

# Kingswinford North & Wall Heath

Autumn 2007

## Newsletter

The Newsletter of your local Conservatives

### “Abolish Prisons” says Liberal Democrat

Senior Lib-Dem MP Mark Oaten, who was his party’s spokesman on Home Affairs – effectively the Lib-Dem’s shadow Home Secretary, has revealed that he wants to abolish every prison in Britain. Speaking to the BBC, Mr. Oaten revealed that the only reason that he did not announce his views earlier was because he:

**“...would have been crucified as a front line politician for saying this in public and the party would have tumbled in the opinion polls.” \***

The MP revealed that he wants to replace prisons with education programmes, but expert evidence suggests that these programmes don’t work:

Professor Dirk van Zyl Smith, an expert in penal policy at Nottingham University, says the vast majority of such schemes have no long-term effect on criminal behaviour.

The revelation that the Liberal Democrats policies on law and order amounts to little more than telling criminals not to be naughty comes just as another Lib Dem MP criticises the police for shooting an armed robber who was holding a gun to the head of a hostage, and follows the decision of the Labour government to grant early release for up to 25,000 criminals.

Gordon Brown is being blamed for the crisis, because as Chancellor he froze the Home Office budget.



### Local Candidate Chosen

Kingswinford North and Wall Heath Conservatives have asked local resident Denise Harley (above) to stand in the local council elections next year.

**Denise said:** “I am both pleased and honoured by the trust placed in me by local residents, and I promise to do my best for our area.”

### Library facts revealed:

Denise Harley has welcomed the news that Kingswinford Library is to benefit from substantial investment over the next few years, and will be able to offer a better, 21<sup>st</sup> Century service to local residents for years to come.

Following the shock revelation that fewer than 7 out of every 100 Wall Heath residents actually use Wall Heath library, a survey of local residents placed library services at the bottom of their list of priorities. Denise commented: "It's important to maintain access to library lending services for all residents, despite Wall Heath library being underused and based in a building that is very expensive to bring up to date. I will be asking the Cabinet member responsible for Libraries to consider Wall Heath as part of a Library Link, a community based lending service which will plug the gap and allow local residents to use community centres from which to borrow books."

### YOUR VIEWS:

Thank you to those who replied to our recent survey; we asked you for your priorities: **you said:**

#### Local Priorities

- Crime prevention..... 93%
- Street Cleaning..... 68%
- Roads & footpaths..... 68%
- Care & Support for older people... 61%
- Refuse & recycling..... 43%
- Mental health &
- Learning disabilities... 39%
- Jobs & Businesses... 35%
- Education..... 28%
- Parks & open spaces... 21%
- Reducing congestion... 18%
- Youth services & Community centres... 18%
- Leisure centres..... 7%
- Care & support for families..... 3%
- Adult education..... 3%
- Museums }  
Libraries } Less than  
Arts & } 1%  
Entertainment }

#### National Priorities

- Crime..... 75%
- Immigration & asylum 73%
- Antisocial behaviour... 50%
- Pensions..... 29%
- Europe..... 21%
- Taxation..... 18%
- Housing..... 7%
- Jobs..... 4%
- Environment } Less than  
Roads } 1%

## We demand a referendum NOW

We the undersigned demand the right to a vote before Britain gives up its sovereignty under the new EU Constitution:

Name: .....  
 Address: .....  
 Telephone: .....

Return to: Denise Harley  
 12 Hazel Road  
 Kingswinford DY6 8EZ