

# Ealing Liberal Democrat Council Group Annual Report 2010-11



## Council Cuts: LibDems fight to help residents

You might have read that the Council made cuts to front-line services including Park Rangers, police facilities and libraries. They also massively increased the cost of parking and visitor permits.

The Liberal Democrats presented an alternative budget in April which showed ways where the Council could save two library closures, avoid cutting Park Rangers and long-term debt. Sadly the Labour-run Council ignored our proposals and then decided to make the front-line cuts.

Lib Dem Group Leader, Councillor Gary Malcolm, said: "Our financial plans were approved by Council officers as being feasible and offered great benefits to residents by not cutting front-line services."



**Councillor Gary Malcolm**



**Lib Dem Group Outside Ealing Town Hall**

## Residents Elect Biggest Ever LibDem Group

In the local elections last year residents elected five Liberal Democrat Councillors. This was an increase from the three we held after the previous local elections in 2006.

Since being elected your five LibDem Councillors have been working hard both in Town Hall meetings and on the street solving problems for residents.

The LibDem group of Councillors has the best attendance record of all the political parties! Well done to new Councillor Nigel Bakhai, and Harvey Rose, who attended 100% of their meetings.

## Positive Liberal Democrat Activity

Your Liberal Democrat councillors in Ealing have put forward a number of policies which Ealing Council agreed to. These included:

- Investing in information technology so that systems are efficient and secure.
- Introducing a Council Customer Charter which should, if well-managed, raise the standard of service that residents receive.
- Reversed its decision to stop informing residents about local planning applications.

Councillor Harvey Rose said: "As your Councillors we are happy to work with any group or political party to raise important issues and get them introduced as Council policy."



**Councillor Harvey Rose**

## Liberal Democrats Against Police Cuts

Councillor Nigel Bakhai and your Liberal Democrat team, have been active in the past few months fighting Labour's local plans to cut police funding whilst seeming only being interested in ensuring existing Council staff wear high visibility uniforms.

The Liberal Democrats are also against the Conservative's plans to move a lot of our local Safer Neighbourhood Teams away from their current ward areas.

Nigel Bakhai said: "Liberal Democrats say that the police gave a guarantee to patrol the wards the currently do. Moving them elsewhere will cause crime to rise in some areas which could be avoided."



**Councillor Nigel Bakhai talking with a police sergeant in Acton**

## Ealing Broadway Station and Crossrail

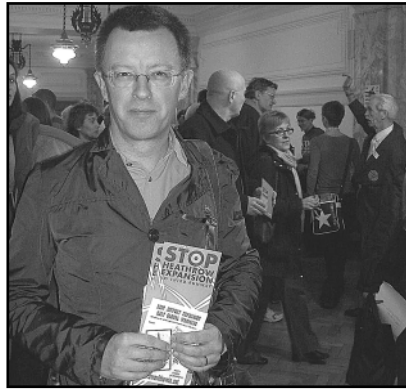
In the past year the Liberal Democrat Council Group have been active fighting plans to scale back on promises made regarding Crossrail.

Ealing Liberal Democrats want to see a transport interchange which will help people switch easily between modes of transport.

**Councillor Jon Ball** said: "We want lifts installed in the station so those with disabilities can get around easily. The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, wants to have a station that is very basic. Crossrail is a once in a lifetime moment - we need to grasp the chance."



**Councillors Nigel Bakhai and Jon Ball with Caroline Pidgeon, London Assembly Liberal Democrat Leader**



**Councillor Andrew Steed**

## National Policies: Local Impact

Your Liberal Democrat team were happy to see the coalition government reject Heathrow expansion and also guarantee funding for Crossrail.

There is speculation about merging Ealing Hospital with other local hospitals. Liberal Democrats believe that it is crucial that action is taken by the Government to ensure that local hospitals have the right number of trained doctors and nurses as well as well-maintained buildings.

**Councillor Andrew Steed** said: "We have agreed with the coalition on some matters but not all. For example I believe that Free Schools are wrong because they drain public money from other schools."

## Acton Redevelopment

Your Liberal Democrat FOCUS team have spent a lot of time persuading Ealing Council to renovate the Priory Community Centre or ensure it becomes a joint Primary school and community centre, instead of selling it off for housing.

**Councillor Andrew Steed** said: "We have been working to get the Council to ensure that the historic features of the Pool are retained, that any new Library will attract a range of users as well as making sure that Acton Town centre is a magnet for jobs and community activity."



**Andrew Steed and Gary Malcolm with residents fighting to protect Acton**



**Councillor Jon Ball and Doreen James helped collect a huge number of petition signatures**

## Gunnerbury Park Should Not Be Forgotten

With the Council making many budget savings the funding to bring life into Gunnerbury Park was in doubt earlier this year.

The Ealing Liberal Democrats pressed Ealing Council into honouring its pledge to fund part of the money needed to help renovate the old, dilapidated buildings.

**Councillor Jon Ball**, who lives near to Gunnersbury Park, said: "Earlier this year we persuaded Ealing Council to put its money where its mouth was. The petition that we handed in has had a very positive impact on the Council. We now need to ensure that Hounslow Council, who part manage the park with Ealing, do not renege on their promise."