

Focus

September 2009

Tooting Graveney Ward

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What is happening to our trees?

Focus survey shows that 76 trees are missing

Local residents complained to Focus's Surinder Rhode about trees disappearing from Tooting's Streets. So Focus carried out a comprehensive survey of trees across Graveney ward.

Focus looked at all the ward's streets. "We were looking for missing trees," says Surinder Rhode, "Places where trees should have been planted, or where they have been cut down and not replaced. Also we were looking for other tree related problems."

FOCUS volunteers found the following:

- 39 empty spaces where new trees should be planted.
- 37 trees that have been cut down that need replacing.
- 2 trees that are not flourishing that need attention or replacing.
- 2 raised paving stones that are cracked and dangerous around trees.

Adding the 39 empty spaces to the 37 where trees have been cut down gives 76 missing trees. No less than 17 were lost in Derinton Road, and 8 in Trevelyan Road, where there are only two trees left.

Surinder has reported all of these to Wandsworth Council, who have promised to look into the matter. "Trees are an important part of the local environment," he says "But here in Tooting they seem to be suffering from neglect by Wandsworth Council. The Graveney Focus team will keep up the pressure and campaign for greener tree lined streets."

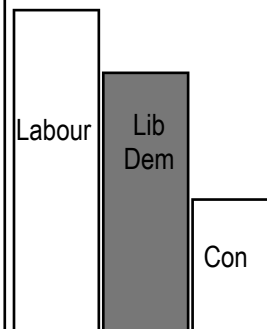


Surinder Rhode with Stephanie Dearden.
"These trees are an asset to the area - but lost trees aren't being replaced"

Liberal Democrats say:

Tooting deserves better!

It's Labour or the Lib Dems in Graveney ward



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

Working for you - all year round!

Focus Update

Just before the end of Summer term, the Council found a new crossing attendant to replace the FRANCISCAN ROAD lollipop lady who retired earlier this year "This is a big relief: this is a busy road with a big school, but There was no cover for over three months," says Surinder. "Surely there should be better cover arrangements when there is a vacancy."

Residents appear to have mixed views about the disappearance of the PUBLIC TOILET outside The Long Room pub (formerly The Mitre). After the FOCUS story in July, which was prompted by local complaints, a number of residents contacted Focus to say that they supported the removal of the toilet, and things aren't any worse than they used to be.

Traffic petition for Church Lane

In our last Focus, we reported that residents in Church Lane contacted us about noisy traffic. Many people are disturbed by traffic noise and vibrations, especially at night. This is especially bad near to the road humps.

FOCUS has now organised a petition to the Council. **138 people signed the petition**, which called for the heavy lorry ban to be enforced in Church Lane, the speed limit to be cut to 20mph and for the size of the humps to be reduced.

Jeremy Ambache said: "We are delighted with the very strong support for our petition. Now we are asking the Council to take action".

Meanwhile on Rectory Lane

FOCUS has already organised a similar petition in Rectory Lane - along with another independent petition from local residents. These petitions called on the Council to enforce the existing lorry ban.

The Council now claims that there are less heavy lorries here after the Council started issuing fixed penalty notices on haulage companies.

"We are glad that the Council are taking the lorry ban more seriously," says Stephanie Dearden. "Let's hope that this has a noticeable effect for residents. Noisy traffic seems to be a problem in many Tooting residential streets"

Published & promoted on behalf of Tooting Liberal Democrats by David Patterson both at 14 Effort Street, London SW17 0QR. Printed by Ted Shrimpton, 120 Dorchester Ave., Bexley DA5 3AW.



Jeremy Ambache outside the new library: opening next February, not "Late Autumn"!

Tooting Library delay

The new Tooting library will not open until February 2010, the Council says. The works were meant to complete this autumn, but they took longer than expected.

Jeremy Ambache says, "Better late than never. FOCUS has long championed the need for a new library in Tooting. I have been campaigning for this for at least the last 5 years!"

Jeremy has:

- Pressed the Council to hold a thorough consultation on how best to develop a new library for local residents.
- Complained when the Council dragged their feet after the consultation in 2006.
- Drawn attention to the reduced level of funding available from that promised in 2006.
- Participated in the public steering group meetings.
- Pressed for a replacement mobile facility while the library is being built.

FOCUS has encouraged local people have a say in what the new library offers – and we'll continue to do this.



Stephanie and Surinder in Church Lane: noise from lorries is a real problem - in spite of the sign!

Here to help you!

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

Return to: FREEPOST RSCJ-GKUT-HCTH
Graveney Focus
14 Effort Street
SW17 0QR

Name:

Address:

Phone:

email:

Or email graveney@wandsworthlibdems.org.uk; or phone 020 7223 8758