



# Salford Labour Voice

in Swinton & Pendlebury

Autumn 2015

## Clifton Lunch Club

A new Lunch Club been established at St Thomas's Church on Clifton Green.

It meets every Friday at 1pm and as well as providing some delicious food enables local residents to have a chat.

During a recent visit Councillor Barry Warner said "This is a great a great idea and will help to develop more of a community spirit in the area. I would encourage more people to come along and give it a try."



## Memorial to Local Miners

On 18th June, 1895 an explosion at Clifton Hall Colliery killed 178 men and boys.

Local residents and trade unionists have long felt that a memorial needed to be erected to commemorate these lost lives.

In August Councillor Barry Warner and Rebecca Long Bailey MP were delighted to attend the unveiling of of plaque on Lumms Lane near the site of the former mine.

Barry, whose father was a miner, said that he hoped that motorists driving past the monument would give a thought to the victims of the disaster and remember the importance of health and safety in today's world of work.

## Summer events on the Valley Estate

In August Gena Merrett was joined by MP Rebecca Long Bailey to support the Valley Estate Children's Fun day organised by City West .



There was also an Eat it Fresh Project organised by City West at the Valley Community garden on 28th August. The project promotes cooking fresh food and healthy eating. There was a brilliant turnout with lots of kids cooking and gardening.

The family of former Valley resident Cameron Cash, who lost his life on the A580 two years ago, funded this polythene tunnel at the allotments.



## Poetry in motion



Plans for the redevelopment of part of the Poets' Estate are on the move. A two-year engagement exercise with residents has resulted in a design for new homes.

After residents have agreed finishing touches to the plan, the proposal will go before Salford City Council's planning panel for approval, due in February.

Labour ward councillors Derek Antrobus, Jim Dawson and Bill Hinds have attended meetings of the residents steering group.

They said: "We've been impressed by the way the residents' views have been taken on board and the efforts made by Salix Homes to keep everyone informed.

"Salford Labour remains committed to

supporting good quality social housing in the city so people can have a choice. We worry that this Tory Government will undermine social housing and make its delivery trickier for us."

Ward councillors are also pressing for more land to be released in the town centre for new homes.

They said: "There are many young couples desperate for new homes. The success of new developments at Wardley and the old children's hospital show the need for good quality housing.

"We are looking forward to land owned by the council in the town centre being released for housing."

## Bowled Over!



Labour Ward councillors have congratulated the Swinton and Moorisde Cricket Club on their 125th anniversary.

Councillor Derek Antrobus, who attended the anniversary celebration at their Beech Farm playing fields ground, said: "I was really impressed by the heritage on show with old minute books and memorabilia.

"I've now asked that this becomes one of the first exhibitions in the new Swinton Gateway centre. It's important that we should celebrate our shared past and we will soon be launching the Swinton heritage trail."

## Salford families on the breadline



As of April 2015, over 3 million in-work families are dependent on tax credits. 2.7 million of these families include children. As a result of the proposed cuts these families are expected to lose £1300 next year. In Salford, Eccles, Swinton and Pendlebury over 60% of families rely on these tax credits and will be hit hard when these measures come into force. That is why I voted against cuts to working and child tax credits recently in the House of Commons.

It is apparent that these cuts are just another part of the Conservative Government's attack on the people of Salford. Not only are they cutting tax credits, they have frozen benefit payments for four years meaning 13 million families (of which over half are working families) will lose almost £300 a year.

At the same time certain companies and certain wealthy individuals continue to avoid payment of tax to the tune of £billions each year.

If you combine Tax credit cuts with the Conservative's attack on the ability of workers to stand up and fight for their rights through the restrictions on the right to strike in the savage Trade Union Bill, the horrific cuts to our Local Council, Schools and NHS budgets, it is clear to see that the Conservative's tag line of being 'the party of the working people' is a complete lie.

Rebecca Long Bailey MP

# 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.



## 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

## 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

## City of Salford Community Stadium

The City of Salford Community Stadium (A J Bell Stadium) is a great asset to our 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 assistant 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 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.





# Fun Day in Victoria Park

In August the members of City West's Local Area Panel organised their annual Fun Day in Victoria Park.

The unanimous view of everybody concerned was that it was better than ever.

Perhaps the most popular attraction was the dinosaurs which entertained young and old alike. For the more energetic the Council's Youth Service came along with their climbing wall.

Pendlebury councillors Barry Warner and Bernard Lea were on hand to meet local residents and listen to any issues they wanted to raise.

Barry said that the LAP deserved praise, not just for organising this event, but also for the hard work they put in throughout the year.



# Road to success

The number of local roads in good condition has risen from 42% to 76% over the last three years thanks to Labour's investment programme.

Roads already improved this year include Warwick Avenue, Worcester Road, and Wheatley Road, in Wardley; Godlee Drive, Dalby Avenue, and Sandygate Close, off Deans Road; and Abbey Road, Priory Road and Deacon Avenue, in Swinton town centre.

Footpath improvements have taken place along Manchester Road, Wardley, and the adjoining stretch is planned to be completed next year.

Ward councillors said: "This not only makes the environment look better but is proven to reduce the number of people tripping in the street.

"Road maintenance bill are cut as are insurance claims for people falling. This savings are enough to pay back the money borrowed to invest.

"We were amazed that Tory councillors opposed this investment. It's common sense and places no burden on the council taxpayer."



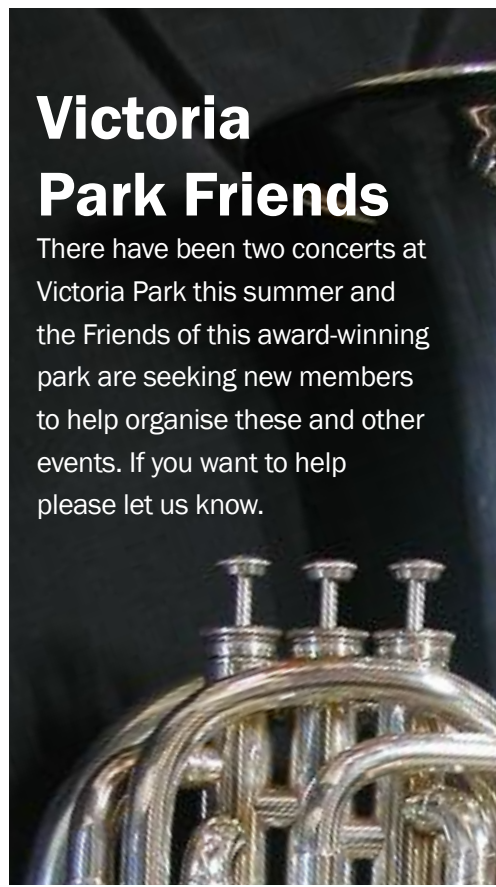
# Swinton growing better

Former allotments at Mossfield Road in Swinton are at last to be restored.

Swinton North Labour councillors Derek Antrobus, Jim Dawson and Bill Hinds have been campaigning to open up the former allotments which lies between Chelford Drive and Hinchley Way.

Now the go-ahead has been given to bring them back into use. The work will be done by offenders under the Community Payback scheme.

Ward councillors said: "There is a big demand for allotments and we know from our meetings with Swinton and District Allotments Society how important they are for local people."



# Victoria Park Friends

There have been two concerts at Victoria Park this summer and the Friends of this award-winning park are seeking new members to help organise these and other events. If you want to help please let us know.

# Happy Birthday to the Agnes Hopkins Centre



The Agnes Hopkins Centre celebrated their 25th anniversary this year. Councillor Gena Merrett went along and had a fabulous day with the residents and visitors.

Many residents talked of how happy they were there and how the centre had been their lifeline for years.

## Your councillors for Swinton North



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# Swinton South