



FOCUS on Clementswood

Issue No 9

Edited By Councillor Irfan Mustafa

Tories cut care budget despite pleas

About 400 people in Redbridge would lose care services when the Tories backed the changes in the eligibility criteria with a margin of two votes 31- 29 at the last Council meeting. All Liberal Democrat Councillors voted against this proposal.

Many angry carers spoke at the meeting but the Tory administration ignored them. More than 86% of these people are pensioners and will be left dependent on their families.

Tories blamed this action on poor funding from Labour Government and ignored the pleas for any options. The rise in threshold of the eligibility criteria came into effect from 1 August 2007. Care remains in place for only those judged "critical" but those with "substantial" need, who were previously cared for, would lose out or disqualified.



A tale of two Jags

Redbridge Council ordered two gas guzzling, CO2 polluting Jaguars last December for use of Mayor and senior Council officers. When challenged Council Leader Alan Weinberg blamed the officers for the decision to buy these cars. Liberal Democrat Councillors Richard Hoskins and Irfan Mustafa tabled a motion to the Council in May 2007 saying the Council should use 'green' environmental friendly cars. The Tory Leader of the Council stood up at the meeting and agreed. He said the deal should be cancelled.

With in weeks he was forced to admit that he had himself authorised the Jaguars six months earlier and could not be cancelled. The deal cost Redbridge taxpayers £120,000.

Judge this Council administration for yourself.

The Council's Top priority should be reducing anti social behaviour.



That was the message residents across the Redbridge gave the Council when they asked you in their survey how they should spend Council tax money.

Instead the Tory cabinet cuts the crime reduction budget by £185,000. Ten Liberal Democrat Councillors led the attack on the Tory budget at this years Council tax meeting and still putting pressure to provide more money.

Clementswood ward and Town Centre has suffered long with anti social behaviour and high crime rate. The Police and Safer Neighbourhood Team are working hard but even Borough Commander Dave Grant ask the Council to reverse their decision on cutting Crime Reduction scheme budget but Tory cabinet is not listening.

Liberal Democrats say that people have the right to live in safe neighbourhoods.

If you have any concerns about the Clementswood Ward, Please write to Councillor Irfan Mustafa.

I/We have concern about _____

Name (s).....

Email/Tel.....

Address.....

Please return this form to Councillor Irfan Mustafa at 141 Woodlands Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1JR

The Liberal Democrats may use this information to contact you from time to time on issues we feel may be important. If you do not want to receive this information please place a tick in this box

Council says Halt Land Sales & Review Policy



Liberal Democrats successfully persuaded a majority of the Redbridge Councillors to call a halt to the massive £150 millions sale off Council Property, at the Council Meeting on 17th May 2007.

The 28 – 27 vote told the Cabinet to review the process of land sales and consult residents affected by any scheme before they made a decision. The Liberal Democrat's motion was supported by Labour & Tory Councillors and six Tory Councillors refused to back the Cabinet and did not vote.

Liberal Democrats motion proposed that the Tory Cabinet stop the secret, behind closed door process that has gone on over the last year. As a result of this Council vote the cabinet, composed of ten Tory Councillors, had to reconsider the policy.

But the Tory Cabinet has refused to listen! When it "re-considered" its policy, the cabinet obstinately refused to halt the sales process, review earlier decisions or agree to consult with local residents before deciding what else they wanted to sell.

Cabinet puts Redbridge open spaces in Peril. The Council's plans to sell off £150 million worth of car parks, allotments and other Council property to finance building projects has no support because of lack of consultation with residents.

At last full Council meeting on 17 July 2007, Liberal Democrats Leader put another motion challenging the Tories plan of land sales including allotments and car parks with out proper consultations with residents and users. The cabinet meeting on 31 July 2007 was attended by about 100 allotment holders and car park users. At the meeting, the Tory Cabinet considered the Allotment Strategy 2007/12 and selling of the five allotments in the borough. Many angry residents spoke against these land sales, however the Tory Cabinet would not listen to them.

At the last Cabinet meeting, Liberal Democrat Councillor Farrukh Islam spoke against the sale of these allotments and highlighted the lack of consultation with the allotment holders and environment agencies.

Congratulations to Loxford School

Congratulation to Loxford School on getting an "Outstanding" OfSTED report recently.

Loxford School of Science and Technology, has also received £38 millions to completely rebuild by 2009 providing a modern and well-equipped inspirational school of the future.

Councillor Irfan Mustafa serves as a LEA Governor on Loxford School Governing Body.

After 17 years of excellent service to the School, the Head Teacher Ms Hazel Farrow has retired at the end of academic year. From our Focus Team, we wish her a happy retirement. Councillor Mustafa attended the leaving party along with the Redbridge Mayor and Director of Children Services Redbridge. Many Ex- Governors and staff also attended the function to say farewell to Ms Farrow.

SAVE OUR POST OFFICES



The Labour Government has announced that it will close more than 2500 post offices including Ilford's main Post Office -this despite overwhelming public opposition. WH Smiths in the Exchange is taking over the business.

Liberal Democrats have opposed Governments plan to close Post Offices. Liberal Democrats put forward a plan to invest £2 billion in Post Office, Open new branches where needed, Retain Post Office Card Accounts for benefit payments.

Liberal Democrats have launched a petition to Save Our Post Offices Please sign our petition on:

<http://www.libdems.org.uk/commerce/issues/postoffice>

Clementswood Safer Neighbourhood Team

Clementswood Safer Neighbourhood Team headed by Sgt. Dave Somerville meets the residents regularly at the Ilford Police Station to discuss the issues.

The meetings have been very well attended. You can contact the

Safer Neighbourhood Team on 020 8721 2027 or email: clementswood.snt@met.police.uk

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS AN INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR CLEMENTSWOOD

Clementswood First

Anti Social Behaviour is not acceptable.

With a lot of moving population, rented properties and town shopping centres, Clementswood ward has a high number of complaints about anti social behaviour.

Councillor Irfan Mustafa had a late evening visit with the Council's ASB Team on Saturday, 21 July 2007. Visiting the CCTV monitoring Centre and many hotspots, Councillor Mustafa praised the professional work of ASB Team and congratulated the officer. Residents can contact ASB Team 24 hrs on **020 8478 4679**. A information leaflet on ASB Team can also be obtained form the Council.

Cleveland Junior School

received an outstanding OFSTED report

Cleveland Junior School in Clementswood ward received an outstanding report from Ofsted Inspectors. Councillor Irfan Mustafa serves as LEA Governor on the Cleveland Junior School. Governing Body. Councillor Mustafa congratulated the Head Teacher, Staff, Pupils and the Governing Body on this achievement.

HAMPTON ROAD

Through a petition to Councillor Irfan Mustafa, Hampton Road residents of Clementswood ward asked for better cleaning of streets and to improve environment by planting more trees on the road. The petition was submitted to the Area 6 Committee in June 2007 asking the Council Officers to look into both issue and report back at the next meeting on 19 September 2007.

Meeting with Police Commander

Councillor Irfan Mustafa had a breakfast meeting with Redbridge Borough Police Commander Dave Grant at the Ilford Police station on 17 July 2007. At the meeting, the Borough commander briefed about policing in the borough and had a good discussion with Councillors about public protection issues. Borough Commander agreed to attend the Community Safety Scrutiny Committee meeting in future. Councillor Irfan Mustafa is a member of this Committee. If you have any question or concern about policing, please try to attend the Committee meeting, which is open to public or contact Councillor Mustafa to raise your concerns at the meeting.

Cricklefields Stadium



The Cabinet want to put a City Academy at the site which may be shared by the new Academy, Ilford Football Club and the proposed Olympic size swimming pool. Concerns were expressed by the management of Ilford Sports Club Director Mr Michael Foley and Managing Director Mr George Hogarth about losing this local facility. Mr Hogarth suggested that the Academy should be built at the site of present swimming pool. Ilford Sports Club and Frenford Youth Club would be in danger of moving of the area which would be a great loss to the local community. If you are concerned about this issue, please write to Councillor Irfan Mustafa or directly to the Redbridge Council, C/o Town Hall.

New Primary School at Winston Way

A new primary school with three-form entry will start this September. It is a state of the art school with latest ICT facilities for children and a nursery and integrated children centre. Speaking to Ilford Recorder Councillor Irfan Mustafa said " I am pleased with the new School with modern facilities. With planned new housing development in Clementswood, we need more School places.

Land Sales Petition

Redbridge Liberal Democrats have put a petition to the Prime Minister condemning Redbridge Council's plans of sale of allotments, car parks and other open spaces worth £200 millions **without proper consultation of public and decision taken behind close doors.**

To show your support, please sign the petition by logging on the following link.

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/LBRlandsales/>

Fatal flaws in health service review

Is it Un-Fit for Future Plan?



Health Services plan to cut down services at King George Hospital including the closure of Accident & Emergency has been criticised by everyone but it seems the Health Chiefs are adamant to put these plans. A recent independent report revealed that longer journeys to hospital A&E will to patients dying. The Sheffield University report confirmed that people would be at risk and may die with longer journeys. Planned closure of A&E at King George Hospital means that ambulance have to take patients to Whipps Cross Hospital in Leytonstone or Queens Hospital in Romford a move which the report says would put lives at risk.

Liberal Democrats raised this issue back in October/November 2006, when everyone rejected their claim. Now everyone is trying to save A&E at King George including the Labour Party who's MPs have voted for Social Care Bill since 2003 resulting in this review.

Liberal Democrats have submitted a petition to Health Services to review their plans. The Ilford Recorder also submitted signatures of 30,000 to No 10 to save the services at King George Hospital. If you want to expressed your concerns write to your MP or Health Secretary regarding this issue.

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USEFUL NUMBERS

We list here some useful numbers for local services

Anti Social Behaviour Team 020 8708 4679
Abandoned Cars 020 8708 3946
Fly Tipping 020 8708 5512
Graffiti Removal 020 8708 5512
Pest Control 020 8708 5716
Street Cleansing 020 8708 5515
Street Lighting 020 8708 3946
Park Police 020 8721 2026
Safer Neighbourhood Team (Clementswood) 020 8721 2027
Ilford Police Station 020 8478 1123
Redbridge Council 020 8708 5000

RADIO-CARS Ltd.

24 Hours Mini-Cab Service

020 – 8553 - 4114

SALOON * ESTATE * MPVs

If you wish to contact your local Councillor Irfan Mustafa

You can write to him **C/o Redbridge Town Hall, Ilford, Essex IG1 6XT**
Telephone: **020 8708 0065 (Voicemail) 07801 373612 (Mobile)**
Email: **cllr.Mustafa@redbridge.gov.uk**

Councillor Irfan Mustafa holds his Surgery
at 141 Woodlands Road, Ilford, IG1 1AJ
Every Friday between 5.30 – 6.30 p.m.