

Gipsy Hill News

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Campaigning for Gipsy Hill

Lambeth's new Labour administration is doing enormous damage to Gipsy Hill and Norwood generally – but Gipsy Hill's Conservative councillors are fighting back on your behalf.

Vale Street Depot

Thanks to the hard work of the local residents, supported by Gipsy Hill's councillors, part of the Vale Street depot was to be converted to a much-needed games area for local youths. But Lambeth Labour intends to put a refuse truck depot there instead. This will mean that twenty-ton trucks will lumber through narrow streets in the early morning.

Gipsy Hill councillors are working with local residents to try to stop Labour's social vandalism. Cllr Graham Pycock had the decision sent back to Lambeth's Cabinet – but Labour rammed it through again.

Next Step: the Council will consider the issue at its November meeting. Please attend, and oppose Labour's folly.

Daftest Comment of the Year

Labour Councillor Jackie Meldrum – who voted to replace the games area with a dustcart depot, along with all her Labour colleagues – said that the huge trucks would not be so troublesome if they were nicely painted!!

Lambeth Labour clearly have no idea of the disruption to people's lives that they are causing.



Graham and Andrew at the popular new games area

Temporary games area, Vale Street

After much hard campaigning, residents had been promised a temporary games area in Vale Street for the school holidays – but Lambeth Labour failed to order the safety fence in time.

Gipsy Hill Councillor Andrew Gibson said, "As a result of council incompetence, children were left to play on the street 'for Health & Safety' reasons. It is beyond belief!"

When Labour failed to meet even their delayed deadline, Andrew emailed the Council immediately, getting the site opened within days. Now Gipsy Hill Conservatives are campaigning for the site to be kept open beyond its October-November deadline.

We're around all year round!

Working with you to make our area better...

Labour to Privatise Housing?

We say, "Let Tenants Decide!"

Labour wants to transfer Lambeth's entire housing stock to a private company (which, in turn, the borough would control). Labour says this would allow greater investment – but there are no guarantees of extra money from Central Government, and there are fears of greater bureaucracy and less democratic control.

Gipsy Hill Councillor Graham Pycock commented, "There is no reason to hive off the entire housing stock. Nor have New Labour explained adequately why the money cannot be given directly to councils, without all this uncertainty and bureaucracy. Gipsy Hill Conservatives have secured a promise from officers that the change would not happen without 'tenant support'. Now we are pressing to strengthen this pledge by demanding a full ballot of all residents.

Labour to close Local Housing Office

Lambeth Labour wanted to close Lunham Road Housing office – a vital lifeline for hundreds of residents in Gipsy Hill. The council "consulted" residents, but seemed intent on closure. At the time of going to press, it seems that local residents and councillors might have won some concessions. We will continue to fight for a full service.

Checkout Sainsbury's

The new Sainsbury's on Westow Street is going great guns. The store was open after a campaign by traders groups and residents, following the closure of Safeway/Morrisons. Gipsy Hill Councillor Suzanne Poole wrote to all the major supermarket chiefs, and received a letter from Justin King, head of Sainsbury's, saying he would look at the site.

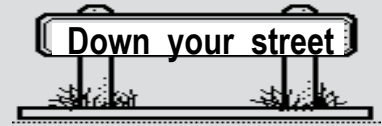
Sainsbury's – Before and After



Graham and Suzanne view the abandoned site.



Suzanne wrote to the head of Sainsbury's.



Gipsy Road/Rommany Road: A housing development was proposed for Gipsy Road that would have been intrusive for residents in Rommany Road. Gipsy Hill Conservative Councillor Andrew Gibson represented residents' interests at the committee, and succeeded in having the proposal rejected.

Clear-up for Pilgrim Hill: Attractive Pilgrim Hill, off Auckland Hill, has been made an eyesore by dumped cars. After discussions between Gipsy Hill councillor Graham Pycock and South London Families Housing Association, an agreement was reached to clear dumped cars and introduce controlled parking for residents only. Graham said, "I am delighted that SLFHA will clear the road and make Pilgrim Hill tidy and attractive again. I will keep an eye on this to ensure it happens."

Labour Cuts Books Budget

Users of Lambeth libraries have reacted with fury following a 'stealth cut' of one third in the current year's library books fund and a moratorium on buying new books. The Labour administration has reduced the annual spend for the current year on books from £500,000 to £360,000 and won't buy any more books until so called "crisis budgeting" has taken place. The cuts were only revealed when an employee with a keen conscience spilled the beans to local Conservatives.

Suzanne said, "As a teacher and a parent I am sure we should be supporting libraries, not bleeding them to death through a thousand cuts. I am keen to see the Norwood library expand, not wither. Also, Graham and I sit on the Committee of the Upper Norwood Joint Library, which is somewhat independent, and we shall fight its corner vigorously."

Safer Neighbourhoods

Local police patrols are being re-introduced across Lambeth. A "Safer Neighbourhood Team" of police now works out of Gipsy Hill station, led by Sergeant White, with two Constables and three Community Support Officers. Gipsy Hill's Conservative Councillors support this initiative, and have met with the Gipsy Hill police to pass on Community concerns.

To contact the police with local information about crime, however low-level it might seem, call: 020 8721 2617

In case of emergency, you must still call 999.