

# **BROMLEY LABOUR GROUP NEWS**

**NEWSLETTER OF THE LABOUR MEMBERS OF BROMLEY COUNCIL**

**CRAY VALLEY WEST WARD  
COLIN WILLETTS**

**PENGE & CATOR WARD  
PETER FOOKES, JOHN GETGOOD, & KAREN ROBERTS**

**JULY/AUGUST 2008**

## **BROMLEY TO INTRODUCE FORTNIGHTLY RUBBISH COLLECTIONS**

A recent report which went to the Tory Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Leisure Services, Cllr Colin Smith (Plaistow and Sundridge) is looking at introducing fortnightly rubbish collections by October 2009. The move would see a new weekly collection of food waste using a fifty litre container. Some wards and areas in the borough have recently been trialling this. Paper collections would be increased to weekly whilst the current Green box collection (glass/cans/plastic bottles) would continue to be fortnightly. Final decisions on the scheme are awaited whilst negotiations continue with Veolia, the contractor. Negotiations will centre around what to do with such items as nappies/incontinence pads.

## **PLANNING PERMISSION GIVEN FOR NEW LANGLEY PARK BOYS SCHOOL**

Planning consent was recently given for the Langley Park Boys School in Beckenham to be rebuilt with only one Tory Councillor voting against the proposal. The school was built in the late 1960's and has declined physically during that time. The scheme will also see a 600 seat performance space which will be managed by Bromley Youth Music Trust. The packed public gallery saw some opposition being voiced by Langley Park Girls School who were concerned by the fact that development will be nearer to their buildings. More green space will be created on the South Eden Park Rd side of the site. The Tories were as ever singularly ungrateful for this windfall as they demonstrated in a council press release soon afterwards. The government are providing £35 Million under the Building Schools for the Future Scheme. When did the Tories ever provide that kind of money for education in this borough? We await further government monies to rebuild other schools in the borough.

## **JOHN GETGOOD LEADS COUNCILLOR BLOGGING!**

John Getgood, Leader of the Labour group is currently taking part in a free website trial which helps councillors engage with their communities. The website, called [www.readmyday.co.uk](http://www.readmyday.co.uk) hosts a range of information related to councillors across the country and has been provided free by central government. Six councillors and four Bromley officers are taking part in the trial.

## **PLANNING CONSENT GIVEN FOR NEW BIGGIN HILL POOL AND LIBRARY**

The scheme for a new 6 lane 25 metre swimming pool and replacement library with changing rooms and a café at the current library site in Church Road was recently granted permission in a close vote. We were not against the scheme but felt that changes could have been made to parking, particularly with health provision nearby which would have seen less congestion and difficulties for local residents. Some residents had argued that the scheme should have been located at Charles Darwin School in Jail Lane.

## **LONDON YOUTH GAMES**

Congratulations are due to the Bromley team who retained their title at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre at the beginning of July. Over 20,000 young people across London took part proving that not all young people are engaged in anti-social behaviour despite what you read and hear in the media.

## **CHILDREN'S CENTRE SPROUTING UP ACROSS THE BOROUGH**

Thanks again to funding from the Labour government, Children's centres are springing up across the borough as we attempt to give all children the best possible start in life. Centres are already open at Community Vision, Penge, Blenheim Centre in Orpington, James Dixon in Anerley, the Phoenix Centre in Bromley, Burnt Ash in Plaistow, Elmers End Centre at Marian Vian School, and Biggin Hill Family Centre.

Those on the point of completion or at work in progress stage include Churchfields in Beckenham, Poverest Family Centre in Cray Valley, Manor Oak in St Mary's Cray, Royston in Penge, Princes Plain, Widmore Centre in Bromley, Cotmandene Centre in Cray Valley West, Darrick Wood in Farnborough, and Castlecombe in Mottingham. A further **£2.2 Million** for capital and **£12.3 Million** for revenue costs has been allocated for the third phase of centres in Bromley which will be built in the less needy areas. Bromley are currently consulting with providers of services in those areas to find out what the needs are. These of course are long term projects which may take a while to bed down but we need to look at best practise elsewhere to see which boroughs are being effective in spending this money.

## **LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

The last Council meeting at the end of June saw a report on the local area agreement going forward to the Government Office for London (GOL). This is the new compact between the council and the government linked to performance which could see the borough earn over **£10 Million** of reward money if it meets various targets by 2011. 30 indicators from the national set of nearly 200 most closely reflect the priority outcomes sought by the council and its partners over the next 3 years. These include educational attainment, reducing exclusions and absences, under 18 conception rates, increases in conviction rates, reductions in carbon emissions, a quality environment, and supporting independence.

## **ALDERMEN**

A Ceremony at the end of June saw 20 former Councillors being rewarded for their service to the borough by being made Aldermen. Congratulations are due to former Labour Councillors John Holbrook, Sue Polydorou, and Selwyn Ward.

## **CONTACTING BROMLEY LABOUR GROUP**

We are always happy to take up issues that you raise with us and to keep the Tories in Bromley in check. One of the best ways of doing that is on e mail or through the council website – [www.Bromley.gov.uk](http://www.Bromley.gov.uk) You can contact councillors by using the same format e.g., [Peter.Fookes@Bromley.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.Fookes@Bromley.gov.uk) This is the same for members and officers of the authority as well. We also have our own website which can be accessed at [www.bromley-labour-group.co.uk](http://www.bromley-labour-group.co.uk). You can also write to us c/o Bromley Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley BR1 3UH or leave a message on our answer phone 0208-460-0626.