

Monkhams

Focus



Huge response to survey by Monkhams residents !

Our recent residents survey shows the concerns of residents like you. The high rate of response showed how much local people wanted to be consulted.

Now the challenge for us is to work in partnership with you and the other LibDem councillors and campaigners in Redbridge to make things better,

We welcome the news that Monkhams will at last get its own dedicated police team based in the ward.

Next door Church End ward is celebrating a successful partnership with the police team they have had for over twelve months. Residents, police and councillors there work together to reduce local crime. All say it is good to have local bobbies back on the beat.

Bad street lighting just encourages more crime. It adds to the insecurity of residents. Street lighting was renewed throughout the whole of the Ilford part of Redbridge a few years ago. Yet we are still waiting for the same improvements here in our area.

The replacement street lighting programme in our part of the borough will take 30 years to complete. Monkhams is last on the list !

We are now pressing for the worst lit streets to be dealt with first , wherever they are in the present council's slow replacement programme.

1 in 7 (14%) say they have been a victim of crime in some way or another in the past ten months. (Fortunately not all in Monkhams itself)

1 in 3 (33%) say they are dissatisfied with the street lighting.

Yet the present Tory administration is investing so little in replacement it will take over 30 years to finish the job.

82% say they are happy with the condition of roads and pavements.

That is fortunate as the senior highways officers says with present council spending local roads will only be resurfaced once in every 170 years !

More local news overleaf

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£35 million swimming complex in Seven Kings Ilford - none here !

The current Conservative administration has turned its back on the long promised swimming pool in our area. Instead they want to spend £35 million on an Olympic size pool over in Ilford.

The three Monkham's councillors have all voted in favour of the idea. Some £1.5 million has already been allocated from the Council's precarious budget towards the project.

What the administration is unable to say is where the balance is coming from.

Officers have been told to find whatever there is that can be sold off. The prime target seems to be land the Council owns. That is places like allotments !



Kenneth More Theatre - will it, won't it survive?

The Tory administration wants to redevelop Ilford Town Centre. But it hasn't got enough land available.

So now they want to knock down the KMT and use that site for redevelopment.

They want to move the KMT into the main hall of the Town Hall. Estimated cost £12 million plus. There is no guarantee it will be as good as the existing theatre. Nor that it will open before the present theatre is knocked down.

Mind you the Council doesn't have any money to pay for a replacement theatre any way.

Meanwhile vital local school rebuilding projects like that of Churchfields Junior and Infants Schools have the needed money they were previously promised, taken away for spending in Ilford

Please cut here and return

Can we help you

An idea to help make Monkham's a better place in which to live ?

Please contact us at our home addresses shown on front page

Dear Focus Team

My/ our idea is

I/we would like	
a lift to vote on May 4th	<input type="checkbox"/>
to help the Focus Team	<input type="checkbox"/>
to join the LibDems	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your name/s Address
..... Tel/Email

It's all about our civil rights

Blair's 'new Labour' has given us control orders, detention without trial, banned the right to protest within 1 kilometre of Parliament. It is planning compulsory Identity Cards which will track your every move. Effective for law abiding citizens, but useless in the fight against crime or terrorism.

How long before 'minor' becomes 'major'

Now Mr Blair wants something out of 1984. It is called "The Legislative and Regulatory Reform Bill". This boring title covers a bill that will give Ministers enormous power.

They would become able to make any 'minor' changes in legislation they wanted without any parliamentary debate or scrutiny. Then Goodbye Parliament; Goodbye Democracy !!!

We will defend our civil liberties

LibDem MPs and in the Lords have attacked the whole series of government proposals aimed at undermining civil rights.

Their Lords Constitutional spokesperson Lord Goodhart described the bill as 'the thick edge of the wedge'. We say it is the immoral act of a most immoral government !

Strangely Conservative opposition has been much more muted. Henry Porter writing in The Observer recently asked are the Tories just biding their time, hoping to return to Government one day, and then use this evil abuse of power for themselves

Redbridge Tories in Turmoil

Some people were surprised when the current Tory Leader of the Council announced he would be standing down on May 4th. Observers of the vicious fighting within the Tory group on the council over recent years, were less surprised.

At the last Council meeting he had no idea (nor seemed to care much) who the next Council leader would be after May 4th, let alone what that person's policies would be for Redbridge.

Remember the Tory group so split at one point they even lost control of the Council for a few months. This was because 10 of their members refused to turn up for the Council's Annual Meeting. Even now several of their group from one faction refuse to sit on council committees.

Local Tory Councillors banned from standing on May 4th.

Last month's shock news was that two sitting Tory Councillors had been banned from standing by Tory Central Office. One, a member of the Cabinet, was only told on the night of his wards selection meeting. Another is standing as an Independent against the Tories.

Councillor says he is "unmoved by the plight of Churchfields schoolchildren"

Council Engineers reported that Churchfields Junior School needed rebuilding some 4 years ago.

The money was allocated from this year's Council budget, with the balance to complete the project next year.

However Cllr Stark, the Cabinet member responsible, has reneged on that promise.

He has stretched the project over 4 years. This will leave the Churchfields children exposed to a building site for twice as long as before.

When challenged at Council by Lib Dem Councillors he told them he was "unmoved by the plight of Churchfields children"

The money will instead be spent on building schools in Ilford

All change at the old 352 High Road bank

Some time ago five of the Tory Councillors, who then had a majority on our Area 2 committee, pushed through approval for what was described as an up market restaurant

Like many residents, the 3 LibDem councillors were sceptical, and voted against the plan.

The 'high class restaurant' plan collapsed. The site stood empty and covered in graffiti and posters for months

Instead we have another Indian restaurant to rival the Chutney.

Excellent food no doubt, but not what the 5 local Tory councillors promised !



Anne Crook has lived in Monkams for over 20 years. She taught in many Redbridge Primary schools as a Special Educational Needs teacher, and as a Educational Visitor in Waltham Forest.

She has an MA in Education and she was a parent governor at Wells Primary. She recently completed a Law degree.

Anne wants Woodford to become a cleaner and safer place.



David Cracknell and his family have lived in Monkams since 1972.

David was formerly a media and advertising executive.

Active branch member of the local Royal British Legion. He is currently chairman of the welfare committee of its Redbridge chapter.

David's particular concerns are crime prevention and as a keen gardener, the environmental conservation of the Woodford area.



Geoff Seeff a LibDem Parliamentary candidate & standing in Monkams on three previous occasions.

Married with 2 adult daughters he lives in Church End ward.

A chartered accountant whose field of expertise is in urban regeneration. He is an adviser on major national and international projects.

Geoff wants to ensure Redbridge benefits from the opportunities that should arise from the 2012 Olympics.

The FOCUS Team - *putting Monkams FIRST*

No local money for highway management schemes in Monkams this year.

The Conservative administration has cut £580,000 out of the Council's Highways budget for this year. That was the total amount of local funding for highways management.

Last September residents were invited to a meeting at the Hawkey Hall to discuss a whole list of schemes for Monkams. While many were shelved as a result of residents comments, some were agreed.

These included plans to cut through traffic across Monkams, safety measures in the Broadway, or slowing traffic in residential roads etc.

Now none of this will happen this year. Because Conservative councillors, including the 3 from Monkams, cut the Highways budget !

COUNCIL TAX RISES HIT PENSIONERS HARDEST

The absence of a Council Tax rebate in the Budget means a rise of at least £200 in pensioners bills.

This is in addition to our 5.3% rise from Redbridge and Ken Livingstone's GLA.

The absence of any pre-election bribe this time must spell the end for this unfair tax.

It must be replaced by a fair system based on ability to pay.

