

FOCUS

on Southfield

News from your local Lib Dem Councillors Gary BUSUTTIL, Gary MALCOLM and Andrew STEED



LABOUR'S CHILDREN'S CENTRES SHAME

Lib Dems lead the fight against Ealing Labour's closure of multiple children's centres across the borough

Lib Dem Councillors are speaking up against Ealing Labour's decision to hastily shut down children's centres in this year's council budget before consultation results are released.

Lib Dem Councillors have revealed that the children's centre cuts have been incorporated into the budget **BEFORE** the official consultation took place.

This makes the so-called consultation effectively a 'sham'.

The children's centres are vital for families as they provide support for under 5s and their parents with childcare services.

The Lib Dem Official Opposition will 'call-in' the decision to force more scrutiny of Labour's uncaring

treatment of children.

Lib Dem Councillors Gary Malcolm (Leader of the Opposition) and Jonathan Oxley (spokesperson for children's services) met up with local parents' representatives to listen to their concerns.

Local Lib Dem Councillor Gary Malcolm says:

"The national Labour government has already been attacking ordinary people by Winter Fuel Allowance cuts and changes to disability benefits - and Ealing Labour are following the Labour government's footsteps to attack more vulnerable people in society."

"The Lib Dems will continue to stand up for local people and protect our local services."



Lib Dems are standing up to fight for our local services. Pictured Councillors **Gary Malcolm** (left) and **Jonathan Oxley** (right) with local campaigner Clare Welsby to save our children's centres.

UPCOMING NEW CROSSING!



The new crossing is part of Lib Dems' commitment to make our neighbourhood safe.

After 10 years of relentless campaigning by your local Lib Dem Councillors, the Council has finally agreed to install a

new crossing on Southfield Road near St Peter's Church.

Residents will be informed about the timing and the details in the near future.

Councillor Gary Malcolm says: "This long-overdue crossing will reduce the number of accidents and deaths, especially as many children cross the road to go to schools in Acton and the nearby Southfield Primary School."

CONTACT YOUR LIB DEM TEAM



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ADVICE SESSIONS take place every 1st Saturday of each month, between 10am-12pm at St Peter's Church, Southfield Road, W4 1BB.

LABOUR'S 'ASSAULT ON LOCAL DEMOCRACY'

- Preventing questions in Council meetings by opposition Councillors and residents
- Plans to stifle debate on petitions that matter to you by increasing required signatures from 1,500 to 8,000



Your local Lib Dem Official Opposition Councillors will stand up for you and make sure your voice is heard.

"Labour-led London councils accused of 'assault on democracy'."

- The Times, 13th May 2025

Labour-led councils across London, including Ealing, are 'shutting up' local residents and opposition Councillors by increasing barriers to submit questions and debate petitions.

In Ealing, Labour are moving fast to change the rules to make it more difficult to debate petitions by increasing the barrier from 1,500 signatories to 8,000. Under this new rule, important

issues such as children's centre closures cannot be discussed.

Furthermore, Ealing Labour have imposed a limit of 10 written questions per party per meeting.

Lib Dem Whip, **Councillor Gary Busuttil** says, "The assault on democracy by Labour is a worrying trend across London."

"If Labour have nothing to hide, why are they so afraid of scrutiny?"

WARD FORUM REPLACEMENT DELAYS... WHAT'S NEXT?

Ealing Labour's half-baked 'Your Voice, Your Town' that replaced the perfectly functioning ward forums has produced no results as local projects have not been commissioned.

The Ealing Labour administration has not finalised the format of these so-called 'Your Voice, Your Town' (which has merged Chiswick with Acton together) since the initial 'trial' session a year ago.

As a result, small but meaningful and vital projects, which was previously thriving under the old ward forums system have been stalled.

The previous ward forums provided a fund to allow resident participation and decision-making on how money should be spent.

Some of the successful decisions using the old ward forums systems including funding local charities (such



Councillor Gary Busuttil is seeking clarity on the future of our Town Forums to kick-start funding for local meaningful projects.

as W4 Youth), supporting luncheon clubs for elderly people, and road safety schemes.

The decision-making process on how local projects can be funded has not been confirmed by Ealing Labour.

Councillor Gary Busuttil says: "The Lib Dems are campaigning to get our ward forums back to allow resident autonomy on how our Council tax money should be spent."

FIGHTING AGAINST ELDERLY DAY CENTRE CLOSURE

Cllr Andrew Steed speaks up to protect Acton's Michael Flanders Centre



Ealing Labour have been secretive about the closure of this vital day centre that provides respite care, rehabilitation and activities for elderly people until a virtually unknown consultation has ended.

This was under wraps until the Lib Dem Opposition Councillors uncovered these plans. It is understood that Ealing Labour are planning to sell this public land to private developers instead.

Lib Dem **Councillor Andrew Steed** has implored the Council to continue these vital services, but these questions were met with ridicule by Ealing Labour Councillors.

Councillor Andrew Steed says: "Protecting services for elderly people are no laughing matter."

**LIB
DEM
1st**

**IT'S LIB DEMS OR
LABOUR HERE
LOCALLY**

**LAB
2nd**

The Conservatives
cannot win here in
Southfield ward

**CON
3rd**

Last local election
results 2022