

Labour Voice

Park Ward

Autumn 2019 Edition

LISTENING TO YOU

In response to requests from residents, we held the first of a series of public meetings with the Police, Peterborough Enforcement Service and other agencies. Residents raised concerns around anti-social behaviour, drug dealing and parking in relation to the Central Park and surrounding streets.



The following action points came as a result of the meeting:

1. PES -increase parking patrols along Alexandra Road, and hold a review of parking restrictions
2. PES- kingdom patrols to continue through park and cemetery
3. Police / All - speak to comms about a social media campaign to discuss the reporting of incidents in the area
4. Police - create a feedback loop to publicise results to local residents
5. All - encourage residents to report all incidents
6. Police - investigate signage in and around central park 'See It - Report It'
7. Police - continue patrols in the area

Next meeting will be held before Christmas



HOUSING

Your Labour Councillors are working closely with officers to reduce the number of empty houses, derelict homes and rough sleepers in our Ward and to support selective licensing to make it work for our landlords and tenants.



EDUCATION

Your Labour Councillors want the best for our schools, and we want to see our children attain top results and realise their aspirations.

We want a better future for our children.



FLY TIPPING

Your Labour Councillors will continue to work with the public to reduce fly tipping and make Park Ward a cleaner, even better place for everyone to live in.



CITY OF CULTURE

Your Labour Councillors support efforts to promote Central Park as a place for families and encourage more events that will bring together our diverse cultures for the enjoyment of everyone.

RESULT!

Residents of Dogsthorpe Road will be familiar with an ongoing problem with one particular house; unoccupied and unattended, the house became a haven for drug users and dealers.

For neighbouring houses, the impact has been huge: people coming and going day and night, using the garden as a toilet, roaming around adjacent gardens and theft of property from outbuildings.

Police and PES officers responded to our requests on numerous occasions, but with the house and grounds unsecured, offenders returned to the property.

Finally, our efforts have been realised as permission was granted and the owners were told to secure the property to a high standard, otherwise the council would step in to undertake the work, and bill them.



As a result, the house is now secure, and no further incidents have been reported.

A massive THANK YOU to our local PES officer Karla for all her support with this issue.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



We were honoured to attend the National Services Day commemoration service at All Saints' Church.

The ceremony honours those who have given up their lives in conflicts around the world.

After accompanying the banner carriers from Central Park to the Church, we attended a moving service in the Church. There is a plaque in the Lady Chapel dedicated to Park Ward residents who gave their lives in the two Great Wars. Afterwards, we joined others in the wreath laying ceremony and laid a wreath from your Park Ward Councillors.

HAIRCUTS FOR THE HOMELESS



Haircuts and a change of clothes are on offer at Outside Link in Wellington Street. Peterborough is the first place in East Anglia to join the Haircuts for Homeless Scheme.

Giving homeless and ex-prisoners the opportunity to have a shower, haircut and clean clothes, the scheme aims to help homeless people look and feel better for interviews.

We were happy to support this initiative and went along to the launch.

The service will be available on the first Monday of every month from 10.30am to 12.30 pm. For more details on how to take part in the scheme contact sharron.walker@hotmail.com

FLY TIPPING

FLY-TIPPING IS THE ILLEGAL DUMPING OF ITEMS



Around 80% of fly-tipped waste comes from people's homes

This continues to be an issue in certain areas of our ward, and we continue to report incidents on a regular basis.

The good news is that we appear to be making a difference. We reported in excess of 30 incidents this quarter; this is a considerable drop from the last quarter.

We will continue to visit regular hotspots and report back issues back to the council.

We are promoting PCC's new social media campaign around flytipping on our own social media platforms. Prevention is always better than cure: by raising awareness around the illegality of fly tipping and rough waste removal services, we hope to encourage more people to dispose of their waste responsibly.

In addition, a new landlord's service is being trialled by PCC, and we would ask all landlords to contact the council for further details.

STREET SURGERIES



We want to hear your concerns and issues and will undertake to resolve them where possible.

To assist us with this we undergo regular walk-about surgeries in the ward. Rather than static surgeries which require residents to come to us, we come to you.

It's a great way to engage with residents and to see first-hand what issues and problems exist in our Ward. Our contact details are on this newsletter and we would encourage residents to contact us.

Recent surgeries have taken place in Broadway, Newark Ave and Park Road.

VERGE PARKING



As promised, we put a motion to Full Council calling for verges to be protected against the abuse from cars parking on them. Unfortunately, the current administration voted against it, which is a huge blow.

The implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders means that motorists parking on verges will be fined if caught. Insufficient enforcement means the rules are continually flouted. More importantly, our verges continue to be damaged and, in many cases, no longer repaired.

Our verges must be protected.

If you would like to find out more about activating a verge parking scheme on your street, please visit <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/parking/parking-on-grass-verges-or-pavements/>

CLIMATE CHANGE

Labour have been regularly promoting environmental issues within the council. We were the first to talk about adopting the Emergency Climate change policy. We worked with the Green Party and the Conservatives to bring this to Full Council for adoption.

During a robust discussion of the Local Plan, we continued to promote vital change in reducing carbon emissions by demanding more to be done in relation to building carbon neutral homes.

Your Ward Councillors also attended the peaceful Climate Change protest on the Cathedral Square and participated in the "Die in" to show their support for fighting for climate change.



We appreciate that there are cost implications to becoming carbon neutral, but the question we all need to ask is not whether we afford the changes, but whether we can afford not to implement them. We will continue to fight for initiatives that will protect the future of our planet.

IT'S A KNOCKOUT

Madina Grill, 297 Lincoln Road, is one of our local businesses who likes to give back to the community.

The business has been sponsoring John Doe for over two years as he has fought his way to becoming the UK's number 1 in his age group and weight.



John has been eating for free at the restaurant and enjoying a variety of food from the menu, which includes spit roast and grilled chicken.

The restaurant also received a rave review from the Food Review Club.

SPEEDWATCH



We have undertaken Speedwatch sessions in the Ward including Park Road, Broadway and Newark Avenue.

Peterborough City Council currently insist on using average data to record speed levels, but we believe this masks the level of the problem and is deterring the introduction of traffic-calming measures in our Ward.

To date we have seen walls, lampposts and bus stops suffering damage, and it is by sheer luck only that no residents were hurt.

Speed Kills - We will continue to lobby the council to bring in measures to reduce speeding before someone really does get hurt.



MANERP

MANERP (Millfield And New England Regeneration Programme) meets regularly to discuss in and around the Millfield and New England area. Many of the issues are relevant to Park Ward and therefore your Labour Councillors attend on a regular basis.

Areas of discussion include:

- The £7.5 million regeneration fund for the area, and when and how should it be spent.
- The proliferation of licensed outlets in the area and the negative impact that they have on the area
- Litter and general deterioration
- The number of HMOs and the problems they bring
- Parking and enforcement issues

We keep in regular email contact with Pastor Tim to ensure that when we are unable to attend meetings, we are kept up to date with the action plan of the group and we can still provide support to the work that the group is doing to improve the area.

SUPPORTING LOCAL EVENTS



Summer means an abundance of fetes and events which your Labour Councillors were keen to support. Events attended included Millfield Community Fete and Salaam Radio Summer Fete, events that are becoming established in the community, encouraging engagement with the wonderful people of the area.

'Streets Ahead Street Party' organised by the local residents' group.

Artist Open Studio in Central Park offered us the opportunity to see work from local artists.

Central Park once again hosted its annual Family Fun Day and Charity Cricket match.

Last but not least, the Heritage Open Day at All Saints' Church was a brilliant day.

COFFEE MORNING



Local resident Helen Mizen held a fund-raising coffee morning in aid of Alzheimer's Research and Cancer UK.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia and may contribute to 60-70% of the 10 million new cases of dementia diagnosed worldwide each year. We were happy to attend and to donate to this worthy cause.

Residents who did attend the event in Broadway Gardens were treated to hot drinks and beautiful cakes.

The total amount raised was a fantastic £400, and we understand another coffee morning is planned for October, so please look out for further details.

THE ROADS IN OUR WARD

Following on from calls from your Labour Councillors for resurfacing of roads in our area, the following were done in July:

Huntly Grove- between Broadway and Bedford Street

Vere Road

Peveril Road - between Alexandra Road and Exeter Road

Northfield Road - between Alexandra Road and Exeter Road

Newark Ave - at its junction with Elmfield Road

As reported in our last newsletter, your Labour Councillors called lead officers from Highways and Maintenance to highlight the deterioration in the surfacing of Northfield Road. While the current round



repaired the surface to parts of Northfield Road, the top section from Exeter Road to St Paul's Road was not included.

We have and will continue to ask for this section to be repaired.

We will continue to report back the other areas where the surfaces are in poor repair.

EDUCATION



Education is one of the key areas of our manifesto.

It is unacceptable that our schools continue to languish at the bottom of the league tables.

Our children deserve better.

Against this backdrop, it is imperative that we celebrate the success and achievements of our children. We were delighted to attend the MCP's Annual Education Awards Ceremony, which celebrates the success of children from across the city.

Now in its fourth year. More schools are taking part and showcasing the successes and attainments of their students. What a fantastic way to highlight the success stories in our city!

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER



Winter is coming and there are already predictions of the return of the "Beast from the East". Severe weather means increased hardship for the rough sleepers of Peterborough.

Our local parish church All Saints' will once again be opening its door to provide a warm place to sleep and breakfast for those people who without such provisions find themselves with nowhere to go

If you can assist by donating clean bedding or volunteering your time, then please contact either Father Greg or Robert Raven to find out more.

The good news is that no new licenses have been granted in Park Ward this quarter; unfortunately this does not mean that the fight is over.

The issues around street drinking, intimidation and littering continue.

We will continue to question not only the issue of new licenses but also address issues around current license holders who do not adhere to the rules laid down in their license.

We should be able to enjoy our parks and open spaces without them being littered with tins and bottles. We should not feel intimidated when going about our daily lives due to alcohol swigging outside of shops that should be there to serve our community.

Our quality of life is being eroded by the proliferation of licensed outlets in our Ward and this must not be allowed to continue or deteriorate further.

Please contact us with any comments or concerns around this issue.

CUMULATIVE IMPACT POLICY



LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS



Peterborough Pensioners' Association meets on the last Monday of the month at Westgate New Church at 2pm. We have regular speakers on topics covering all aspects of the lives of senior citizens.

Please contact 01733 270528 1733 271257

Park 'Streets Ahead' Residents' Association meets the second Sunday of the Month at All Saints' Church Hall between 2-4pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits are served for a small donation.

MANERP

Peterborough International Christian Centre Lincoln Road meets on the first Thursday of the month, with a 7.15pm start. Discussion and action plans for the local area

PROTECT YOUR PARK



Friends of Central Park (FOCP) are promoting a new "Protect Your Park" campaign. Across Peterborough, residents and park users are being asked to support this initiative by reporting suspicious activities in a number of ways:

- www.cambs.police.uk/report/Report-Shared/Report-information-about-crime
- Email your local councillor
- Report directly to FOCP 07730 153161

Tony Forster, Chairman of the Friends of Central Park committee, said "There have been a number of residents and park users across the city that have raised concerns that there has been an increase in anti-social behaviours in our open spaces."

Please support this initiative and protect our park.

SUPPORT FOR NHS



The Cambridge and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is planning cuts of £33 million next year.

Services that will be affected include Dial-a Ride, Stroke Association, Carers' Trust and the Joint Emergency Team.

Cambridge and Peterborough CCG is currently the third lowest funded CCG in the country, and is not keeping pace with growth and demand.

We were proud to support our labour Colleagues, including Cllr. Sam Hemraj & Dr Shabina Asad Qayyum, who both work in the NHS, as they collect signatures for a petition against the cuts and to ask for Cambridge and Peterborough CCG to get its fair share of funding.

We must fight against cuts to vital services and protect our NHS.

CENTRAL PARK

Mr Peach invited residents to attend a walk-about in Central Park with the Police and Crime Commissioner to discuss issues around antisocial behaviour and drug abuse.

Welcoming the initiative, we attended and were met by Conservative councillors, the prospective candidate and even the Party Chairman, but disappointingly little evidence of residents.

Despite claims that they were there to hear about the issues, when we mentioned the recent public meeting not one person asked us about the concerns raised; rather we were thanked for attending and advised to avoid the photos as they were to be used for political purposes!

The walk-about that was supposed to look at crucial issues was in fact a stroll round the iconic willow tree!



Ways to get in touch



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Park Ward Labour Team - Peterborough

