

In Touch

November 2005



with Village Conservatives

Village Ward Conservative In Touch team:

Robin Crookshank Hilton, Cllr Toby Eckersley and Nick Vineall

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More local improvements from Community

The Conservative-controlled Dulwich Community Council has agreed to support more local improvement projects in Dulwich under the Cleaner, Greener, Safer programme.

At its latest meeting at the end of October it agreed funding towards new cricket facilities at the Dulwich Sports Club to be available for local primary schools, security measures for the parade of shops in Dulwich Village which has had problems with ram-raiding, and tree pruning at the north end of Dulwich Village, where the trees are partly masking the street lights.

Cllr Toby Eckersley, who chairs the council, welcomed the grants: "As well as the new decisions, we were also able to give extra support to security works at the cafe in Dulwich Park. Together with our earlier decisions to support better lighting in an alleyway off Gilkes Crescent and under the Burbage Road railway bridge and a road safety survey in Burbage Road, these are examples of the good work that the Community Council is doing for Village Ward."



Cllr Toby Eckersley and Robin Crookshank Hilton at the Dulwich Community Council.

East Dulwich Grove – the team in



Cllr David Bradbury and Robin Crookshank Hilton on the East Dulwich Grove Estate.



Nick Vineall and Cllr David Bradbury examine the site of a missing bollard.

The Conservative In Touch team has been busy in East Dulwich Grove and neighbouring streets. Among the issues that local people have brought to their attention are problems with crime.

In Touch team member Robin Crookshank Hilton has asked the Community Wardens to pay extra attention to the East Dulwich Grove estate, where some elderly people feel intimidated. "The Community Wardens are a valuable asset to the Dulwich area", she says. "It's important that local people make good use of them."

"We've noted problems of road repairs in the area and a missing bollard in East Dulwich Grove, and are pressing the council officers for action", adds fellow team member Nick Vineall. "We've also contacted housing officers about problems with the access gate at the rear of the East Dulwich Grove estate – it's too invisible at night and there need to be road markings to stop people parking across the front of it."

Are there any problems in your road that you want to bring to the team's attention? Call us on 020 8670 0677 or email dulwichwnorwood@tory.org



Labour's Licensing shambles: Councillors' right to object removed

Labour's Licensing Act 2003 comes into full force in November. It allows pubs and clubs to apply for whatever opening hours they wish – at a time when violent attacks in Southwark have risen by 14% over the last three years.

Nick has been keeping a close eye on how the Act is affecting Village Ward. "Labour has created some real problems", he says. "Applications must be granted automatically unless an objection is made. And only certain people are allowed to object. Residents can only object if they live in the immediate vicinity. Even worse, Labour has removed the right of councillors to object in their capacity as ward councillor."

"Your own ward councillor, Toby Eckersley, has been told by Southwark Council that because he did not live in the immediate vicinity of one application, he could not raise an objection – so that anything he might have to say on the issue would be ignored. And Southwark Council also said that the Dulwich Community Council had no right to lodge an objection either."

"I have written to Tessa Jowell MP asking her whether she will support a move to reinstate the right of councillors to raise an objection to an application anywhere in the ward they represent. It will be interesting to see what she says."

Herne Hill – better safety on the

The split responsibilities for Herne Hill have often frustrated residents. Now your Conservative team has helped locals in their efforts to get Lambeth to agree to install a vehicle-activated speed sign near Herne Hill School.

"I'm grateful to Southwark officers," says Toby "for responding to our suggestions and making the case to Lambeth. Safety should improve, especially for the school children and parents on both sides of the borough boundary."

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

You can write to Robin, Toby and Nick through the Conservative Association at 495 Norwood Road, SE27 9DJ (tel. 020 8670 0677, fax 020 8766 6064).

You can also write to Toby and your other Conservative councillor David Bradbury through the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London

SE5 8UB. You can e-mail them at: toby.eckersley@southwark.gov.uk and david.bradbury@southwark.gov.uk
If you wish to meet them, please call for an appointment.

Call 020 8670 0677 or e-mail: dulwichwnorwood@tory.org if you are interested in joining or helping your local

London Olympics – Conservatives fight to keep down cost to you

The 2012 Olympics are a great opportunity for Britain, but there is already a danger that London Council Tax payers will end up with a disproportionate burden.

Conservatives are therefore seeking to cap the Council Tax bill that Londoners might face if the cost of hosting the Games overruns. "The Olympic games are a national event", Toby says, "so the contribution that Londoners make should be strictly limited to the agreed budget. Any cost overruns should be borne by the Treasury. It should not be left to the Council Tax payers in London to foot the bill."

Meanwhile in Southwark the danger signs are already there that Labour and Liberal Democrat councillors see the Olympics as an excuse to push up council spending. Together they rammed through council a motion congratulating the bid team for its success, but at the last minute Labour got through an uncosted amendment asking for more staff to be appointed to make "the best use of Southwark's involvement with the Olympics" – whatever that means. "Only the Conservatives stood up against this", adds Toby. "We welcome the Olympics, but they must not become an excuse for heaping yet more burdens on local taxpayers without even studying what the cost will be."

Labour lunacies

You may have read reports in the local papers that the Labour councillor for Village Ward proposed decanting tenants from the Aylesbury Estate, scheduled for demolition, into portable cabins in Burgess Park.

Southwark Labour councillor Michelle Pearce suggested tenants from the massive Aylesbury Estate in Walworth could be chucked into cosy little boxes in neighbouring Burgess Park when their blocks are demolished.

South London Press
14 October 2005

Now she's gone further and sent an e-mail to council tourism officers saying it would be wonderful if one of the big old houses in Dulwich Village could be turned into a hotel! "I don't think the Village needs a hotel," says Toby. "As soon as I heard this daft idea I told council officers I didn't think such a thing fitted in with the council's planning policies."