

GREENWICH GREEN NEWS AUTUMN 2009

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Peninsula candidates: Dave Sharman, Marek Powley & Darryl Chamberlain

INSIDE:

- Fight the Flights
- John Roan school
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- East Greenwich library
- Olympic concerns
- Greens make progress

Time for a change - Green candidates will stand up for Greenwich

Meet our Green Team for Peninsula ward - our three candidates hoping to make history by becoming Greenwich's first Green councillors.

Darryl Chamberlain, Marek Powley and Dave Sharman have been picked to contest the ward for the Green Party in next May's council election, in its drive to bring honest politics to the borough.

Only the Greens can topple Labour in the ward, which takes in east Greenwich, the Millennium Village and part of Charlton, after coming a close second in 2006's poll.

Darryl, a former BBC journalist, says: "It's time for a change in Greenwich - the current council is complacent, arrogant, and out of touch with with local communities."

Marek, is a co-chair of the Young Greens. "People and businesses in Greenwich and Charlton deserve representatives that will stand up for them," he says. "The Greens are for protecting and expanding local services, so local people can control their future."

Dave is self-employed as a consultant in teamwork development, and is also on the board of Mycenae House Community Centre. He was for ten years a director of The Woodlands Farm Trust.

Candidates in other wards will be announced in due course. The poll, which is likely to coincide with a general election, is due to be held on 6 May.

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Thamesmead campaigners challenge airport plan

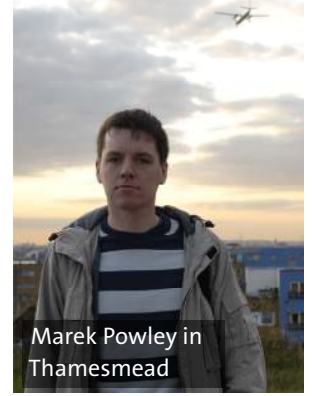
Greenwich Greens are backing Thamesmead campaigners who are going to court to challenge a decision allowing 50% more flights to use London City Airport.

Fight The Flights says Newham Council should have taken into account long-term government plans to cut aviation emissions, and had failed to consult neighbouring councils before making its decision.

London City Airport's flightpath takes its planes over west Thamesmead, while take offs and landings can be heard along Greenwich borough's riverside. Fight the Flights represents people on both sides of the Thames who oppose the airport's expansion.

Fight the Flights' Anne Marie Griffin said: "Increasing flights at London City Airport is completely wrong - it will bump up carbon emissions and add to the misery of local people who are already suffering from poor air quality and noise disturbance. There are much better ways to bring jobs to this area. We appeal to members of the public who care about the environment and our community to help us fight this decision."

Marek Powley, who will contest Erith and Thamesmead for the Greens at the general election, said: "People who live along the river have their lives blighted by noise from City Airport's aircraft. We should be doing more to make inter-city rail travel quicker and cheaper, instead of constantly expanding airports."



Marek Powley in Thamesmead

Olympic committee must listen to local concerns

Olympics organisers need to raise their game in talking to locals about the impact of the 2012 Games on their communities, Peninsula ward Green candidate Darryl Chamberlain says.

The choice of Greenwich Park for equestrian events and Woolwich Barracks for shooting contests has divided locals, with many fearing damage to Greenwich Park and traffic congestion across the area.

But with a vociferous campaign against the equestrian events in full swing, organising body LOCOG needs to do more to reassure people. LOCOG recently announced the park would be shut for four weeks in July and August 2012, with a longer closure needed close to the National Maritime Museum to build a temporary stadium.

"The Olympics will be a once in a lifetime event, and it's important the concerns of local people are addressed," Darryl says. "But Greenwich Council has used its weekly newspaper to bombard people with propaganda, and tried to stage-manage a public meeting last year.

"LOCOG's most recent event was restricted to local amenity societies, who in turn barred journalists from attending. People deserve to know what's happening. We need a new open meeting, free from council interference, and all relevant documents made easily available so people can make their minds up for themselves."

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Save John Roan - and build another school For Peninsula



Parents need to know what the future of John Roan School is, two years after Greenwich Council unveiled plans to move it to a polluted spot on Greenwich Peninsula.

In 2007 the council announced it wanted the centuries-old school to leave Blackheath to move to a location next to the Blackwall Tunnel.

Parents were outraged at the plan, about which they were not consulted, and launched a Save John Roan campaign.

Since then, there has been no news from the council, and the school is being forced to use temporary buildings as Greenwich's growing population puts strain on its facilities.

Peninsula Green candidate Darryl Chamberlain - a former John Roan pupil - says it should stay where it is - and a new school for the Millennium Village should be considered instead.

"People like me grew up with the benefit of going to school in attractive surroundings next to Greenwich Park," he says.

"Forcing local children to move to one of London's polluted sites would be an outrage. The council should keep John Roan where it is, and consider opening a brand new school on a decent site on the peninsula, not right next to the Blackwall Tunnel, to give Greenwich's children proper school facilities."

Greens campaign to reduce traffic pollution in Greenwich

Traffic pollution at the Woolwich Road flyover in Greenwich - the second most polluted spot in London - must be reduced, says Green candidate Dave Sharman.

Dave is planning a campaign to tackle the threat to our health posed by the flyover, which carries traffic to and from the Blackwall Tunnel over the A206.

He says Greenwich Council needs to take action to improve the air quality in the area, and to improve the appearance of the junction.

"Over 1,000 people die prematurely every year in London as a result of poor air quality, far more than die in traffic accidents," Dave says.

"Air pollution is the invisible urban killer and we should be doing everything possible to clean up the air we breathe. Let's find a way to reduce these fumes - join me in a campaign to take action on this disgraceful situation."

There are 47 monitoring stations in the capital, and the level of PM10 particulate matter exceeds current standards at six sites, including the Woolwich Road flyover.

Instead of tackling the problem, the Government is planning to seek exemptions from European air quality standards.



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East Greenwich Library under threat

Greenwich Green Party has demanded assurances on the future of East Greenwich Library after the century-old building, whose future is in doubt, flooded during a recent storm.

The future of the library has been under threat for many years.

It has been progressively run down over the past two decades, many services moving a mile up the hill to Blackheath Library, with Greenwich Council not even carrying out minor repairs to the building.

It is feared Greenwich Council will move the library to its "Greenwich centre" on the former Greenwich District Hospital site - which is likely to be up to five years away from opening.

Peninsula ward council candidate Dave Sharman says the Green Party will fight for the library's future if it gets its first councillors at next May's election.

"East Greenwich Library has been a precious community resource for generations," Dave says.

"It has benefited thousands of local people, yet Greenwich Council has stood by and let it crumble. We support the campaigners who are fighting for the future of this wonderful facility."

East Greenwich Library, which was donated to the community by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie a century ago, flooded in August. The Friends of East Greenwich Library, who helped save it in the 1990s, are preparing to fight for its future once again.



Dave Sharman outside East Greenwich library

Thank you for voting Green in Europe

Greenwich Greens would like to thank everyone who backed the party in June's European elections - helping return Jean Lambert as London's Green MEP.

Jean remains one of the Green Party's two representatives in the European Parliament, along with party leader Caroline Lucas. She thanked everyone who backed her, adding: "We fought a solid campaign based on the issues of importance to Londoners. We're really pleased we moved up to fourth place from eighth place in London."

Locally, the results saw the Greens overtake the Liberal Democrats in Greenwich borough. Greenwich Green Party's Marek Powley said: "We'd like to thank everyone who voted Green - and for helping us beat the Liberal Democrats."



Marek Powley with Jean Lambert and Darren Johnson (London Assembly member) during the Euro campaign

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