

Gipsy Hill News



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Paying off Lambeth Labour's £1 Billion Debt

When Lambeth's voters kicked Labour out of power in 2002, the Town Hall's new joint Conservative/Lib Dem council inherited over £1 billion of debt – more than the national debt of many third world countries.

The interest payments alone were £60 million a year – or £600 a year on the Council tax for every household in Lambeth.

“Conservative councillors were determined to sort out Labour Lambeth's financial mess,” reports Andrew Gibson. “Lambeth workers pension funds had been raided by £7 million as Labour councillors decided to take a “pensions holiday” and we wanted to pay this money back. There was an overdraft and no reserves. There was only enough money in the budget to keep the streetlights on for the first 6 months of the year. There was no money for street and pavement repairs.”

In the past three years, under joint Conservative control, Lambeth has paid back over £200million of debt. This means local council tax payers are paying less interest to the banks and more on local services. The overdraft has been paid off, and Lambeth has money in reserves.

“Sorting out Lambeth's finances has meant that in the past two years there has been more money invested into streets, parks, youth and play facilities, street trees and recycling than under the previous 15 years of Labour rule,” says Suzanne Poole.

“This is a good start after so many years of neglect, but we all recognise that there is so much more we must do to make our area better”.



Andrew, Suzanne and Janet support the improved budgeting.



Alexandra Walk – following complaints from Russell, the broken paving is to be replaced in Alexandra Walk.

Charters Close – following a survey by Andrew and Suzanne, Charters Close is to be resurfaced and Lambeth is promising to install entryphones on all the blocks next year.

St Gothard Road – Janet is pressing for wrap-around double yellow lines around the sharp bend in St Gothard's Road. This stretch of road is a terrible bottle neck, particularly when there are two buses trying to pass.

Rosendale Road – Russell is arranging a meeting with transport officers and local residents to find out whether more measures need to be taken to reduce the traffic speeds in the road.

Gipsy Hill station – Janet has negotiated for a bench near Gipsy Hill station as a “resting place” for the elderly. It should be installed before the year's end.

We're around all year round!

Working with you to make our area better...



Salters Hill pinch-point.

Gipsy Road – cars speed along the stretch of road from Auckland Hill to Salters Hill. Speed tables will be installed, making the road safer for local residents and children attending Kingswood school.

Salters Hill – has some of the fastest road speeds in Norwood. Speed tables will be introduced. Priority markings will be given at the pinch points. A new solar speed sign has been installed to warn speeding motorists. There will be one-way priority at the bridge, to make the Salters Hill/Gipsy Road junction safer.



Speed tables due.

Bloomhall/Hawke Roads – have become a rat-run following the decision to make Crystal Palace one way, with no left turn into Gipsy Hill and no right turn into Central Hill. Speed tables will hopefully deter some drivers from using the roads as a short cut.

Making our streets safer and quieter for local residents

After years of campaigning by local councillors and residents, Upper and West Norwood are going to benefit from a huge programme of road safety measures. All of the changes have been consulted on and received the big thumbs-up from local residents.

“These measures will make our streets safer and quieter for local residents,” says Andrew. “At last Norwood is getting a fair deal and Lambeth is not just spending all available money on Brixton”.



Speed sign in Rosendale Road.

Speed Signs – Solar-powered speed signs are being used in Lambeth for the first time. They are being tested in Norwood, in Norwood Road, Rosendale Road and Salters Hill. The plan is to move them to different locations in Norwood where speeding is a problem.

Woodland Hill – will become a 20 mph zone, taking in surrounding roads such as Woodland Road, Cawnpore Street and Camden Hill Road. There will be speed ramps and entry treatments to make the junctions safer.



Andrew and Janet near new crossing site.

Norwood High Street – The long-awaited Norwood High Street pelican crossing at the bottom of Auckland Hill, helping residents to cross safely to and from the station is about to be installed. This has been agreed after a 7-year campaign.