

# Focus

July 2009

## Tooting Graveney Ward

### Editors:

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**LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**  
www.libdems.org.uk

# Council cuts Public Toilets People are using the pavement in Mitcham Road

Local residents are complaining that the Council has removed the public toilet near The Long Room (formerly The Mitre) in Mitcham Road. "People are just relieving themselves on the pavement," one told Focus, "it's disgusting."

Surinder Rhode asked the Council why they had done this. They said it was their policy to remove public toilets if there were public facilities nearby. Since there were toilets for public use in the pub, they decided this loo wasn't needed.

"This is ridiculous," says Surinder "Where are people supposed to go after pubs have closed? This policy is meant for suburban shopping centres, not anywhere with nightlife."

Others object that people might feel obliged to buy a drink if they use the pub's facilities.

FOCUS says: another Council policy hurts Tooting. It's a long way from the Town Hall and they just don't seem to understand Tooting residents' needs.

Do you think the public toilet should be restored? If enough people get in touch, we'll organise a petition.

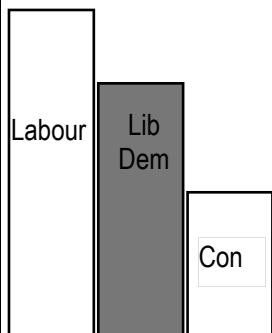


Surinder Rhode on the site of the missing loo. "Where are people supposed to go when the pub is closed?"

## Thank you!

Thank you to all of you who supported the Liberal Democrats at the recent European elections - and everyone who took time to talk to us on the doorstep or over the phone. "Politicians have a bad reputation right now - but that's all the more reason to go out and talk to people. I think local residents appreciated that," says Jeremy Ambache. Locally we held our position, and Sarah Ludford has been re-elected to the European Parliament.

## It's Labour or the Lib Dems in Graveney



The Lib Dems came second to Labour here in Graveney at the last Council elections in 2006 - and before that too! The Tories are third and can't win here.

The next Council election is May 2010

## Thameslink Metro: No Improvements until 2015

Focus wants improvements to the current 30 minute service by Thameslink from Tooting Junction to the City and Sutton. "If a train gets cancelled you are 30 minutes late. It makes much more sense to have four 4-coach trains an hour instead of two 8-coach ones."

After lobbying, Transport for London say this can't be done until 2015 at the earliest. Network Rail say there isn't the track capacity in the City until then.

"London needs more invested in railways," says Stephanie.



Stephanie at Tooting Station: "We need a more frequent train service."

**TOOTING DESERVES BETTER!**

# Mayor should keep promise on Oyster

During the recent Tube strike Oyster Pay As You Go was extended to most train lines in London. But this was withdrawn as soon as the strike was over.

Caroline Pidgeon, Lib Dem Member of the London Assembly says "Boris Johnson promised that by this May Oyster would be permanently extended across the capital's rail network. He also promised within weeks of taking office to hold an emergency rail summit to ensure this happened. The reality is that the rail summit never took place and Boris has totally failed to reach a deal with the train operators over extending the benefits of Oyster. This must now be a top priority"

Unfortunately, during the strike, confusion was created when the Mayor claimed that all National Rail train services in London would be covered, when in fact in some places they were only accepted on train routes which were substitutes to tube lines. Let's hope it is all clearer if there's another strike.

## Focus Action!

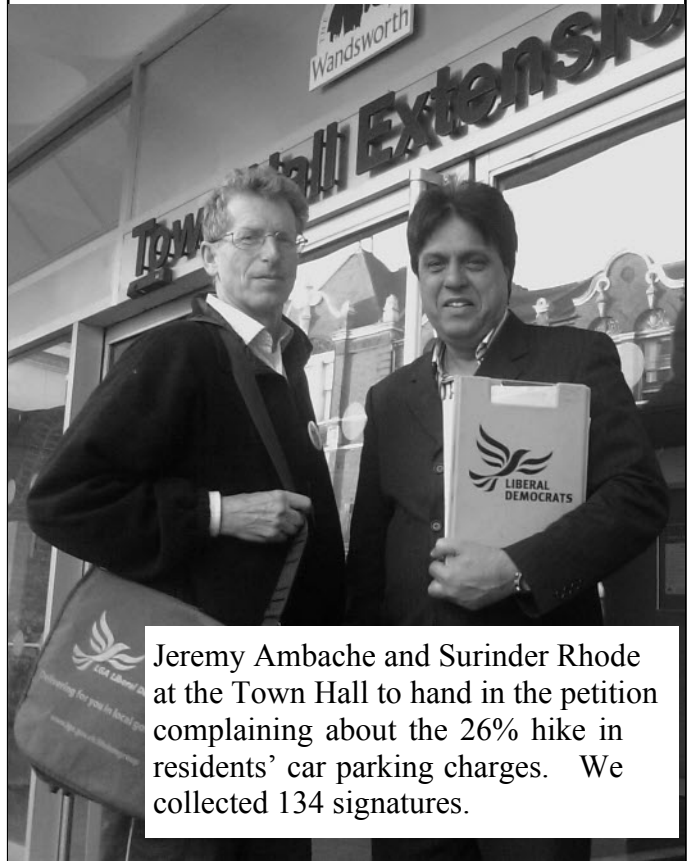
There's still no lollipop lady in FRANCISCAN ROAD for the primary school there, after the previous one retired. A local source suggests it's because the Council thinks road isn't dangerous enough to be a priority. But the Council says it's because they haven't found anybody suitable. "It's busy road, and the school has 400 pupils. This must be sorted. The Council should have better arrangements when vacancies happen." says Surinder.

A family in CHURCH LANE contacted FOCUS about the noise and vibrations from traffic going over road humps. It's making it hard to get to sleep. Jeremy Ambache says: "This is intolerable, the Council should find other ways of slowing traffic which don't cause this distress."

A resident of GRAVENEL GARDENS has complained that non-residents are abusing their reserved parking. This is meant to be enforced by the Council's housing department, and not the normal parking wardens. Stephanie has written to the Housing department about this abuse.

A disabled mother contacted Jeremy because she couldn't get ACCESS TO HER GARDEN. Jeremy has asked for some hand-rails so that she can get out and enjoy the garden.

# Parking petition handed in



Jeremy Ambache and Surinder Rhode at the Town Hall to hand in the petition complaining about the 26% hike in residents' car parking charges. We collected 134 signatures.

## NHS consultation: Have your say!

As reported in the May/June FOCUS, the local NHS is consulting about local health services. This is about day-to-day services, like local doctors, rather than big hospitals.

You can collect an information pack and questionnaire from 196 Franciscan Road.

FOCUS thinks that local doctors should have better buildings and support a wider range of services. Jeremy Ambache says "There should be more services, like dietary advice, physiotherapy, mental health advice and counseling services, blood testing and advice on welfare benefits. These should be in every surgery."

You have until 7<sup>th</sup> September to have your say! For more information go to [www.wandsworth-pct.nhs.uk](http://www.wandsworth-pct.nhs.uk). The more local people respond, the better local services are likely to be!

**Get in touch! Email us at [graveney@wandsworthlibems.org.uk](mailto:graveney@wandsworthlibems.org.uk)  
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