

# In Touch

Autumn 2005



## with Village Conservatives

Village Ward Conservative In Touch team:

Robin Crookshank Hilton, Cllr Toby Eckersley and Nick Vineall

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## Good news for Dulwich Park

**Dulwich Park is currently being restored thanks to National Lottery money. Now further assistance is being given by the Dulwich Community Council, chaired by Cllr Toby Eckersley.**

The cafe in the park is well-used by local families”, he says, “but it has suffered problems with break-ins and vandalism. Now the Dulwich Community Council has agreed a £10,000 grant under the Cleaner, Greener, Safer programme to help equip it with CCTV to protect it better. Along with the Community Wardens, it’s another example of how the Conservative councillors are using their influence to get things done for the area.”



*Nick, Robin and Toby at the cafe in Dulwich Park.*

## Robin and Nick – working for the Dulwich area

**Robin Crookshank Hilton and Nick Vineall are the new members of the Village Ward Conservative In Touch team. They have both been active in the area for a number of years.**



*Robin looking at one of the trees in Lordship Lane scheduled to be replaced.*

Robin has been a resident of East Dulwich for twenty years. She has been active in community politics for a number of years trying to improve the area around Lordship Lane, where she has recently been successful in getting approval for more street trees to be planted. “I am passionate about improving the amenities of the Dulwich area, while preserving our unique environment”, Robin says, “and street trees are a vital part of improving that environment.”



*Nick outside Waverley School, where he is a governor.*

Nick has lived in the borough for fifteen years. He is an active governor at Waverley School, and has been very active in the campaign for new boys’ and girls’ academies. “If the plans are approved, parents in the borough will have two excellent new academies that will transform secondary education in the area. I really believe that this will make an enormous difference, particularly for boys, who have very little choice in East Dulwich at the moment.”



## Labour's local tax plans could still hit Dulwich hard

**Council Tax payers in Dulwich could still be heavily penalised by Labour's plans for local taxation, despite a recent government announcement, Councillor Toby Eckersley has warned.**

In September the government announced that its plans to revalue council tax bands would be put on hold and incorporated into an ongoing inquiry. "All this amounts to is a postponement, not a cancellation", says Toby. "They have reset the clock on this ticking timebomb - nothing more."

The inquiry is expected to report by the end of the year and make recommendations to change the way that Council Tax works. But concerns have been raised that the Labour government will use the reforms as an opportunity to increase the tax burden – for example last year a government report outlined the possibility of a ten-band system of Council Tax where homes in bands above D would pay more.

"It's clear that Labour schemes to replace Council Tax will bear heavily on areas such as Dulwich", Toby says. "Southwark Conservatives have fought at the Town Hall to restrict the rise in council tax, but these plans will expose many people in Dulwich to higher bills despite these efforts. If these plans go through, it's therefore doubly important that Southwark has a council committed to keeping down the rise in its local tax."

## Road safety – Village Way

**The large junction where Half Moon Lane, Village Way and Beckwith Road meet has long been a source of some safety concern. Now the council is looking to improve it.**

"The council will soon be consulting local people on a scheme to improve the junction", says Toby. "The new scheme will give priority to traffic wanting to move along both arms of Half Moon Lane, whereas now priority is with cars coming round the bend from Village Way, some of which go pretty fast. I'm asking the council officers to consult slightly more widely, but apart from that I welcome the plans."

### 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](mailto:toby.eckersley@southwark.gov.uk) and [david.bradbury@southwark.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:dulwichwnorwood@tory.org) if you are interested in joining or helping your local Conservatives.

## News in brief:



*Toby, Robin and Nick at the Velodrome.*

- Herne Hill velodrome has reopened, run by London cyclists. "Although its long-term future isn't secure yet, I'm encouraged that this seems to allow cycling to carry on and should avoid intrusive over-development", says Toby. "That's what Cllr David Bradbury and I have been pushing for for years."
- The Dulwich Community Council has agreed to fund better lighting under the railway bridge in Burbage Road and also a survey into traffic safety in the road. "I'm glad we were able to support these suggestions from local residents", says Toby, who chairs the Community Council.
- Proposals are being worked on to improve the major junction at Herne Hill with Norwood Road, Dulwich Road and Railton Road, with Lambeth in the lead as most of the junction falls in that borough. "We've been talking to Lambeth Conservative councillors to ensure that the final scheme doesn't interfere with the free flow of traffic from Herne Hill and Half Moon Lane into Norwood Road, as that would cause rat-running in parts of north Dulwich", says Toby.

As we go to press, council officers are still

- drafting their recommendations on the review of controlled parking in Herne Hill. "The Village Ward Conservatives will be pressing to see that council officers conduct the process with due regard for openness and the views of local residents", says Toby.

After hard work by residents backed by Toby a

- sensible solution has been reached for the licensing application by the Dulwich Sports Club off Burbage Road. "What has been agreed will result in much less disturbance at night than had been feared", says Toby.

The Dulwich Community Council has agreed

- to Toby's suggestion to repaint the crests on the abutments of the railway bridge on Village Way.