GREENWICH GREEN NEWS WINTER 2010/11



News and views from Greenwich Green Party

greenwich.greenparty.org.uk

WHAT WE STAND FOR:

Clean green energy

Safer streets

Reducing traffic

Decent housing for all

Properly funded schools and hospitals

Safe, healthy food

Supporting local shops and services

Closing the gap between rich and poor

Peace and human rights

Reliable and cheap public transport

Sustainable development



CONTENTS:

- Heart of East Greenwich
- Election thanks
- Pedestrianisation plans
- Cruise liner terminal

The broken Heart of East Greenwich?

It's a story of big ambitions, high expectations, and broken promises - and it's resulted in a big hole where the Heart of East Greenwich should be.

For the past four years, the old Greenwich Hospital site has sat empty awaiting redevelopment; with its original developer being kicked off the job earlier this year.

While both Labour and Conservative politicians have prevaricated on the project, Greenwich Green Party's Dave Sharman says it should be used as a temporary allotment until its future is clear.

"We want to see vegetables planted on the space - the government can issue a 'meanwhile licence' so local groups can grow food on empty land, or create parks and gardens," he says.

"There's a shortage of allotment space in this borough - remember Greenwich Park was one big allotment site during the second world war!"

Green election thanks

Greenwich Green Party would like to thank everybody who voted Green in May's local and general elections.

Ultimately, we were unsuccessful in our attempts to get Greenwich's first Green councillors elected, with the general election causing a London-wide surge in the Labour vote.

But across the borough over 12,000 people voted Green. The Greens now have their first MP at Westminster - party leader Caroline Lucas - and party membership has risen by 50% over the past 18 months, putting us in a great position for the future.

Greenwich Green Party wishes the elected councillors and MPs well - and we will be watching their future performance over the months to come.



Greenwich plans will drive residents round the bend

A council scheme to create a gyratory system in west Greenwich would ruin the benefits of creating a car-free zone in the town centre, Greens have warned.

Greenwich Council's plans involve closing College Approach and part of King William Walk to traffic, creating a new public space between the market and Cutty Sark Gardens.

But it also involves creating a new traffic gyratory using Norman Road and Creek Road, creating unnecessary disruption for cyclists and bus users. Local residents also fear drivers will divert onto side roads to avoid the enlarged one-way system.

"The council should have chosen options which wouldn't force

cyclists and bus passengers to travel an extra half-mile," Greenwich Green Party's Dave Sharman said.

"This should be a chance to really change Greenwich for the better and make it more people-friendly. We'd love a car-free town centre. But the council seems determined to force this botched scheme on local people."

"Pedestrianising Greenwich should be a step forward - but this gyratory will be two steps back."



Local people need to make their voices heard about the new cruise liner terminal planned for east Greenwich at Enderby Wharf.

A developer hopes to have it open for the Olympics, with along with 750 new homes and a 250-bedroom hotel. While the development could bring jobs to the area, and local businesses are hoping for increased custom, Greenwich Green Party's Arthur Hayles says it must not add more congestion to local streets or to deny riverside access.

He also called on the council and developers to ensure there is easy pedestrian access to North Greenwich underground station.

"We think this should be, as far as possible, a car-free development," Arthur said. "Neighbouring Lovell's Wharf has already added hundreds of cars to the area and has been allowed to block the riverside walk for years on end during construction.

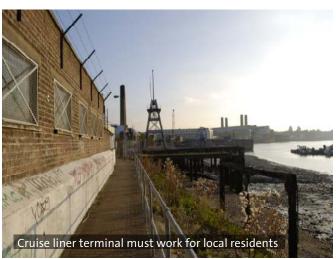
"We need to make sure this scheme works for local people, not just for the profits of the developers."

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