

Freezing Council Tax for the Second Year Running

intouch



News from your local Conservatives in Brunswick Park Ward

Spring 2011

GETTING BRITAIN BACK ON TRACK

David Cameron's decision to form a coalition was a difficult one but I am convinced it was the right choice: two parties have come together to clean up the mess left by Labour and we're already delivering on our agreement.

It was a great honour when the new Prime Minister invited me to become a member of the Government and a Privy Councillor. I have been working hard as Transport Minister, in addition to my local campaigns in Barnet.

The Coalition's first priority has been the economy. We promised to tackle Labour's record borrowing and we're doing exactly that. In May the Chancellor made immediate in-year savings of £6 billion. In June, his Emergency Budget brought Britain back from the brink with a plan that the markets have welcomed to eliminate the structural deficit. And the Spending Review in October set out measures needed to deliver that plan and put the public finances back on a sustainable footing.

We've also been working to get the economy moving by scrapping the worst elements of Labour's jobs tax, investing in apprenticeships and transport infrastructure, cutting corporation tax and supporting small businesses.

We promised radical reform of our public services and we're delivering with a big expansion of the academy programme in our schools - four schools in Chipping Barnet have already benefitted.

We're keeping our promise to raise spending on the NHS as well as delivering reform. £1 billion of bureaucracy cuts have been identified, pointless targets have been scrapped and whole tiers of bureaucracy are set to be abolished, giving real power for GPs and patients. We've introduced an Interim Cancer Drugs Fund to help cancer patients get access to vital drugs and started recruiting thousands of extra health visitors to support families.

We've set out plans for tough but fair welfare reforms, meaning that no family on out of work benefits will get more than the average family gets by going out to work. We're also ending the unfair situation where people can claim over £100,000 a year in housing benefit.

We've helping the poorest and most vulnerable in our society by restoring the earnings link to state pensions, increasing Child Tax Credit and setting out plans for a 'Pupil Premium' to support the children from the lowest income families.

Immigration is always a difficult issue, but we are keeping our promise to introduce a cap on



Theresa Villiers
MP for Chipping Barnet

immigration from outside the EU. And we have set out our plans to bring immigration under control, reducing it from hundreds of thousands, to tens of thousands.

We also promised we'd look after our troops fighting in Afghanistan. Since May, we've established a National Security Council to make sure we have a clear strategy on Afghanistan, and we've doubled the Operational Allowance for our Armed Forces. We're also delivering on our election promise that the children of British military servicemen killed in action would be offered subsidised university education.

Locally, we're putting real power back in the hands of our local council and communities, as well as freezing council tax and abolishing Home Information Packs. We have also put in place measures to give extra planning protection to residential gardens to resist 'garden grabbing'.

Our approach couldn't be more different from the Labour opposition. They hoped that the election of a new leader would signal a fresh start and new ideas. Instead, all we've seen is more of the same. Where Labour have Ed Miliband's 'blank page', we have practical common sense policies that are making real progress.

The tough decisions needed to put the public finances back in order will mean difficult times ahead. But we are determined to deliver on our promise to do this in order to secure the economic stability we need for jobs and growth in Barnet and across the rest of the country as well.

HEALTH CLINIC BY THE SUMMER

Following the funding withdrawal for the rebuild of the Health Clinic in Brunswick Park which was destroyed by fire, your local Conservative Councillors continued their pressure on NHS Barnet and they have now agreed with the GPs that the existing building is beyond economic repair and will be replaced by a new, temporary but substantial building.

The two displaced practices will continue to reside in shared accommodation with other practices until the new building is available in the summer of 2011. The design of the new temporary facility will be undertaken in partnership with the GPs.

The Leader of Barnet Council and ward Cllr, **Lynne Hillan**, said, "Of course, another temporary building is not ideal but it will give the GPs and their patients suitable accommodation. We will, at some stage, apply for further funding and take another look at our original proposals."



ASHMOLE BECOMES AN ACADEMY

Since 1st October last year Ashmole School enjoys Academy status.

In a letter to the school confirming the Government's agreement to the move, Education Secretary Michael Gove said: "I am delighted that Ashmole recognises the benefits Academy status will bring and has chosen to be in the first wave of schools to convert."

Cllr Lisa Rutter is a governor at Ashmole Academy and in congratulating the Head Teacher Derrick Brown, his staff, students and their families, she said "We are fortunate that Barnet has some of the best schools, many of which, like Ashmole, are top performers in the country. Ashmole is indeed a valuable asset to our community."

THE AV REFERENDUM: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What is it? This year, there will be a nationwide referendum to decide whether we should scrap our current voting system and replace it with one called the 'Alternative Vote' (AV).

Why are we having it? The referendum was something the Liberal Democrats wanted as part of the agreement to form a Coalition with the Conservatives.

The Conservatives will campaign for a 'No' vote and the Liberal Democrats will campaign for a 'Yes' vote.

HOW DO THE TWO SYSTEMS COMPARE?

This year's referendum will offer a choice between two voting systems:

1. Our current system (sometimes referred to as 'First Past the Post'). Everyone gets one vote. You put an 'X' next to the candidate you want to support. The candidate with the most votes wins.

2. The 'Alternative Vote' system. Instead of using an 'X', voters rank candidates in order of preference using '1, 2, 3' and so on. If one candidate has more than 50% of the first preference votes, they are elected outright. If that doesn't happen, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and the second, third or later choices of the people who voted for them are allocated to the remaining candidates. If there are no choices for a candidate still in the race, those votes play no further part.

If still no candidate has 50%, the next lowest candidate is eliminated and their votes are redistributed.

This process continues until one candidate has over 50% of the votes which remain in the count.

4 GOOD REASONS TO VOTE 'NO' TO AV:

1. AV is not a fair system.

Supporters of fringe parties can end up getting five or six votes while people who backed the mainstream candidates only get one.

2. AV is an obscure and unpopular system.

Only three countries in the world use AV for their elections - Fiji, Australia, and Papua New Guinea. In Fiji, they're about to get rid of it. In Australia, 6 out of 10 voters want to return to the British system.

3. AV is complicated and expensive.

Because elections take longer to count under AV, it can take longer to figure out who has won, leading to periods of uncertainty. And taxpayers will end up footing the bill for the extra cost.

4. AV is not a proportional system.

Many supporters of AV really want proportional representation. But an independent commission run by the senior Liberal Democrat Roy Jenkins concluded that AV was 'even less proportional' than our existing system.

JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS

Work on improvements to the junctions of Russell Lane and Church Hill Road and Osidge Lane and Brunswick Park Road expected to start in the middle of March. The approaches to the junctions will be widened to two lanes which will reduce the pavements slightly, existing pedestrian refuges will be altered accordingly and the junctions resurfaced retaining the two mini-roundabouts.

Cllr. Lynne Hillan said, "Our Highways engineers identified issues of traffic congestion during peak hours along Russell Lane and Osidge Lane, inadequate pedestrian crossing facilities and obstructive parking which limited visibility on the approaches to the pedestrian crossings. We obtained the funding for these improvements as part of the planning consent given for the redevelopment of the Barnet College site."



GOODBYE SIMON, HELLO PAUL

We would like to welcome Sgt. Paul Purdy as the new Sergeant of Brunswick Park's Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). Paul takes over from Sgt. Simon Dawson who has been promoted to Inspector elsewhere in North London. We look forward to working closely with Paul in the future.

Cllr. Lisa Rutter said, "Paul has lost no time in establishing himself in the area and has already attended his first Ward Panel Meeting with residents and has familiarised himself with the shopkeepers around the Ward." If residents have any concerns about low-level crime such as anti social behaviour and vandalism, then please contact the Brunswick Park SNT on 0208 721 2974 (you may have to leave a message).

CAR PARK ALL LIT UP

The free car park in Osidge Lane is now fully used by residents, shoppers, recyclers, and local shopkeepers following the installation of lighting.

Cllr Andreas Tambourides said, "The need for lighting was identified at a recent Ward Panel Meeting by the police. I am delighted that local people are now making full use of it, and I hope that the recycling banks will be even more used as a result."

PARKING METERS IN HAMPDEN SQUARE

Shopkeepers and residents have welcomed the installation of parking meters in Hampden Square. Parking meters prevent all-day parking by residents and shopkeepers outside the shops in the square, and the initial free 30 minutes of parking encourages passers-by to stop and shop.

Cllr. Andreas Tambourides said, "The new arrangements please everyone!! However drivers must remember to get a ticket from the machines for the 30 minute initial free period and display it in the usual way."

CONTACT US

CLLR LYNNE HILLAN

T 020 8359 2059
E leader@barnet.gov.uk

CLLR ANDREAS TAMBOURIDES

T 020 8368 5417
E cllr.a.tambourides@barnet.gov.uk

CLLR LISA RUTTER

T 020 8445 3829
E cllr.l.rutter@barnet.gov.uk

*Councillors hold advice surgeries on the second Saturday of every month between 10.30am and 12 noon, and the last Saturday of every month between 2.30pm and 4.00pm, at Osidge Library, Brunswick Park Road, N11 1EU.
No appointment necessary.*

CLLR BRIAN COLEMAN AM

T 020 7983 4366
E brian.coleman@london.gov.uk

THERESA VILLIERS MP

T 020 8449 7345
E theresa@theresavilliers.co.uk
W www.theresavilliers.co.uk

*Theresa holds an advice bureau on the first Saturday of every month between 10.30am and 12 noon at her Constituency Office, 163 High Street, Barnet EN5 5SU.
No appointment necessary.*

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

On 5th May, there will be a referendum on changing our voting system. Which system do you think you will vote for?

- The current system (where you vote for the candidate you want with an 'X' and the person with the most votes wins)?
- The 'Alternative Vote' (where you rank candidates using '1, 2, 3' etc. and votes may be redistributed until one candidate has more than 50% of the vote)?

How we use your information Any personal information that you provide in response to this survey will be collected and stored by the Conservative Party in accordance with the principles set out in the Data Protection Act 1998. We will use the contact details you provide to send you Party communications including, for example, updates on policy and special member offers, either by post, telephone, email or SMS. We would also like to share your information with The No Campaign Ltd for the referendum on the parliamentary voting system so that they may send you information about their campaign, by post, telephone, email and SMS. If you do not wish your information to be used by the Conservative Party to contact you or being shared in this way, please tick the box. Printed and promoted by C. Dowson on behalf of Brunswick Park Ward Conservatives, both of 163 High Street, Barnet EN5 5SU.

Name

Address

Telephone*

Email*

Please send me information about ways I can help campaign with the Conservatives.

Please return to: 163 High Street, Barnet EN5 5SU