

Cllr Mary Creagh - HIGHBURY WARD

We're barely a month into the new Council and I'm still finding my way round the corridors down at the Town Hall! The election campaign and results were a very sobering experience for both old and new (in all senses of the word) Labour councillors and have given rise to a new sense of urgency around reforms to services.

Highbury people that I spoke to on the doorstep had 3 clear complaints:-

- * the low levels of educational attainment in our secondary schools;
- * low levels of cleanliness on our streets;
- * poor service from the Council on all matters relating to housing.

These concerns are the clear priority action areas for us over the coming 4 years. I believe that I and my colleagues were elected not only to represent Highbury, although this is our primary duty, but also to turn around the council's delivery in these areas at a more corporate, strategic level. The new area of "best value" provides us with a radical new mechanism of making our services

come up to scratch. It involves every council service being systematically reviewed in partnership with local communities who pay for and use the services as to whether it should be provided, what it should look like and how and by whom it should be delivered. This will make the Council's services more transparent and accountable and let local people articulate their priority areas.

There is also grave concern about the level of violent crime on Highbury Fields and this is one area where a co-ordinated approach by police and the Council's youth and education services needs to be made. The new powers that the Labour government have introduced to deal with anti-social behaviour on estates will be key to helping us tackle this area.

Regeneration plans for the Finsbury Park area are being drawn up, in partnership with Haringey and Hackney, and I would welcome your views as to the priority areas there. There are continuing discussions as to the upgrading of the area round Highbury and

Islington tube station and station refurbishment. I and many others on the Nag's Head Neighbourhood Forum are concerned about the levels of illegal trading on Holloway Rd and Seven Sisters Rd on Saturdays in particular. I believe these tat merchants tarnish the image of the Nag's Head and take business away from legitimate shops and stalls who pay business rates. I am seeking meetings with the major retailers and Islington's Chamber of Commerce to look at this, and other areas of common concern.

I hope to meet as many people as possible over the coming 4 years and to share the good times as well as the difficult ones! You can contact me via the members room at Islington Town Hall, or visit our surgeries at the **Sobell Neighbourhood Office, Hornsey Rd on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month from 10.30am or at the Central Library, Fieldway Crescent on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month from 3pm onwards**. Hope to see you soon! ♦

Cllr Laura Willoughby - QUADRANT WARD

What will the Liberal Democrats do for Highbury? We are going to fight for what we promised.

We had six main pledges during the election:

- To consult on council tax
- To clean our streets and estates
- To introduce door to door recycling
- To get your repairs done
- Cut bureaucracy in the Town Hall
- Improve education throughout the borough.

With an equal number of councillors, and having polled a larger vote than Labour across the whole of the Borough, the Liberal Democrats feel that we had a clear message from the electorate - to fight Labour and improve services.

Labour may well wish to run the Borough on the casting vote of the mayor, but we will be taking every opportunity to make good the promises we made.

That includes the promise to campaign to extend the controlled parking zones across Quadrant, Gillespie and into our residential carparks.

We have already started to campaign to investigate reducing the speed of traffic through Highbury Quadrant and Riversdale Road.

We are pushing Arsenal to be more open about their plans and their intentions for the future of the club, so that when decisions have to be made, they will be based on residents and councillors possessing all of the facts.

More importantly, we need you to tell us what you need in Highbury, in your

street or in your block of flats. We are very easy to contact and we respond quickly. ♦

Surgeries:

Cllr Laura Willoughby - 0171 263 2732

**Third Wednesday of every month
6.30-7.30pm**

Sotheby Road Neighbourhood Office

Cllr Dave Barnes - 0171 226 6855

First Saturday of every month 9am-10am

Sotheby Road Neighbourhood Office

**HIGHBURY COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION
AUGUST 1997 TO JULY 1998**

We now send out this HCA News to over 500 members, nearly all are delivered by hand, by volunteer residents and shop-keepers. What was the initial impetus to form the HCA? The HCA formed when residents heard that the Council's Planners said Arsenal PLC must own 25+ houses behind the West Stand, if two new stands are built. Most people are aware that Arsenal has been looking for a new site. The current 10.54 acres at Highbury is not big enough for 50,000 seats, let alone the ancillary entertainment facilities, hotels and conference suites that all its major rivals now have on sites of 20 acres or more, if that's what Arsenal wants too. People living in the area fear that the Football Company will want to buy up more properties in a few years to keep up with Newcastle, Manchester United, Leeds and Chelsea, which are already planning 7 days a week non-football events.

The HCA says that Arsenal is welcome to stay and expand within the ground it already owns, provided homes are not blighted and the traffic problems are solved. That is our compromise, supported by local Councillors and our MP. At least Arsenal has shown it can win the Double without the need for more income or a bigger ground! It would be better still for Highbury, if Arsenal could stay the size it is now - and continue as the great Club it is already. According to Arsene Wenger, even 50,000 seats is not enough to satisfy the current demand for tickets. So, how could it be enough in five years' time?

Good has come out of bad - we now have a Community Association, with links to the long-established Highbury Fields Association and the Finsbury Park Action Group. We are formally constituted to act for a wide range of issues. The Association can only be as good and as effective as the members make it, as everyone gives their time voluntarily. Can you help with delivering leaflets occasionally, to streets in your area? Have you any ideas or suggestions? What about a Street Party? If you'd like to discuss this idea please ring Susannah Harrison on **0171 226 6562**. Or ring **0171 359 5731** for more information about the HCA and

Christ Church celebrates 150 years

Christ Church, Highbury Grove, is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year with a program of concerts and events that started with a flower festival in May and continues until October. It has also produced a beautifully illustrated and fascinating anniversary booklet 'Discovering our "Village" - Highbury People, Past and Present' which is on sale in our local shops for £1.

Highlights in June are an evening of Victorian songs on Saturday 20th and a concert of two cello suites by J.S. Bach performed by Alfia Bekova on Sunday 28th. In July there will be a gala reunion weekend on 11 and 12th July. Details from parish office: **0171 354 0741**

St Paul's Shrubbery Festival

The annual St Paul's Shrubbery Festival will take place on **Saturday 11th July from 12.30pm to 4.30 pm**. Enter from St Paul's Place. All are welcome and entry is free. Attractions include Spitalfields City Farm, the Highbury Grove School Band, a plant stall, food and drink, an auction of donated goods - and much more besides.

*** Good news for gardeners - and children! ***
 * Drayton Park school, in Arvon Road, N5 is holding its annual Summer *
 * Fair on June 20, 2pm-6pm. For a small admission fee children can *
 * join in the fun while their parents undertake the serious business of *
 * plant selection. The plant stall will offer a variety of old favourites but *
 * also some which are less well-known. Ever eaten Feijoas or grown *
 * your own globe artichokes? Room for a walnut tree or New Zealand *
 * flax? Come and see for yourself! *
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Accommodation wanted !

18 year old Polish girl, excellent English, has attended school in England and done 'A' levels, preparing for university **seeks accommodation** in return for house-keeping, gardening and possibly childcare. References available. Phone Mr/Mrs Stuart 01293 543324

**ISLINGTON DYSLEXIA SUPPORT GROUP
COME TO A FUNDAY ON THE FIELDS!**

**SUNDAY 19TH JULY, 12-5PM
STALLS, BRIC-A-BRAC, LUCKY DIP
free entry to all**

Highbury Community Association
 The HCA represents residents and businesses, on all aspects of living and working in Highbury, Stoke Newington and Finsbury Park.