



Save our Swinton Crown Post Office

Salford Labour Councillors from across the city joined Swinton Councillors on a hot Saturday in July to protest about the proposed closure of the Swinton Crown post office on Chorley Rd. Hundreds of signatures were collected for our petition against the closure.

Many local people had no idea about the plans to close the Crown service post office and replace it with a concessionary sub-branch in a supermarket which will provide only a limited service. Please support this campaign to keep our crown post office service. For information go to www.salfordlabour.org.uk



Planning for the Future

One of Pendlebury councillor Bernard Lea's main interests is planning and how it affects the lives of people throughout the city.

As a local councillor he is fully aware that residents often have worries about how developments close to their homes could impact their living conditions.

Here Bernard is seen discussing plans for new housing with a concerned resident



A Day of Fun

The valley Estate fun day at the end of August, was a great success. There was something for everyone with a barbeque, face painting, games and stalls – all organized by local residents and City West.



Councillor Norbert Potter

On Friday 25th October we attended the funeral of Councillor Norbert Potter, Councillor for Swinton South. For Councillor Balkind and myself this was a very sad occasion as we have lost our fellow councillor, friend and mentor.

He was a highly articulate, highly intelligent man, who never lost his devotion to the Catholic faith and played the organ at St Mary's Church for years but he also loved reading, music, cricket and football, adored his large family and was a frequent traveller to visit his sister in New Zealand.

Councillor Balkind and I will miss our conversations with him, his wit, his humour and his unwavering support and Swinton South and Salford have lost a good man.

Councillor Gena Merrett



The Queen's Oak

Pendlebury councillor Bernard Lea's term of office as Ceremonial Mayor of Salford coincided with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

To mark the occasion, along with local residents, he planted a commemorative oak tree in Clifton Country Park.

The park, which occupies 48 hectares of countryside, holds the prestigious Green Flag award and hosts a varied programme of activities for young and old alike.



Lowry Performance by Swinton Teenagers

On August 28th we gathered with a large audience in The Studio at the Lowry Theatre to see a performance by young people from Swinton. The result of three months hard effort.

They also directed the performance, the sound and lighting as well as screening the premier of their own film.

It was an excellent event and afterwards the Ceremonial Mayor presented them with certificates and prizes. We were very proud of them.

Bus stop stopped!

Plans by the transport authority to move a bus stop to outside houses at the bottom of Ash Drive have been blocked by Labour councillors.

The plan to move a stop from near the Morning Star pub provoked protests from local residents. And it would also mean that there would be two bus stops close together.

Councillor Jim Dawson said: "That's absurd – there is no point in having stops so close to each other so we have managed to block the proposal.

"But we still need to find a safer location for the existing bus stop where the pavement is too narrow for the groups of schoolchildren who use it."



Protecting our Children

Bernard Lea was delighted to see the introduction of 20 mph speed limits outside our schools.

The restrictions are in force when children are going to and leaving school. At other times normal speed limits apply to keep the traffic flowing.

Bernard urges all drivers to keep below 20 mph and ensure the safety of our young people.

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... for Pendlebury



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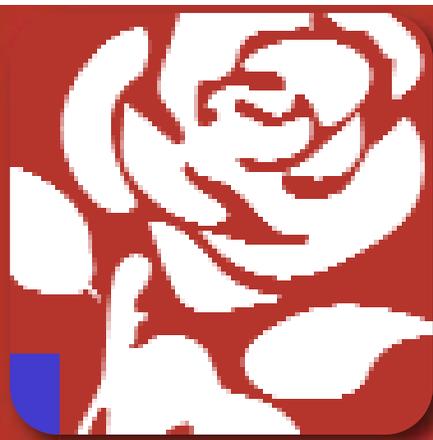
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Salford

Labour



VOICE

Winter 2013

Swinton & Pendlebury



Proud day for Swinton councillors

The official opening of the new Moorside High School (see picture) marked a proud day for Swinton councillors.



Councillor Bill Hinds said: "I'm proud that a Labour council has been able to find the cash to invest in the future of our children.

"The facilities at our new schools like Moorside and St Ambrose Barlow are incredible and have transformed teaching and learning at those schools. They will also benefit the wider community by being used for sport and leisure."

Labour believes there is a need to invest in the education of young people. They will need skills to compete for the jobs of the future. The new schools do that.

Labour has pressed on with its programme of making sure every child benefits despite the Tory coalition scrapping the programme and opposition from local Tories.

Councillor Derek Antrobus and Councillor Jim Dawson, who attended the Moorside High opening by footballer Ryan Giggs, said: "It was clear that staff and pupils alike are enthused by the opportunities for the new building."

Councillor Antrobus, a former chair of Moorside Primary governors, said: "I'm pleased that the development has provided for my initiative of a new school building for the primary school too."

Councillor Dawson, a member of Swinton High School Governors, said: "As well as investment providing new local authority schools, significant money is going into improving Swinton High School."

Say No to Pay Day Loan Shops



The Swinton South Councillors joined forces with the Salford Unemployed Centre and Credit Union to campaign against Pay Day Loan shops after a new one opened up close to the Valley estate.

These shops do not need planning permission so we cannot stop them from simply opening in existing shop premises. They prey on the most vulnerable people who need swift access to money but have no other way of getting credit, then charge them massive amounts of interest that gets them into more and more debt.

We suggest that people to use Salford Credit Union and not these legal loan sharks. Salford Credit Union will be opening an outlet at the City West community resource on Coniston Avenue, in the Valley, before Christmas.

For more information please go to www.salfordcreditunion.com

Photo: Councillor Howard Balkind, Councillor Gena Merrett and local campaigner Kate Lewis outside the Payday Loan shop on Worsley Road.

Roads on the mend

New figures show Labour's plan to improve the city's roads – saving money on annual repairs and costs of tripping – are working.

Figures for Swinton show that 101 streets have been resurfaced in the town since 2010 and 4,773 potholes fixed.

Throughout the city, the number of road in good condition has increased from 48% in 2009/10 to 83% today.

Swinton North Labour's Councillor Derek Antrobus, who is responsible for highways, said: "Investing in highways makes sense because it reduces long term maintenance costs as well as making road better for driving."



Seasons greetings to all from Salford Labour party

Keeping the Pavements Clear

Councillor Bernard Lea received complaints from local disabled residents that they were unable to use their mobility scooters and wheelchairs on Bolton due to cars being parked on the pavement outside one of the restaurants.

Bernard came up with the idea of installing these stumps which stop motorists mounting the pavement, leaving it free for people with disability transport.

The car users can still park their vehicles on the road, so nobody is inconvenienced.



Great in Salford

from
Ian Stewart
City Mayor

Salford: becoming a Living Wage city

More than 2,000 Salford people are to benefit as seven public sector organisations announced their commitment to becoming Living Wage employers.

They follow Salford City Council in introducing a Living Wage of £7.45 an hour for all staff, with the council leading the way as the first authority in Greater Manchester to be accredited.

The seven local employers are the University of Salford, Salix Homes, City West Housing Trust, Salford Community Leisure, Together Housing Trust, Helping Hands and Great Places Housing Group. Their support came as a major boost to my campaign to make Salford a Living Wage city.

Councillor calls on technology to help

A Salford Councillor has become one of the first in Britain to use Skype to communicate with residents.

Councillor John Mullen, who represents the Barton Ward, is ringing in the changes and will now be available through his Councillor.Mullen Skype address every Tuesday between 7.00pm and 8.00pm.

Councillor Mullen, Assistant Mayor for Technology said "It is my job to represent people in the best way possible and if this trial makes it easier for just a few people to contact me – it will be a success."

Council staff push pedals to make pounds for charity

Council staff used pedal power to raise pounds to give Salford residents a much needed holiday break.

The pedal pounders raised £2,500 by cycling the 37 miles from Swinton Town Hall to the Salfordian Hotel in Southport, a registered charity which provides respite for families who are caring for elderly relatives.

Protecting your rights at work

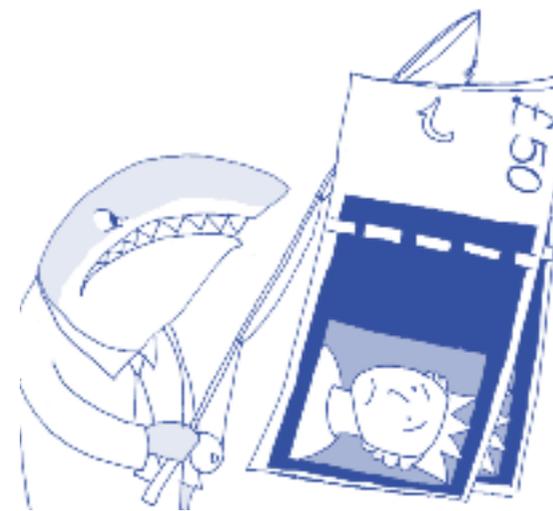
Labour Euro MPs have delivered improved working conditions and increased workplace rights. The majority of the employment rights that you are entitled to are thanks to European law, from minimum paid leave to increased pregnancy and maternity rights.

David Cameron however, keeps talking about slashing European 'red tape'. What he really means is slashing your rights at work. Cameron's said he will renegotiate the UK's relationship with the EU. He hasn't actually said what powers he wants to bring back but his previous statements on the issue make clear what his motivations are: "It will be a top priority for the next Conservative government to restore social and employment legislation to national control."

Salford's Labour Euro MP, Arlene McCarthy said: "Many people don't realise that it's EU legislation that guarantees the right to four weeks paid leave and breaks during the working day. It's also EU law that guarantees equal treatment for agency workers, extra rights for pregnant workers and makes employers responsible for their staff's health and safety.



Labour Euro MPs fought hard to win these rights for you. Don't let Cameron and his Tory pals put it all at risk."



Payday Lending

Ed Miliband has set out how the next Labour Government will raise millions of pounds through a levy on the profits of payday lenders - money which will be used to double the public funds available for low cost alternatives such as credit unions.

Ed Miliband said:

"The prices families have to pay keep on rising faster and faster than the wages they are paid. And, as a result, the market in payday lending has doubled in just four years. Almost a third of the payday loans taken out in Britain at the moment are to cover the cost of people's gas and electricity bills.

"For too many families the end of the month is now their own personal credit crunch.

"We would cap the cost of credit, halt the spread of payday lenders on our high streets and force them to fund the credit unions that can offer a real alternative for people in desperate need.

"We must protect the most vulnerable people in our society from the worst of exploitation by payday lenders."

For information about your local credit union please go to:
www.salfordcreditunion.com
or telephone 0161 832 1998.

a vote for
labour is
a vote to
abolish the
bedroom tax

"If elected, I
promise to scrap
the Bedroom Tax"

Ed Miliband

The Bedroom Tax is a cruel and unfair measure that hits over 400,000 disabled people. For the vast majority of those affected, there is nowhere smaller to move to, hitting vulnerable people through no fault of their own. There is now a real risk that the Bedroom Tax will cost more money than it saves.

The next Labour Government will repeal the Bedroom Tax.

"We'll scrap the bedroom tax by abolishing the shady schemes of tax loopholes for the privileged few which the Tories keep inventing."

Cuts are hurting in Salford

Salfordians are resilient people – it takes a lot to get us down.

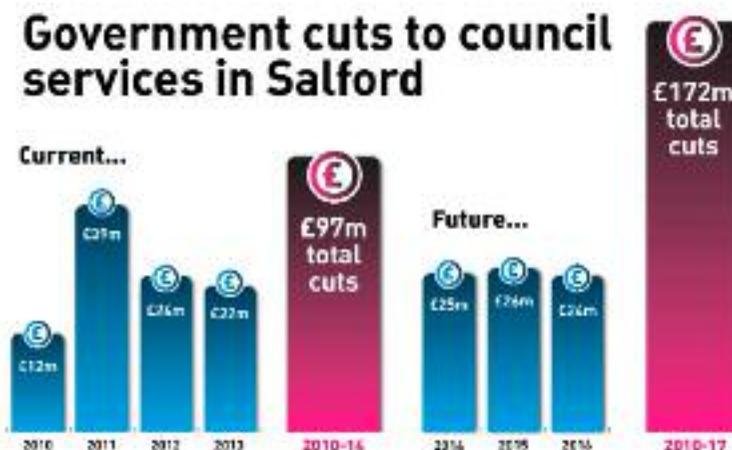
But the government has cut £97 million to services in Salford over the last three years. That has brought hard times for residents who rely on the vital services provided by the council.

Another £75 million

The government had already told us that they will take another £75 million from Salford services over the next three years.

In total, that's £172 million of government cuts to services which Salford people and their families need.

Government cuts to council services in Salford



Greener Waste in Salford

Residents in Salford have improved their recycling by 15% to the tune of 2000 tonnes in the first four months the new waste collection service, which has doubled recycling collections whilst cutting the service for residual waste by half.

Salford residents have reduced the amount of waste going to landfill by 4,000 tonnes in four months with a net saving of £800,000, money that will now be invested into other much needed services.

Tory Councillors voted against this new service, claiming it would cause chaos, but Salford residents have proved them wrong with a great contribution to environmental improvement saving money that would have gone into a hole in the ground.

As a result of successes like Salford's even Tory ministers are now calling for a ban of weekly black bin collections!



Shale Gas Extraction

No permission has been given in Salford for 'fracking' - a method of extracting shale gas.

One company has permission to extract coalbed methane at Barton Moss, a completely different process. But its drilling may lead to an application to carry out 'fracking'.

The Tory-led government has weakened local councils' ability to decide on the future of 'fracking' in their area. Issues of safety and environmental impact will be decided by

Government agencies. Local people are left with decisions about the design and traffic impact of any proposal.

Labour's demand to Government is:

- Fracking should only take place where it's safe
- Fracking should be closely monitored
- Fracking should provide benefits for local people

Under David Cameron gas and electricity bills have gone up £300

Ed Miliband will freeze gas and electricity bills until 2017

David Cameron is still failing to stand up to the energy companies.

British Gas announced that they are putting up prices by more than 9%. This will add around £100 to the average annual household energy bill – a bill that's already gone up by over £300 since David Cameron became Prime Minister.

We have an out of touch Prime Minister more interested in standing up for the big energy companies than standing up for consumers. Cameron's response to the energy price rises is not to stand up to the big six but to suggest that we should put on an extra jumper. We are being overcharged but David Cameron doesn't care about ordinary people who are facing a cost of living crisis.

We need to freeze bills and totally reset the market so it works for us. And that's what a Labour government will do.



Join Labour
Join the fight back

To join the Labour Party please visit:

www.labour.org.uk/join
or call 0845 092 22 99

to find out more about the labour party in Salford go to www.salfordlabour.org.uk

Can You Help?

If you would like to get involved with the Salford Labour Party please get in touch through our website

www.salfordlabour.org.uk,

call us on 0161 793 2024

or email info@salfordlabour.org.uk