Labour and the Conservatives and pledged "to change Britain." He said the party's priorities would be core issues such as education, health and security.

FACTS ABOUT NICK CLEGG

Age 40

Education

Westminster School & Cambridge
Speaks 5 languages

Employment

Journalist and lecturer
Chief of Staff for former European
Commissioner, Leon Brittan
MEP for East Midlands
MP Sheffield Hallam since 2005
Home Affairs Spokesman

Married to

Miriam Gonzalez Durantez, a Spanish lawyer with whom he has 2 sons.



Anne Crook meeting Nick Clegg at Walthamstow Leadership Hustings

CLEGG'S KEY POLICIES

1. Tackling Disadvantage – raising school funding for the most disadvantaged pupils to private school levels.
2. Cutting Council tax – immediately for the 45% poorest households, in bands A & B, prior to local income tax.
3. Empowerment – electoral reform, more power to local government, businesses and citizens.
4. Environment – a new contract so that government, business and citizens act together to fight climate change.
5. No ID Cards – a pledge to campaign against this illiberal and costly measure.

LIBERALS ONLINE

Take a look at our website-
See www.cwglibdems.org.uk

FLATS, FLATS & MORE FLATS

More than 260 concerned residents have registered their opposition, to a proposed development by Weston Homes Plc, for 14 luxury apartments in Whitehall Lane by signing a petition calling on the council to block the development because of serious traffic issues.



House on Whitehall Lane which would be demolished if council gives go-ahead to plan.

Protesters argue that the proposal would lead to a dramatic increase in congestion at busy times of the day which would make an already crowded road even more dangerous for pupils at nearby Bancroft's school. If the project is allowed it would mean the demolition of two of Whitehall Lane's largest family houses. Plans have already been accepted for 20 flats on the other side of Whitehall Lane.

SIGN OUR ONLINE PETITION
 Please support the NHS campaign:
www.nhssos.com

CHARTERIS ROAD CAR PARK AND THE WOODFORD LIBRARY SITES

Amongst other things, we have been accused by the Monkams Tory councillors of "scaremongering" with regard to the above issue. Their most recent "In Touch" leaflet states their intention that any development on these sites will comply with the development brief, in particular that no building will exceed four storeys.

Our argument has not been about intentions - as we all know, the road to hell is paved with good intentions - it is about practicalities. We ascertained at the Area Committee meeting held on 27th November that the development brief is not legally binding on the Council and that, rather chillingly, the Cabinet reserved the right to take any decisions about the disposal of sites that it judged to be in the interests of Redbridge as whole. Subsequently Geoff Seeff has written to Cllr Huggett to ask her to confirm that, in light of rising construction costs and static house prices, the Council's current appraisals for the site indicate that their sale would yield the amount budgeted and that a developer would still be able to pay this sum, provide a library, public car parking and social housing all within the terms of the development brief.

All it requires is a simple "Yes", "No" or "Don't Know" answer. But guess what. After six weeks, answer there has been none.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Name:
 Address:
 Email:
 Phone:

I can help to deliver Focus
 I would like to become a member of the Liberal Democrats

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