



# 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're 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 the 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.

## JCOSS RESIDENT'S GROUP UPDATE

Last year, Cllr Robert Rams set up a local residents group to help discussions between the school and the local residents improve as things developed on the site. As JCoSS enters its second term and is fully established we think it is appropriate that the responsibility for this group should now pass to the School.

The East Barnet Councillors will still be part of the residents group.

Deputy Head of the school Patrick Moriarty will be taking over the running of the group and will keep the local community informed of what is going on.

Cllr Rams is still very keen to hear of any problems or concerns as the school moves into the second phase of development - i.e. the building of the All-Weather Pitch - and please do not hesitate to get in contact with him.

## NATIONAL GRID DONATE CHRISTMAS TREE

Following lobbying from the East Barnet Conservative Councillors, National Grid this Christmas - a year after the disastrous problems they caused the residents of East Barnet - gave the small but welcome gift of a Christmas tree. The tree, which was placed outside the Methodist Church, was welcomed with a carol service.

Cllr Barry Evangeli said, "This small but welcome gesture from National Grid was a great addition to East Barnet Village. It was lovely to see so many local residents at the Carol service - it is always great to see the community come together like this."

"National Grid can still do a lot more to support our residents who were so badly affected this time last year. We still believe that better compensation should be paid to them but we are grateful that this tree was donated."



Cllrs Joanna Tambourides and Robert Rams with the Rev. Colin Smith of East Barnet Methodist Church.  
Photo courtesy of the Barnet Press.

## 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.

## CRACKING DOWN ON CRIME IN EAST BARNET

In East Barnet Ward we have an excellent Safer Neighbourhood Team who patrol our streets regularly, meeting residents and reassuring the public. They get to know the youngsters by visiting schools and organising youth activities. They also get involved in sorting out traffic problems and anti-social behaviour, carry out burglary prevention campaigns, and, of course, assist the borough police with any serious crimes which may happen from time to time. Your Ward Councillors work closely and successfully with the SNT on a number of local issues.

Unfortunately these gloomy days and dark evenings are when burglaries increase right across the country. East Barnet is no exception! Please take just a few moments to protect your home.

If you are concerned about low-level crime in East Barnet Ward, then do contact one of your Ward Councillors or our Police SNT for help. They can often deal with the problem, based on their local knowledge. Sometimes early intervention can stop a problem escalating into something more serious. (For anything urgent or life-threatening, you should, of course, always ring 999 for immediate help.)

East Barnet SNT is always on hand to offer advice to concerned residents. Their Office is located at 13 Cat Hill in the village, although it is often unmanned as they are out and about patrolling our streets. You can phone them on 07747 701 192 and leave a message on their answer phone; they will always get back to you.

## ANOTHER TREE PLANTED

**Cllr. Joanna Tambourides** continues her tradition of planting trees annually around the ward, this time in the green walk alongside Pymmes Brook in Baring Road, in the New Barnet part of the ward.

**Cllr. Tambourides** follows in the footsteps of her predecessor, Cllr. Olwen Evans, who planted trees around the ward every year for many years.



### CONTACT US

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*Councillors hold advice surgeries on the first Saturday of each month between 10.30am - 12.00 noon at New Barnet Community Centre, 48-50 Victoria Road, and the third Saturday of each month between 10.30am - 12.00 noon at East Barnet Library, 85 Brookhill Road. No appointment necessary.*

#### CLLR BRIAN COLEMAN AM

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*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 East Barnet 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