



# FOCUS

Newsletter

**on Ilford North—Service & Action**

## Tory Crisis Grows

Local newspaper readers will know how much trouble there's been at the Town Hall since 2002. The ruling Conservative group is divided by infighting, and has been rocked by a series of investigations into leading councillors. Now even Tory Central Office has been forced to step in, and two sitting Redbridge Councillors have been barred from standing as local Conservative candidates on May 4th....

**£4.2 million wasted**

...meanwhile Lib Dem Councillors discovered that the Tories have spent nearly £4.2 million on the 'Ilford Centre' project, so far without a single achievement to show for it...

**Just a bit of fun..**

...and the Ilford Recorder reports that some Tory councillors were upset by the Kenneth More Theatre Company staging a cabaret to poke fun at all the goings on in Redbridge—with jokes about the Town Centre Project and the Council's new 'leaf' logo!

However local people have to pay for all this through the Council Tax, and Redbridge is one of the highest increases in the country. It's not really a laughing matter.



### **Council Tax up by nearly 6%**

**Redbridge Conservatives pushed through one of the highest Council Taxes in the country, at 5.85% for 2006/7, at the Budget Council meeting on 2nd. March.**

Our local Council Tax increase is so high because: -

there is a 20% surcharge (at Band D) that all London residents will pay each year towards the cost of the 2012 Olympic Games

Redbridge Council plans to borrow many £millions over the next few years to pay for new schools, Ilford Town Centre 'regeneration' project, and a massive new 50m swimming pool in Seven Kings, all at the same time (There will be two 50m pools at the Olympic site and there are also plans to refurbish and re-open the outdoor 50m pool at London Fields)

the tax levied by Ken Livingstone's GLA is going significantly, largely to help pay for extra police in London

of four years mismanagement at the Town Hall under the Tories. £millions have been spent on unnecessary consultants (including £90,000 to design a new 'leaf' logo!), and taxpayers' money continues to be wasted on 'special allowances' for Tory councillors.

### **Council Tax Rates 2006/7**

**Band A—£ 844.90**  
**Band B—£ 985.71**  
**Band C—£1126.53**  
**Band D—£1267.35**

**Band E—£1548.99**  
**Band F—£1830.62**  
**Band G—£2112.25**  
**Band H—£2534.70**

## S O S—Save Our Open Spaces !

Redbridge Tories want to push ahead with plans for a 50m swimming pool in Seven Kings, despite opposition from Lib Dems, Labour and even some Conservative councillors.

This could cost £35 million, and plans are already being drawn up to raise some of this by selling off Council owned land, including some allotments.

### **Council Planning Policy**

The local development plan is being reviewed, and Conservative councillors want to scale back the policies that protect our open spaces, and prevent more intrusive developments.

Both the Government and the Greater London Authority are pressing Redbridge to take a growing amount of housing development. Liberal Democrat councillors recognise the need for more housing, but will always protect the community and ensure that development does not damage the local area.

### **Conservative Policy**

Under David Cameron the Conservatives policy is changing and is now likely to favour more development in London.

“The Conservatives abandoned their traditional defence of the green belt yesterday and promised a programme of House building”

The Times, 9th. February 2006



## Street Scene Service

Uniformed Street Scene Officers are working to make our streets cleaner. They can prosecute those littering and spoiling our streets with graffiti.

The service can: -

- Remove abandoned vehicles
- Investigate fly-posting and fly-tipping
- Investigate and clean up graffiti
- Stop illegal street trading
- Help reduce anti-social behaviour



Residents can report in person to the officers or phone 020 8708 5050

**Ilford North Liberal Democrats – Keeping you informed**

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