

**Focus**

**Church End**

**No. 157**

## **New Street lights for the Triangle**

Good news that our outdated street lights are going to be replaced - something we have campaigned for. Ilford lights were replaced some years ago.

Now all the streets in the Triangle from Grove Road to Bunces Lanes will get new lights.

The work will be over the next year, with some inconvenience we're afraid But it will be worth it  
Then we get the rest of our area done.

# **Council says halt Land Sales and review policy**

**Cllrs Cleaver & Hoskins successfully persuaded a majority of the Councillors to call a halt to the massive £150 million sell off of council property , at the Council Meeting on May 17th.**

The 28 - 27 vote told the Cabinet to review the whole sell off process, and to consult affected residents before they made sales decisions .  
2 Tory Councillors voted with us and 6 more refused to back the Cabinet and did not vote.

Our motion is a sensible way forward and would stop the secret behind closed doors process that has gone on over the last year. As a result of this Council vote the Cabinet had to reconsider their policy. The Cabinet is composed of 10 Tory Councillors.

## **BUT the Cabinet Refuses!**

When it 'reconsidered' their policy the Cabinet obstinately refused to halt the sales process, review earlier sales decision or agree to consult residents before deciding what else they want to sell off.

The only positive change the Cabinet made in response to the Council decision was to abolish the secret 'Land Sales' committee.

## **The Cabinet is wrong**

The Council's plans to sell off £150 million worth of car parks, allotments and other Council property to finance building projects mainly in the Ilford area has no support among residents locally, or indeed increasingly across the borough - or vitally among the Councillors.

## **We can save Derby Road Car Park**

**Working with residents we are winning the argument.  
We must keep up the pressure with meetings, petitions, letters and emails.**



# **Putting Church End Residents FIRST**

[www.redbridge libdems.co.uk](http://www.redbridge.libdems.co.uk)

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## Residents 2 Telfords 0 - it makes a change !

**Telfords applied for planning permission to build a massive flat block on the site of the Station Estate. This is between the Viaduct in George Lane and the Central Line.**

Telfords put in two applications each trying to squeeze the maximum numbers of flats they could in huge 8/9 storey blocks.

The blocks would have had a devastating effect towering over the area.

The Council turned down both Telfords planning applications, so they went to appeal.

A three day hearing in April followed at the Town Hall.

On the one side Telfords. on the other side local residents, Church End and Roding ward councillors and Redbridge Council.

Cllr Felicity Banks, our Lib Dem colleague from Roding Ward

spoke up for her residents and Cllr Hugh Cleaver for our side of the Central Line.

Local residents at the hearing also argued their sound case against the Telfords application.

Residents' arguments used their knowledge of the local area and the impact the development would have to great effect.

Together we argued a good planning case to refuse permission.

### **The Inspector says 'No'**

**Both Telfords applications were refused. The Inspector said "the mass, height and design would appear incongruous in its setting".**

**But Telfords will try again, just as they did again and again at the Queen Mary College site.**

**And we will be ready for them !**

**Proposals to change the Area 2 boundaries have been dropped.**

You may recall the Council's Tory Administration said it wanted to change the boundaries earlier this year

The announcement was made after an Area 2 meeting when three of the Cabinet members walked out.

The first we knew of it was when Council agendas arrived saying they were going to attach Church End to Wanstead & Snaresbrook wards.

This was changed when Tory Leader Cllr Weinberg said an unnamed officer had made a typing error and he wanted Roding ward moved instead.

However after consulting all 6 affected wards Cllr Weinberg's plan has been dropped.

At the Area 2 Annual Meeting last month Richard Hoskins was re-elected co-chair of the Area 2 Committee.

## **New County Hotel**

*Now fully renovated under its new ownership, the 99 room County Hotel in Oak Hill, Woodford Green continues to enhance its attractive facilities within the delightfully relaxing Epping Forest environment.*

*Local residents and their organisations are particularly welcome for that special occasion, business conference or social event.*

*Please phone Michelle on 020 85066854 or email [meetingsandevents@countyhotelwoodford.co.uk](mailto:meetingsandevents@countyhotelwoodford.co.uk) for competitive prices and group concessions, and details of an attractive programme of activities including live "Stars in Their Eyes" cabarets for all tastes.*

## **SAVE OUR POST OFFICES**

The Government has announced that it will close more than 2500 post offices - this despite overwhelming public opposition.

Their closure plan starts this summer, though no details have been announced. We do know the main post office in Ilford is to close. WH Smiths in the Exchange is taking over the business.

**Are our post offices in the High Road and George Lane safe ?**

### **Lib Dem plan to save our Post Offices**

- £2 billion to invest in Post Office branches
- Open new branches where needed
- Retain Post Office Card Accounts for benefit payments
- Free Post Office from Royal Mail restrictions to let it develop new business
- New legal requirements for the Government to maintain the local Post Office network

Please sign our petition on :  
<http://www.libdems.org.uk/commerce/issues/postoffice.html>

# Queen Mary Gate development and Churchfields Infants School.

The sheer size, scale and density of the development is now becoming obvious.

Over the period since Telfords bought the site there have been many changes. More homes, higher flat blocks. There is now a solid wall of high rise building stretching along most of the site.

Among the many changes has been the moving of the access road through the site.

Originally it was going alongside the Churchfields Junior & Infants School site. Now it runs nearer the A406 and the new apartments have been pushed up to the school boundaries further over-shadowing the class rooms.

All the 'affordable' homes have been squeezed up at the top of the site. Pushed outside a fence and gated entrance to the higher priced flats.

Someone has suggested that the development be renamed 'Wenceslas Towers', because

the 'rich' will be able to look down on the 'poor' outside their gates !

Construction is likely until 2009

**Meanwhile many parents at the Infants school are very concerned about the impact of the high rise apartments which already overshadow the Infants school.**

There are further problems from the noise and fumes as well as the massive cranes which swing over the playground.

We are working with the school, the parents and various Health & Safety agencies to try and ease the situation.

We are also pressing Redbridge Planning officers to explain how the massive ugly development came to be allowed. Like another of Telford's proposed local developments it looks like a 1960s hangover.

## Progress on Churchfields Junior School rebuild.

Problems over costings and design has delayed work.

But now following revision of the plans and with approval from

Governors and Parents things are moving forward again

Under the new plans the Drama Centre building will not be disturbed.

**'Outstanding' -  
Ofsted's assessment  
of Churchfields  
Infants School**

**Congratulations to the  
Headteacher, Staff, Pupils  
and Parents .**

**A well deserved award, that  
puts the Infants School at the  
top of the tree.**

**Long may it continue**

## A Tale of 2 Jags



It was leaked to a local paper that Redbridge Council was ordering two gas guzzling, CO2 polluting Jags for use by the Mayor and senior officers.

This when Redbridge claims to be a 'green' council, and the cars will mainly be used in Redbridge.

Council Leader Alan Weinberg loudly defended the decision saying they were needed to maintain the Mayor's prestige.

When pressed he denied all knowledge of the purchase decision saying that was all unnamed officers doing, but he was standing by it.

Cllr Hoskins tabled a motion to Council demanding the council buy green alternative models

When it came to the Council Meeting Cllr Weinberg threw in the towel and agreed not to buy the Jags, and instead get suitable greener alternatives.

After the meeting he changed his tune again. Now it was revealed that the contract to buy the Jags had been signed in December, after consulting an unnamed but 'appropriate Cabinet Member'.

Who is this person, and why did Cllr Weinberg, with specific responsibility for the Mayoralty, not know about it until six months after the event?

The supplier wants massive compensation to cancel the Jags order. So Redbridge is going to pay nearly £200,000 and take them after all !

## A Better Churchfields Park

Nicola Sinclair has been working hard to get improvements in the park.

As a result two new benches have been added. By getting support from Operation Payback she got the play area fence painted and the graffiti removed.

In addition Nicola has been working with officers to to put together an £80,000 bid to the Big Lottery for new equipment for the park.

She has also been busy chasing up the grass cutting needed because of rains.

## Subsidence risk behind off street parking.

Leading insurers are warning that paving or concreting over front gardens increases the risk of subsidence. Reduced moisture levels put foundations at risk.

In clay-rich areas like Church End the problem increases where there are large trees.. Paving areas near them causes the tree roots to spread to find moisture. Nearby properties are put at serious risk.

Insurers Esure recommend keeping areas unpaved and camber any hard surfaces to get water to drain into the soil.

Bespoke parking place may look smart but can result in serious subsidence damage to properties

**We look forward to hearing your views and ideas for Church End at any time. Please contact us at our homes**

# Help Save Derby Road Car Park

## *It is not lost yet !*

*Although the Administration still seems hell bent on selling the Derby Road car park - and the others in South Woodford - it is not final yet !*

*There are a number of legal hurdles they have to get over. As the vote at the last Council showed there are cracks appearing within the Tory group of Councillors.*

*One of their number Cllr Moth not only voted with us, he even showed his support*

*by turning up to join our group photographed in the car park*

*Now the Save Derby Road Car Park Action Group has been set up, the fight will step up a gear.*

*We will continue the fight working with the group and in the Council.*

*And we all need your support. Signatures on the petition below. Emails and letters to councillors. This will make the difference.*

***Please sign the petition NOW and return it to any of our home addresses on front page***

**We, the undersigned, call on the Cabinet of Redbridge Council to reverse their decision to sell the Car Park in Derby Road because of the damaging effect it will have on the local community and businesses**

Family Name	First Name	House No.	Address	Post Code