

In Touch

Summer 2005

with Village Conservatives

Village Ward Conservative In Touch team: Cllr David Bradbury and Cllr Toby Eckersley

495 Norwood Road, London, SE27 9DJ ❖ Tel: 020 8670 0677 ❖ Fax: 020 8766 6064 ❖ E-mail: dulwichwnorwood@tory.



Working for Dulwich

Village Ward councillor Toby Eckersley has been chosen as Chair of Dulwich Community Council. The nine councillors for the three Dulwich wards are the members of the Community Council.

“We meet at local venues ten times a year”, says Toby. “100-150 local people attend each meeting to lobby us and to contribute to our decision-making. These community councils are an important innovation in local democracy. The Conservative group supported them enthusiastically following Labour’s defeat in 2002”.

The Community Council is now in its third year of allocating money to ‘Cleaner, Greener, Safer’ schemes, which are put forward by local people or groups.

“Over 50 projects are already benefiting the safety and attractiveness of Dulwich”, says Cllr David Bradbury. “We are currently working through 40 submitted for 2005/06, deciding which to support”.



Toby and David – working for you on the Community Council

Wardens swing into ac-



Toby and David in Norwood Road, where the wardens have already been

The council’s community wardens are now operational in the Dulwich and Herne Hill areas – brought to the area thanks to the pressure from Conservative councillors.

One of the first areas to benefit from their activities is the shopping parade on Norwood Road, where there has long been a problem with trade waste that Toby and David have been trying to get tackled. “The wardens have already warned certain traders about their behaviour, and I’m confident they will keep on top of things here”, says Dulwich Community Council chair Cllr Toby Eckersley. “Labour has said the wardens aren’t needed in Dulwich, but they’re already proving how useful they can be”.

School place survey

An example of a project which would never have seen the light of day under the old Labour centralism from Southwark Town Hall is the primary school place survey in North Dulwich.

“For years parents have complained to us about problems getting a place for their children”, says Toby. “The official answer was always: ‘There is no shortage in Dulwich; send your child to Langbourne’. This school is too far away. Now the Dulwich Community Council has financed a survey of all SE24 households to provide evidence for a policy review”.

Well over 150 responses have been received and as we go to press the results are being analysed.



Housing densities – Dulwich under threat

Labour London May-

The London Mayor is trying to bully Southwark Council to double the density for new house-building in parts of Dulwich.

“This is a massive long-term threat to the character of Dulwich”, says Toby. “The Conservative group took the lead in the drafting of Southwark’s new Plan to protect Dulwich from Mr Livingstone’s ‘urban’ zoning, which would allow developers to replace traditional streets with up to six-storey blocks. The Mayor of London has refused to withdraw his proposals, and we now wait with concern the Government Inspector’s report”.



Toby and David in Herne Hill, which will be under threat from dense over-development if Labour’s Ken Livingstone gets his way.

“Local Labour politicians have failed to curb their maverick London Mayor”, David adds. “He must be a great embarrassment

Council tax – below inflation thanks to the Conservatives

The Southwark element of your council tax has again risen by less than the rate of inflation thanks to pressure from the Conservative councillors, who hold the balance of power, to keep it under control.

“That’s the third time in a row we’ve managed that”, says Cllr Toby Eckersley, who chairs the borough’s finance scrutiny committee. “Next year won’t be so easy, because with the general election out of the way we’re expecting a tighter settlement from central government. But Conservative councillors will again be looking to keep the Southwark element as low as possible”.

Unfortunately Labour Mayor Ken Livingstone again managed to ram through an inflation-busting increase for the Greater London Authority element, despite the best efforts of the Conservatives at City Hall.

Need to talk to the Village Ward Conservative In Touch team?

You can write to David and Toby through the Conservative Association at 495 Norwood Road, SE27 9DJ (tel. 020 8670 0677, fax 020 8766 6064) or through the Town Hall, Peckham Road, SE5 8UB.

You can e-mail David at david.bradbury@southwark.gov.uk and Toby at toby.eckersley@southwark.gov.uk.

If you wish to meet David or Toby please call for an appointment.

Call 020 8670 0677 or e-mail: dulwichnorwood@tory.org if you

News in brief:

- As we go to press, results are awaited from the recent consultation exercise on residents’ parking schemes in Herne Hill and North Dulwich. Toby and David are pressing to get a swift and fair decision.
- Alternative proposals for the extension of the 42 bus route are being considered by Transport for London - these would see the southbound buses turn left towards East Dulwich rather than right towards Herne Hill.
- Southwark’s policy, set as a result of a Conservative motion, is to support the London Olympics only if the burden on local taxpayers is spread more fairly, with councils outside London, particularly near the games site, making a contribution. “Many Dulwich taxpayers”, says Toby, “will be paying almost £2000 extra council tax for the Olympics. Essex residents will benefit more, yet pay no such contribution. Again the Labour government and the London Mayor have let us down”.

Years ago a council sub-committee had earmarked part of the sale proceeds of the stable block at Belair for park improvements; the sale took an age and the administration at the Town Hall changed. The decision would have been forgotten and the money thrown into a central pot but for Toby’s reminders to council officers. Now £400,000 has been secured for Dulwich.

- The council has finally installed short-term parking bays near the small parade of shops at the top of Herne Hill, after much pressure from Toby and David.