

Focus

on Southfields

Working for local residents all year round

Anna Ahmed

Tony Burrett

Adam Towner



Autumn 2007

TORIES HIT LOCAL RESIDENTS WITH NEW CHARGES

Wandsworth's Tories cut free garden waste collection

Local Lib Dems have condemned the latest Conservative spending cuts to fall on local services. Before 1 April, Wandsworth residents could have their garden waste collected free of charge.

Under the Conservatives' new rules, local people are now having to pay £16.50 for the service. Under the new system, people will need to stack up to twenty sacks of waste in their gardens before they can be collected.

As local campaigner Anna Ahmed said, "Many people in the Southfields area take a great pride in their gardens, and make sure that the outside of their properties are kept tidy and attractive. If you can image twenty sacks hanging around your front garden, it will not be a pretty sight!"

Local Liberal Democrat Tony Burrett said: "It will be difficult for some pensioners to carry all these sacks to the front of their houses. For the thousands of people here who take pride in their gardens this is a real insult".

Local campaigner Adam Towner said: "Liberal Democrats believe that recycling and composting should be made easier for residents, not harder. This council spent over £88,000 on clearing up fly-tipping last year. This new system can only make it worse, as people despair of having garden waste piled up in their gardens!"

Local Conservative Councillor turns her back on Southfields residents

The local Liberal Democrat team was shocked to discover that a Southfields Tory councillor has abandoned local residents.

Lucy Allan recently campaigned to become the Conservative parliamentary candidate for the east London constituency of Poplar & Limehouse. In her campaign literature she wrote:

"My strength is being able to commit full-time to Poplar & Limehouse. It takes time to build trust ... I have that time."

She was elected to represent Southfields just over a year ago, but she clearly sees being a local councillor as nothing more than a stepping stone to becoming an MP.

Local Lib Dem Adam Towner said: "This is shocking opportunism. She was elected to represent local residents, not as a step on her political career ladder!"

Update on Wandsworth Museum

Wandsworth Museum issue reveals biased reporting

We welcome the launch of the Friends of the Museum and the undeniable progress that is being made to securing the future of the Museum, but the battle is far from over – for the latest news go to www.putneysw15.com and read “Wandsworth Museum Campaign Group (WMCG) Bulletin 7”. Southfield Lib Dems will keep you informed of future developments and make sure the Museum does not get forgotten.

In the meantime, the Museum issue has highlighted something else about which the Council should hang its head in shame - its use of the Borough magazine ‘Brightside’, produced and distributed to every home in the borough at the cost of over £94,000 per year.

The petition to save the Museum raised over 22,000 signatures, which is the largest number on a local issue in living memory - but Brightside has studiously avoided any mention of it, although this year it has highlighted petitions to save

Bolingbroke Hospital and local post offices.

“While we support both these campaigns, it is wrong for the Council to publicise its own petitions but ignore the petition to save the Museum,” says Adam Towner, local Lib Dem activist.

“Wandsworth Tories will use Brightside when local people need to make their views known to the Government, but not when they need to make them known to the Tory Council! This is the same contempt for the Council Tax payer that Councillor Grimston showed when he said famously that those fighting to save the Museum were not representative of the borough.”

“With such unbalanced reporting, David Cameron should pay for Brightside, not the Wandsworth Council Tax payers,” adds Anna Ahmed, local Lib Dem activist. “It must be put beyond reach of political control or closed down. Many people have entirely lost their trust in this Conservative council.”

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