

Focus

Tooting Graveney Ward

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LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
www.libdems.org.uk

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The big squeeze

Gas and electricity are up. Food is up. Taxes stay up. Pay, pensions and benefits stay down. Lower income families in Tooting are facing a big squeeze thanks to the economic crisis.

"Tooting people could be forced to choose between eating healthily and staying warm this winter," says Focus campaigner Pamela Clarke. "I already know that people are facing hard choices."

"This crisis is especially difficult for those on lower incomes. They have been badly let down by the Labour government," says Stephanie Dearden. "Why did they take the 10p tax rate away this year? Only the Liberal Democrats are serious about helping low and middle income families, and not just the rich."

Liberal Democrats propose Economic Recovery Plan

Gordon Brown's proposals to deal with soaring prices and the economic slowdown are too little and too late, say Tooting Liberal Democrats.

The party has published its own package of proposals designed to help people left struggling by the credit crunch. And the plans are being strongly

backed by members in Tooting.

The Liberal Democrat measures include tax cuts



Lib Dem shadow Chancellor, Vince Cable and London Euro MP Sarah Ludford show the rise price of a typical basket of groceries over the past year.



Stephanie Dearden and Pamela Clarke in Tooting Market "People may be forced to choose between eating properly or keeping warm this winter"

for low and middle income households, stopping unnecessary repossessions, action to cut energy bills and moves to stop reckless banks jeopardising economic security.

KEY POINTS OF THE LIB DEM FAIRER FUTURE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

- Put more money in people's pockets - tax cuts for people on low and middle incomes
- Stop unnecessary home repossessions and provide more affordable housing
- Make energy companies reinvest their windfall profits in cutting bills
- Extra help for people in debt or who lose their jobs
- Tough new rules to limit the excesses of the City

WORKING FOR YOU *all year round*

Tooting Library to re-open in October 2009

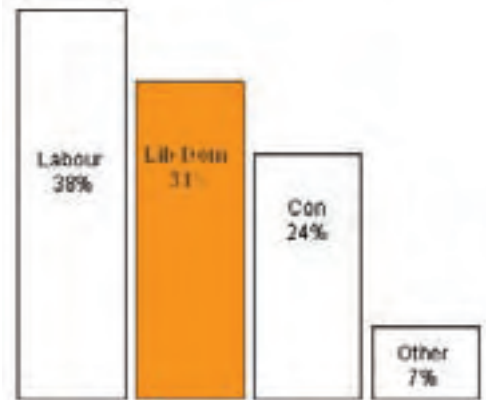
Readers will know that the Graveney Focus team have long campaigned for Tooting Library to be upgraded. Now some is happening! The library closes for a year on 25 October. The building won't change much from the outside except at the back. The big changes will be inside. The adult book library will be on the ground floor. There will be new study areas for young people and adult learners on the upper floors, and a separate room for public access computers.

This will cost nearly £3 million – half of which will come from the lottery fund. One of the aims is to encourage young people to use the library more. If you have any ideas on how to do this, let us know and we will forward them to the management committee.

While building work is going on the Council's mobile library van will be available, situated at Salvador (between McDonalds and A Bar 2 Far). This will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10am-6pm and Friday and Saturday 10am-5pm. It will be closed on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Conservatives are third in Graveney!

At the last Council Elections they were in third place behind the Liberal Democrats here. Only the Liberal Democrats can beat Labour here.



Graveney ward election results May 2006

Crackdown on litter and graffiti!



The Council and Police have launched a crackdown on people who litter at Tooting Broadway, and also a crackdown on graffiti. This includes using fixed penalty fines of up to £80, with higher fines for those that don't pay. "Focus has been calling for action on litter and anti-social behaviour in Tooting – so we welcome these initiatives. Of course we still need more action on fly-tipping, and for the Council to help local businesses more to dispose of their waste properly," says Focus team member Jeremy Ambache.

Credit crunch hits Tooting shops

There are signs that the credit crunch is hurting businesses in Tooting. Marks & Spencer has moved, Mothercare closed, and a number of smaller shops are closing. "This is a difficult time. It is more important than ever to make sure that the town centre is attractive to shoppers and businesses," says Jeremy.

Jeremy Ambache talks to Sgt Lisa Hurley, with the Tooting and Graveney neighbourhood teams out in force at Tooting Broadway. "The police are really are being seen which is what people say they want – and we support them trying to help make sure we keep the pavement clear of rubbish" says Jeremy.

Here to help you!

Use this slip to let us know of any issues you would like the FOCUS team to take up.

Or email info@wandsworthlibdems.org.uk
Or ring Surinder Rhode on 020 8767 9557

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