

LEWISHAM DEPTFORD

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GREEN NEWS

AUTUMN/WINTER 2009

News and views from the Green Party
for Lewisham and Deptfordwww.lewisham.greenparty.org.uk

**Darren
Johnson**

**Lewisham Councillor
and
London Assembly
Member**

Darren's Factfile

- Lived in Lewisham Deptford for over fifteen years
- Local Councillor since 2002
- Leader of the six-strong Green Group on Lewisham Council
- London Assembly Member since 2000
- Currently Chair of the London Assembly

Darren's Priorities

- One million new jobs in public transport, green energy, affordable housing and care for elderly people
- A guaranteed non-means tested weekly pension of £165 for all pensioners
- Free insulation for all homes – cutting emissions and slashing fuel bills
- Keeping the NHS public – no more botched privatisation schemes

Darren bids to be your new MP

Local councillor and London Assembly Member, Darren Johnson, is your Green candidate for the coming General Election. In election after election Greens have proved to be the only real alternative to Labour in Lewisham Deptford.

Darren said, "We urgently need a fresh approach at Westminster. Lewisham could make a real impact by electing its first Green MP. The Government is planning to waste billions on renewing Trident, introducing ID cards and building new roads. I want to see that money spent properly on creating vital new jobs. Greens have plans for new jobs in public transport, green energy, affordable housing and care for elderly people."



Darren talks to local voters

A better rail deal for Lewisham

Darren and the Greens are campaigning for key rail improvements for Lewisham and Deptford residents.

• Surrey Canal Road Station – get it built!

Funding for an East London Line station at Surrey Canal Road has not yet been secured. Labour politicians keep blaming the Conservative Mayor of London while Conservative politicians keep blaming the Labour Government. But the reality is that both the Mayor and the Government have responsibilities for funding adequate public transport and both sides need to work together to ensure the station gets built.

• Bring the Bakerloo to Lewisham

Darren Johnson has been pressing Mayor Boris Johnson to support the extension of

the Bakerloo tube line from Elephant & Castle to Lewisham. Darren met with Transport for London and they have confirmed they are investigating various options for linking up stations in Southwark and Lewisham with a new Bakerloo line tunnel.

• Save the Victoria to Bellingham service

Greens have slammed plans to abandon the proposed new Victoria to Bellingham service. This was to have compensated for the loss of some trains when the East London Line came. It would have been a major benefit to stations like Catford. However, Mayor Boris Johnson failed to make the case to Government for funding it and South London residents are now set to lose out.

Support our campaign

We would like to keep in touch with you. If you want to register your support for our campaign or would like to help please send your name and e-mail address to: sue.luxton@greenparty.org.uk

Make a donation

If you want to see a Green MP and more Green councillors in Lewisham you can help us by making a donation to our campaign. Complete the form here and make cheques payable to "Lewisham Green Party."

Contact us if you'd like to hear more

- I can help to deliver Green News in my street
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www.darrenforlewisham.org.uk

Financial crisis looming for the NHS

Economists have predicted that the NHS faces a horrendous financial crisis because of the mounting costs of private finance initiatives (PFIs). Greens have consistently warned that PFI deals, whereby private companies build hospitals and then lease them back to the NHS, are a scandalous waste of public money. Official figures have revealed that the total cost to the taxpayer is many times the capital value of the new buildings. Such huge debts are now having a serious impact on NHS budgets. In South London services at Queen Mary's Hospital in Sidcup are being slashed because Lewisham, Bromley and Woolwich hospitals all have massive PFI bills to pay.

"We need to run the NHS as a public service with public investment, not waste billions on these botched privatisation schemes," said Green councillor, Romayne Phoenix.



Greens say keep the NHS public

Smart meter loan scheme goes global

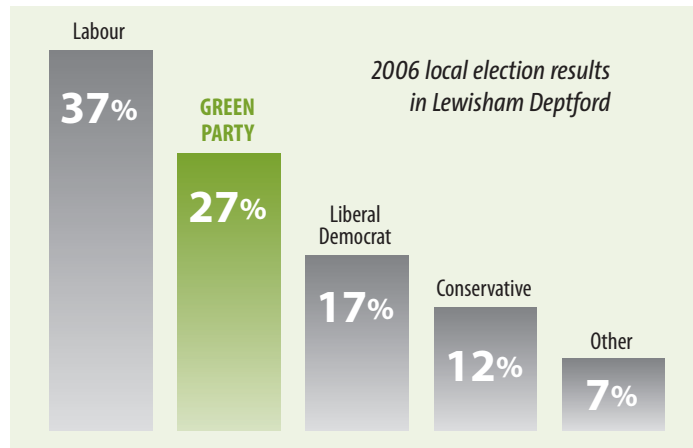
A Green Party idea for lending energy-monitoring 'smart meters' throughout Lewisham's libraries has proved to be a real hit. Lewisham's Green councillors secured funding for the scheme and it has also inspired copycat projects in other areas, with interest shown from Devon to Scotland – and even Australia. Green councillor, Ute Michel, said, "It's brilliant that other councils are now copying our idea as more and more householders want to save energy and cut fuel bills." The smart meters simply clip onto a domestic electricity meter and help residents to see which appliances are the biggest energy-guzzlers. The meters can be loaned free of charge from all Lewisham libraries.

School plans rob parents of power

Green councillors have formally objected to two anti-democratic plans for local schools.

The first would give the head of private school Colfe's a place on the board of Catford High. The fee-paying school could also appoint further governors. The second plan would create one governing body for Addey & Stanhope, Crossways and Deptford Green schools. This would be dominated by Goldsmiths University, which could appoint a majority of governors, again reducing staff and parent power in decision-making. Green Councillor Sue Luxton said, "Goldsmiths is a great institution and we believe in sharing expertise and encouraging co-operation between Lewisham's educational institutions. But this can be done without robbing power from parents."

GENERAL ELECTION - ONLY GREENS CAN BEAT LABOUR HERE!



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