

# **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, and KAREN ROBERTS**

**NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2008**

## **BORIS WIELDS THE AXE ON TRANSPORT PROJECTS**

Bromley hosted a Mayor's Question Time event in early November which saw 200 people being turned away from the Civic Centre as we witnessed for the first time, Boris showing what a Conservative government would look like after announcing cuts in his transport plans. Not content with losing three of his senior advisers within the first few months of being in office, he has now signalled the end of his honeymoon period. It is the age old story of Labour investment versus Tory cuts. Locally here in Bromley, the axe fell on the proposed Crystal Palace Tramlink extension which would have linked Croydon to Crystal Palace, promoting regeneration around Anerley Rd and Anerley Hill which is desperately in need of an economic boost. Boris, of course, had talked up the proposal whilst campaigning in Croydon in April!! He was also talking about extending it to Coulsdon, Streatham, Sutton and Richmond. It may well have been that this scheme would not have been the first priority for Ken and would clearly currently be competing for Olympic funding as well but it is the kind of short-sightedness which plagued the Tories throughout their years in power. Indeed, there is already evidence in the north of the borough that the East London Line extension to West Croydon and Crystal Palace which is due to open in 2010 is having an economic benefit and is attracting people to the area. Other transport projects cut by Boris included the Thames Gateway Bridge, the Docklands Light Rail extension to Dagenham Docks and the Cross River Tram linking Peckham and Camden. Bromley Tories often talk a good game on transport (Indeed, they have previously put motions to council on the issue of the tram extension) investment but the reality is somewhat different! It remains to be seen whether Boris is going to take over the running of Crystal Palace Park from Bromley Council which was scheduled to take place next year under Ken Livingstone. He has been remarkably quiet over the issue. Certainly Bromley Tories will be banking on the gain of £1 Million per annum revenue expenditure that it currently costs to maintain the infrastructure of the park. How many people who voted for Boris as the joker candidate in May are now regretting their decision?

## **NEW WEBSITE FOR PENGE & CATOR COUNCILLORS**

You can find out what Penge & Cator Councillors, Peter Fookes, John Getgood, and Karen Roberts, are up to by logging onto [www.pengeandcatorcouncillors.co.uk](http://www.pengeandcatorcouncillors.co.uk) Unlike many of our political opponents locally, the site is updated regularly with the latest goings on in and around the Penge & Cator area and the latest news from Bromley Council. You can also comment on the articles themselves.

## **BROMLEY AREA ACTION PLAN CONSULTATION**

Consultation on proposals for the future of Bromley Town Centre are currently continuing until 6<sup>th</sup> February. Once adopted, the AAP will guide the way future planning applications are judged over the next fifteen years. 2,000 jobs and a similar number of residential units are being proposed. It is

expected that the plan will be adopted in the Autumn of 2009. The main proposals include a mixed use scheme at Bromley North and on the Civic Centre site, retail extensions to the Glades, a hotel on the site of the former DHSS building and residential and retail development of the former Army and Navy store west of the High Street. Full details can be gained through the Bromley website – [www.Bromley.gov.uk](http://www.Bromley.gov.uk)

## **BROMLEY TORIES IGNORE BORIS OVER HOUSING ISSUES**

John Getgood questioned the Leader of the Council, Stephen Carr (Bromley Common & Keston) over a letter received from the Mayor of London requiring Bromley to increase its supply of affordable housing.

Demand for housing in the borough remains as strong as ever with waits of over three years common. It is disappointing to note that Carr is hopeful of negotiating a reduction in the target set by the Mayor.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Met Police have now introduced a new number to report non urgent crime. It is 0300-123-1212. Crime Mapping has now been introduced in response to a Mayoral Pledge and the Government Green Paper on Policing to keep neighbourhoods better informed. The site can be accessed from [www.maps.met.police.uk](http://www.maps.met.police.uk)

Crime in Bromley is fairly stable but it is obviously getting harder for the local police to maintain some of the spectacular falls that we saw earlier on in the year when crime was down 15 to 20%. Charles Griggs, the Borough Commander gave these details to a recent meeting of the Public Protection and Safety Scrutiny Committee. There is still some confusion around truancy issues with the Police happy to let Bromley take the initiative with Bromley Tories keen to pass the buck back to the police. You can contact your Safer Neighbourhood team via the Bromley Police website [www.met.police.uk/bromley](http://www.met.police.uk/bromley)

## **BECKENHAM BEACON SITE NOT FAR OFF**

At a recent public meeting in Beckenham, the Bromley Primary Care Trust revealed that the new facilities planned at Beckenham are running to time and budget and should be open in May 2009. There will be health facilities on site from 8-00am to 8-00pm seven days a week as health services move from being hospital to community based. The local Elm House surgery will be moving onto the site along with another GP Practice yet to be identified which will cover those hours. This will reduce the demand for A and E services elsewhere.

District Nursing and Health Visiting teams already operate from the site and new services will include a one stop shop facility for Diabetes, Cardiac Rehabilitation, and services for people with severe breathing difficulties (COPD).

## **SEASONS GREETINGS / CONTACTING BROMLEY LABOUR GROUP**

We would like to wish you the compliments of the season and all the best for 2009.

The only scheduled election next year is on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June when the European Elections will take place. If our continued improvement in the national opinion polls takes place, that of course could change!! 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 email 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 (020) 8460 0626.