

Knights Hill News



Knights Hill Conservative Action Team website:
www.conservatives.Lambeth.com

Winter 2006

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St Luke's Gardens are Looking Good

The restoration of the Memorial Gardens outside St Luke's Church, Knights Hill, is progressing well, with the installation of railings the one major task still to complete. This is thanks to endless hours of hard work by church leaders and local residents, including Norwood Conservative Councillors, who helped secure funding.

The project is at the heart of plans to revitalise our area. Already, the Old Library, Knights Hill, has been modernised for community use. Also, after a campaign by local Conservatives, a crossing has been installed at the foot of Auckland Hill. This serves to regenerate the triangle between Knights Hill and Norwood High Street, on which the church, theatre, and train station are sited.

Local Conservative Janet Grigg, who campaigned for the crossing for eight years, commented, "This is a tremendous, community-led achievement. We must now support the theatre in plans it might bring forward to improve its property; then we will have a truly thriving neighbourhood."



St Luke's Gardens – Norwood residents are regenerating the area.

Christian Centre opens at York Hill

All Nations Christian Centre has opened a community centre in a renovated warehouse at York Hill.

The changes to the building have been authorised by Lambeth planners and have contributed towards regeneration of the area.

The Revds. Judith and David Oranaye plan to offer computer training and other services to young people at the centre, as well as Sunday worship and Christian teaching.

Chapel Road Reprieve

Developers have proposed building a warehouse-like Cash & Carry on the old Lambeth College site. It would create congestion and noise, yet would provide few jobs. When the proposal was put before Lambeth Planning Committee in summer it was deferred due to insufficient detail. It was resubmitted in October, and again not accepted.

Local Conservative councillor Graham Pycock explains, "Knights Hill's Labour councillors failed to attend the first hearing. It was thanks to the local residents themselves that the application was deferred. Therefore, I was determined to attend the second hearing, at which I joined fellow residents in speaking out strongly against the plans, which were deferred again. Local Conservatives will challenge any future inappropriate proposal."

More Trees

Norwood Conservatives are working to have more trees planted in our area. If you know a site in Knights Hill that would be suitable for a new or replacement tree, let us know and we will try to get it on the list for this or the next planting season.

Write to Peggy Coldwells, Knights Hill Conservatives, 495 Norwood Road, London SE27 9DJ.

Labour Betrayal of Knights Hill

Environment and Property Under Threat

The Vale Street depot, Gipsy Hill, was to be used for 'community use', mainly by youths. But Lambeth Labour intends to put a refuse truck depot there instead. This will mean that, in the early morning, twenty-ton trucks will lumber through roads such as Crown Lane, Elder Road and Knights Hill as they make their way from the depot to points throughout Lambeth.

The impact on the environment and congestion, and therefore property prices, could be substantial. Knights Hill's three Labour councillors obeyed their party whip, supporting the truck site against the interests of Knights Hill residents. One even said that the huge trucks would not be so troublesome if they were nicely painted. Lambeth Labour clearly have no idea of the scale of the disruption they will cause to Knights Hill.

Local Conservative Peggy Coldwells said, "Conservative councillors worked with local residents to try to stop Labour's social vandalism. They had the decision 'sent back' to Lambeth's cabinet – but Labour rammed it through again. This issue comes before the Planning Committee soon (Dec/Jan). Local Conservatives will join residents in opposing the trucks."



Labour's plans will harm the environment and property prices.

Labour to Privatise Housing?

We say, "Let the tenants decide!"

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

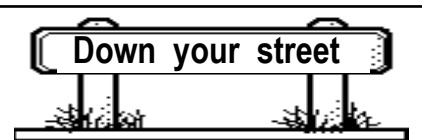
Local Conservative Peggy Coldwells commented, "Why can't the money be given directly to the council? Labour is simply creating more bureaucracy, and spending thousands on spin doctors to camouflage their folly. Labour councillors are riding rough shod over tenants' wishes. Lambeth's Conservative councillors are demanding a full ballot of all residents."

Labour Cuts Books Budget

Library users have reacted with fury following a huge cut in the current year's library books fund. The Labour administration has reduced the annual spend for the current year on books from £500,000 to £360,000.

Labour Councillors Pocket Extra Cash

Labour councillors have voted through increases (around 50%) in their allowances for service on the council executive. One Knights Hill Councillor is set to trouser tens of thousands of pounds for a "job" that used to be voluntary. All Conservative councillors are against the huge increase for executive member allowances.



A council tenant in the Cheviot Road area has a problem with **flooding**. Local Conservatives have requested that the drains be jetted.

A resident just off Knights Hill was concerned about a **planning application**. We tracked it down and discovered it had been withdrawn, to the resident's relief.

A Knights Hill pub was causing a **disturbance** with noise. We contacted the police and street wardens, who now monitor the pub after 11pm.

A number of residents have approached Knights Hill Conservatives with **re-housing** requests. We have taken these up with Lambeth Council on the tenants' behalf.

The Conservatives are Growing, Nationally and in Knights Hill

Name:.....
Address:.....
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Postcode:.....
Tel:.....
Email:.....

I/we would like to help by:

- delivering leaflets
- calling on electors
- joining Knights Hill Conservatives

If you would like to join us or help in some way, just complete this form and send it to D&WNCA, 495 Norwood Road, SE27 9DJ

Norwood Conservatives hold an Advice Centre ('surgery') every Saturday between 11am and noon. If you have a problem similar to those above, visit us at:

**495 Norwood Road
(opposite B&Q)**