Salford Labour Voice

in Broughton & Kersal Autumn 2015

Councillors Ann Marie Humphreys and Peter Connor visiting Broughton House, a residential home for ex armed services. Peter and Ann Marie spent the morning chatting to residents.

Local councillors John Merry, Ann-Marie Humphreys and Peter Conner on a recent visit to The Beenstock Home on Northumberland Street.

Peter and John displaying their awards from the local community for their continuing support.

Beenstock home serves the needs of the elderly and frail in the community looking after their health and wellbeing in a caring and warm environment.

Jim King was proud to be elected as one of the 'first 100' National Council Members of the reformed Co-op Group Governance structure.

The Co-op Group is one of the UKs leading businesses and Jim has been an active Co-operator for many years.

Councillor Jim King met with our local MP, Graham Stringer, to discuss jobs and industry in Salford.

Jim accompanied Graham on a visit to the Cambridge Industrial Estate and met with local businesses to discuss issues of concern to them.

New Homes for Broughton

Jim supported the launch of the new phase of the Lower Broughton multimillion pound housing development earlier this year.

Access All Areas

It was wonderful to join Access All Areas as they celebrated their Queens Award, in recognition for the hard work and valued service they provide Salford City.

Access All Areas is a group of people with different disabilities who make it their business to make sure buildings, developments, parks in Salford meet the needs of everybody.

Councillor McIntyre says “Being advised on the disability needs for equality of Salford residents is outstanding and much valued in planning the developments that are happening throughout our City”.

photo: Councillor McIntyre, Burt Shepard (chair of Access all Areas) and Jim Wheelton (secretary of Salford Disabled Drivers’)

Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn On your side

The Tories are in power for a further 5 years.

They have pledged to cut further and faster than they did in the last five years

We will see:

- Local health services under threat as never before.
- Services for the elderly facing Tory cutbacks and closures.
- Schools struggle to provide our children with a decent education.
- This Tory government is planning on cutting jobs and vital services like the police.

Tories scrap target for raising children out of poverty

The Tories plan to remove the official measure of child poverty. The relative poverty measure, enshrined in the Child Poverty Act passed by Labour in 2010, required the Government to eradicate child poverty by 2020. The act defines a child as being in poverty if it is in a household with less than 60% of the national median average income.

Instead, the government will define poverty not in terms of money, but by measuring the number of workless households and educational attainment of children.

It will leave the UK as the only OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) country not to use the 'relative indicator', which is the internationally accepted measure of poverty.

Ian Stewart, Salford City Mayor, said "Poverty is fundamentally about a lack of money and therefore this is what we should continue to measure. Locally it will be important that we continue to monitor indicators which include in-work poverty as we know this is an increasing issue and that the majority of welfare benefits in GM are paid to people who are in work".

Salford born Comedian Jason Manford took to facebook to slam David Cameron for 'changing the definition of child poverty' in a bid to wipe it out. He mocked the Prime Minister on Facebook, writing: "Can't believe David Cameron has wiped out Child Poverty in the UK. What a legend.

"Simply by changing the meaning of what we understand to be 'poverty'. Genius. So glad the country voted him in. Nice one. Chuffed to bits." He received over 80,000 likes!!!

photo by D Sharon Pruitt

Health
are we getting better?

In February 2015 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by NHS England, the ten Greater Manchester Councils, including Salford, and the Greater Manchester Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS and Foundation Trusts to devolve health and social care. This allows us to take control of a £6 billion budget covering acute care, primary care, community services, mental health services, social care and public health.

What will the Devolution of health and social care to GM allow us to do?

- Improve the health and well being of all of GM residents from early age to older people, recognising that this will only be achieved with a focus on the prevention of ill health and the promotion of well being
- Move from having some of the worst health outcomes to having some of the best.
- Close the health inequalities gaps faster

What WONT change because of devolution?

- The NHS will still be responsible for keeping people safe and delivering the NHS Mandate and Constitution to all our residents.
- There will be no new layer of government and resources will not be taken away from the front line to support this.
- CCGs and Councils will keep their existing accountabilities, legal obligations and funding
- There will be no requirements for NHS reorganisation.

What WILL change because of devolution?

- We will be fully involved in decisions which affect us and from April 2016 we will take those decisions locally.
- We will work together in new ways to tackle some of the major health, housing, work and other challenges we face in our region.

What will we be looking at?

- Joining up health and social care services to make life easier for residents
- Helping people stay as well and independent as they can by offering them the advice and treatment they need in the community rather than hospital.
- Helping people see or talk to a GP easily, at a time and place that suits them.
- Easing pressure on hospitals by making sure only people who really need to be seen in a hospital go there
- Developing new Dementia services and expertise, including a National Institute for Dementia.
- Improving hospital care and general surgery under 'Healthier Together'
- Doing more to help people whose mental ill-health is making it difficult for them to work

City of Salford Community Stadium

The City of Salford Community Stadium (A J Bell Stadium) is a great asset to out city. It was built in 2011 to kick-start the regeneration of an area in Barton, now known as City Gateway.

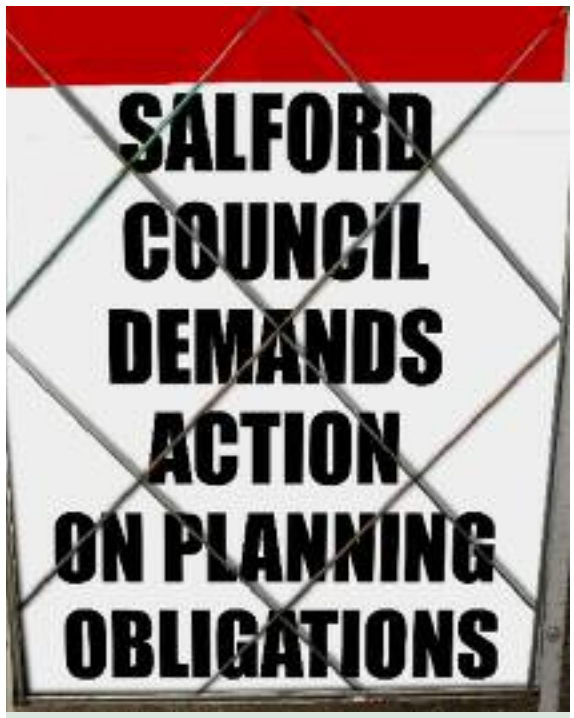
The sale of the surrounding land will more than repay the loans taken by the Stadium Company from the council and, as a young and rapidly developing business, will continue to bring in profits for the future.

Alongside the two sporting tenants, Salford Red Devils and Sale Sharks, there is a fast growing events and conferencing business. Last year, over 33,000 people attended the Stadium for such events with a major concert also being planned for 2016.

The Stadium's development strategy for the land will provide new jobs for several thousand people and transport for the area will benefit from a bypass and tram line to come.

The exciting developments in discussion include advanced negotiations for small food retail and approximately one hectare for motor retail and fast food. The prime site of approximately 4 hectares is likely to be developed by a household name bulky goods retailer.

This development is putting Salford on the map and paying back in dividends.



Tory planning policy means millions of pounds of money that should go into creating good places to live – including affordable homes - is going into profits for the development industry, says Salford Labour.

Salford backs new development which brings new homes, jobs and help for public finances. But new development should not add extra pressure to local communities.

So new development should, under policies adopted by Salford's Labour council, pay for the extra school places, more play space and affordable homes.

Good developers include many of these things in their plans. But too many are now taking advantage of new Tory rules.

These say that where a development is not making enough profit, local policies to make developers pay should be ignored.

And when you calculate 'enough profit' according to Tory rules it turns out to be about 17%.

Labour's planning spokesperson Councillor Derek Antrobus said: "We want developers to make a profit because we want them to build homes and provide jobs in Salford.

"But the profit levels that can be guaranteed by following Tory guidelines are joke. Often it's banks and landowners rather than the developers themselves who are taking an unfair cut. But this is all at the expense of investing in good places."

Salford Labour's approach has been backed by the Town and Country Planning Association which says the majority of councils have their hands tied.

Councillor Antrobus added: "We have written in protest to the Minister but all we have received is a wishy-washy response saying that development has to be viable."

CHILDRENS SERVICES GOOD AND IMPROVING

It is good news all round in Children Services. Ofsted have named Labour run Salford as one of just a handful of local authorities whose safeguarding services are ranked as "good" whilst Schools have seen a 2% increase in children gaining 5 or more GCSE passes including English and Maths.

Salford's sssistant Mayor John Merry said: "I congratulate all involved in this including Teachers officers and the Children who achieved such good results but I also want to thank the Councillors who have worked so hard to achieve this whether it's by serving as Governors visiting homes or scrutinising the performance of the department. "

Ofsted found that all aspects of safeguarding children had improved to good but were particularly impressed with the services provide to looked after children and the support provided to hard pressed families. Labour is committed to meeting the challenges that a successful Salford is bringing. The challenge of providing new school places to an increasing population and continuing the improvement in our schools are just two of our commitments to the future of the city.

Tory Budget blow Spells End of Social Housing

Tory government picks up Thatcher's war against affordable rented homes

Whilst social housing tenants celebrated the budget announcement that social rents would decrease annually by 1% for the next four years and that the right to buy your social home would be extended to all housing association tenants.

In reality the long-term implications for social tenants and their families is rather bleak, heralding the end of affordable rented housing as we know it as Osborne returns to the 1980 Thatcher policies that sold off thousands of social homes.

Given that two thirds of social tenants claim housing benefit the rent reduction is in fact a welfare cut, saving the DWP millions but costing the housing providers on average £28m from their business plans over the next 4 years that would have been invested in new housing. The Housing Federation estimates that some 27,000 new homes will now not be built to help replace those lost to Right to Buy sales.

Better off tenants, hit by a steep rise in rent are already concluding that it will be cheaper to buy their home than continue to rent and it now looks likely that the government subsidy on which social landlords have depended to build new homes will only be provided for homes to be sold through shared ownership schemes. Already we are seeing Housing Associations returning to planners to change their new schemes from homes to rent to homes to buy with shared ownership.

In addition, with far fewer rented homes available, social tenants will no longer enjoy the security of tenure for life but have a time-limited tenancy.

Ultimately, then, Salford families, driven to the over-priced private rented sector will have nothing to celebrate at all.

The Untold Implications of George Osborne's 'Living' Wage

Anything that can be done to genuinely lift workers out of poverty-pay should be welcomed! Within Salford & Greater Manchester we have real challenges with low pay and Salford Labour Party are fully committed to working towards Salford becoming a Living Wage City!

The Living Wage is set annually by the Living Wage Foundation (LWF) and currently stands at £9.15 per hour for London & £7.85 per hour outside of London.

George Osborne's new 'Living' Wage of £7.20 per hour (for 25s and over) announced in July's emergency budget clearly undermines the work of the LWF and those progressive organisations that have become accredited Living Wage employers. Osborne plan also proposes to raise his 'Living' Wage to £9.00 per hour by 2020, which is currently less than the London living wage.

More importantly, what is lost in Osborne's low pay headline grabbing politics are the impacts of the proposals on our 2 million under-25 year olds, ineligible for this level of pay and expected to struggle to make-ends-meet on the national minimum wage. Similarly, Osborne's cuts to tax credits and other in-work benefits will hit working families the hardest, with the Institute of Fiscal Studies stating:

"Among the 8.4 million working age households who are currently eligible for benefits or tax credits who do contain someone in paid work the average loss from the cuts to benefits and tax credits is £750 per year,"

Salford Labour Party believe that any developments to genuinely lift workers out of poverty-pay should be welcomed but it's clear that the Chancellor favours sound-bite politics over a genuine commitment to tackling low-pay and its consequences within our communities.

Councillor McIntyre with some of the resident of St John's Court

Councillor McIntyre says "the residents here are heavily involved in ensuring the dumping of waste and household furniture on their streets is addressed. It is essential that people in their communities help to identify areas used to illegally dump rubbish. The identification of the disrespectful people who continue to do this is down to the Enforcement Teams and passed to the Courts on every occasion".

Be a Friend of Clowes Park

We have now started a Friends of Clowes Park group. We will keep the park clean and tidy as well as organising events for the whole community to enjoy the park.

If you would like to get involved contact your councillors for details.

Labour councillors are being helped by local residents who inform us of local flytipping. We are able to keep our streets clean by working together. If you see any flytipping please contact your councillors.

If you are going to tell a big lie...

If you are going to tell a big lie, better tell a whopper. That seems to be the rule by which David Cameron and the Conservatives are abiding by. They claim to be the party of the ordinary working person, but the new legislation they have placed before Parliament tells a different story. On consecutive days they are proposing to change trade union law and reduce benefits for those in work.

Their model for trade union reform seems to be the structure of law that Franco imposed on the Spanish people during forty years of Falangist Government. I have some support for the idea of reducing in-work benefits because tax credits intensifies poor employers to pay low wages. However these benefits should only be reduced when higher wages are guaranteed. Nobody should be fooled. Tories are hard at work

implementing their core beliefs that the rich should get richer and the poor should get poorer.

phone numbers to contact service needs of residents

Neighbourhood Management Team: 0161 686 5434

Neighbourhood Police: 8565 5127

Environmental Services: 0161 909 6500

Salix Homes: 0161 779 8857

Contour Housing: 0345 602 1120

Great Places Housing: 0161 447 5000

Citizen's Advice Bureau:
0844 826 9695 if calling from a landline
0300 456 2554 if calling from a mobile

Broughton Trust: 0161 831 9807

Lower Broughton Health Centre: 0161 212 6520

Higher Broughton Health Centre: 0161 792 2582

Salford Royal Hospital: 0161 789 7373

Duty Social Worker: 0161 794 8888

Graham Stringer Broughton MP: 0161 202 6600

Your councillors for Kersal

Councillor Peter Connor
0161 793 3618
councillor.connor@salford.gov.uk

Clor Ann-Marie Humphreys
07872 808 020
councillor.humphreys@salford.gov.uk

Councillor Harry Davies
0744 434 3099
councillor.davies@salford.gov.uk

Your councillors for Pendlebury

Councillor Jim King
0161 792 7824
councillor.king@salford.gov.uk

Councillor Charles McIntyre
07770 768 652
councillor.mcintyre@salford.gov.uk

Councillor John Merry
0161 661 7101
councillor.merry@salford.gov.uk

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