

April 2005 Newsletter

Dear reader,

Last month, I sent out over 22,000 targeted letters to people across the constituency, in preparation for the pending Election campaign. Key areas the letters covered were:

Our opposition to the development of the West London Tram. I asked recipients, if they felt that their opposition to this project had been ignored, to use the General Election vote to register that opinion. A Tram Referendum, if you will.

Local hospitals' cleanliness from infection was mentioned and our commitment to prioritise the fight against MRSA and such diseases, which now kill more people each year than accidents on the roads.

Conservatives will recruit up to 40,000 more policemen across the country over an 8 year period. This would mean several hundred more for our two Boroughs. And those police will be given the support to fight crime harder.

Improving the standard of our pensions is a critical objective for me - basic state pensions to go up each year by the rate of increase in earnings; means testing dramatically reduced; no obligation for pensioners to buy an annuity; company pensions to receive greater Government support; a flexible Lifetime Savings Account to encourage people to save AND assistance with Council Tax for many over-65s..

Fairer and lower taxes are an aim of mine, and the Party's. We believe that you know better than Government how to spend your own money. So we plan to leave you with more of it.

There are other concerns in our neighbourhood - the density and pace of residential development; the performance and discipline in our secondary schools; the standard and lack of value for money of many of our local Council services (typified by the raid on the Lime tree stock and the removal of dog litter bins from our parks, for example).

During the forthcoming Election, our focus on these areas, along with our proposals for how we would do it differently, will be made very clear.

I have not mentioned my campaign before in this Newsletter - but if you would like to help me during April and early May, please let me know. We have all sorts of jobs and we never have enough volunteers!

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Many of you will hold firm views on animal welfare - I have been asked for my views on a number of occasions. In the interests of time and space, rather than setting my views down on this Newsletter, I have put in a Blog entry on my website. If you wish to read my views, go to www.actonconservatives.com ; click on the Blog tab at the top and choose the 25th March entry.

Thank you to many readers who demonstrated their opposition to the destruction of the Lime trees via the online March survey. Conservatives in Ealing have helped to collect over 1,000 petitions from various places which we hope will help to prevent any precipitate action by the Council from taking place. Unfortunately, Cllr Nigel Sumner's excellent speech at the last Council meeting arguing against the plan failed to pass - for those of you living in a Labour-held Ealing ward, you may want to check how your Councillor voted on this motion. What we advise now is to pay close attention to Area Committee meetings, as it may now go down to local consideration.

By the way, April's survey is about the extension of the Congestion Charge and the proposal to charge motorbikes to use the existing Zone. Go to our website, select the Survey tab and choose April 2005 to register your views. Also go here www.chiswickw4.com and here www.ealingtoday.co.uk to see what I am saying about the latter subject.

A word on Notting Hill Housing Association. Our scrutiny of this Association continues, and we remain available to tenants to hear their complaints - but I must also thank some of their staff for taking the time to meet me and Cllr Adronie Alford (Hammersmith & Fulham) earlier in March and respond to some of the criticisms we had. We have established an open dialogue now which will be of use in the years to come.

Back to the Election.

Those of you in communication with groups of local residents - fellow employees, residents associations, sports

clubs etc - might wish to offer them the chance to meet with me during the Election campaign. If there is any demand amongst any reader to meet one of the candidates, I will make myself available to spend time with as many of you as I can.

In addition to this is my Campaign DVD - my own personal political broadcast! You have seen our newspapers pushed through your letterboxes, you may have even seen the Gazette and Leader full-page adverts out today (Friday 1st April). However we are taking community communication to a new level with the "Action For Our Neighbourhood" DVD.

We only have a couple of hundred of these two-minute long, Oscar-nominated (not) discs left now. If you would like us to send you one (they are free, of course), then please send me your home address by return e-mail. The only proviso is that you have to promise to show it to as many friends and colleagues as you can!

Finally, I wanted to wish you an enjoyable month. Best of luck to anyone running the London Marathon, and best of luck to anyone involved with the General Election marathon (that I predict will kick off on Tuesday 5th April).

Best wishes,
Jonathan