

## Elephant & Castle update

It's been a hugely exciting, and challenging, time for everyone involved in the regeneration of Elephant and Castle. Large scale projects of this kind always encounter changes and it's great that progress is now being made.

### Shopping Centre

Lend Lease, Southwark Council's development partner has recently started a seven month consultation with local people on the development of the Heygate Estate, residents have been rehoused and a new agreement for the regeneration of the shopping centre has been agreed.

### Better environment

A key part of the regeneration of the area is focussing on the improvement of the street scape and

public space—the aspirations include more trees and green space and a better environment for pedestrians and cyclists.

### Road layout

I have been in discussions with TfL over the road layout at the northern roundabout — now that the southern roundabout has been replaced - and ensuring that the tube station will have the capacity to deal with the redeveloped area.



Val at Elephant's north roundabout.

## A little lift—access for everyone

Disability issues continue to be a key interest of mine, and again this year I have done several pieces of work on improving access for

everyone, particularly to public transport. In many cases I have supported the charity campaigners **Transport for All**, who do excellent work.

Amongst the issues I have worked on are: the continually broken down lift at Brixton tube station, lobbying for step free access at Crystal Palace station and scrutinising the New Bus for London from a mobility point of view.



## 'You're hired!' - apprenticeships for local young people

The local newspapers 'Southwark News' and 'Lambeth Weekender' have recently run a campaign to encourage local businesses to set up apprenticeship schemes to provide work and training opportunities for local young people.

I was delighted to be able to host the celebration event to mark the success of the '100 in 100' drive—that is 100 employers persuaded to set up such a scheme in 100 days, at City Hall. The scheme was also supported by **Lambeth College and Lambeth Council**.

The committee room was full and it was inspiring to meet some of those who had benefitted from apprenticeships and speak to employers about why they had decided to hire apprentices and the benefits this had brought to their business. I was pleased and proud to support this most worthwhile cause and I hope that all the young people taking up the apprenticeships created have a successful time. Well done to everyone involved!



Val addresses the apprentices.

# Valerie Shawcross



## Community spirit shines in difficult times

### Riot Recovery

Like everyone, I was horrified by the disturbances across London in early August. It was particularly devastating to see the horrific damage and disruption caused in my constituency; in Peckham, Brixton, East Dulwich, Surrey Quays and Streatham.

### Communities Together

I visited a number of businesses affected by the riots, including some who had lost all their stock, records, paperwork, and those who had lost income through having to close their business on police advice for several days.

However, again, like everyone, I was most heartened to see the way in which local communities pulled together unprompted to help and clean up. The 'We Love Peckham' wall was a poignant indication of the pride South Londoners take in their homes.

I fully support the efforts of the local councils to support those

In Rye Lane with Cllr. Sunil Chopra and business owner Martin Bonehill.



affected and have called on Mayor Boris Johnson to ensure that his funds aimed to help those affected by the disturbances reaches those Lambeth and Southwark businesses who need it.

### Police numbers

We are all grateful to emergency services, transport staff and other front line personnel who performed so courageously in tackling those responsible and in the aftermath.

My colleagues and I at the Assembly and Metropolitan Police Authority are committed to pressing the Mayor to keep police numbers as high as possible.

### What goes up....? 2012 London fares!

Despite Londoners feeling the pinch, high inflation and government cuts beginning to bite hard, Mayor Boris Johnson has confirmed, following a question from me at Mayor's Question Time, that transport fares will go up again next year.

Current policy at TfL is based on fares rising by Retail Price Index Inflation plus 2%. This means fares will rise by 7% next year.

### Increase

Pay as you go Oyster bus fares will go up to £1.40—an extra ten pence - and a zone 1 and 2 weekly travelcard will set you back £29.80 from January, to give just a couple of examples.

The new higher ticket prices will take effect in January 2012.



### Get in touch:

Here's what I think about:

If you do not wish to be kept informed about Val's work at the London Assembly, please tick here.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Return to: City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA

Phone: 020 7983 4401

Email: valerie.shawcross@london.gov.uk

Fax: 020 7983 4418

Web: www.valshawcross.com



# On the *Train*

## Train ticket offices face closure

The 'McNulty report' - which was commissioned by the coalition government to look at 'value for money' in the UK's rail system recently published its findings.

Like many people I was very concerned by a recommendation that all train operating companies be asked to look at **closing the ticket offices at all of their 'category E' stations**. This means 'smaller staffed' stations and in Lambeth and Southwark includes Brixton, all three Dulwich stations, Gipsy Hill, Elephant & Castle, Queen's Road Peckham

and South Bermondsey. I think that staff at stations are vital to passengers sense of security and have written to the Mayor and the rail minister Norman Baker to urge them to reconsider this policy.



Gipsy Hill station may face staff cuts.

## Cable Theft Delays

Many of you may have recently found yourself **stuck on a train delayed by cable theft**.

Not only are these thieves placing themselves in **grave danger**, the damage caused by the theft of line-side cables has cost the rail industry many thousands of pounds and

caused thousands of hours of delays—and it's happening on the tube network as well.

As a member of the **Metropolitan Police Authority** I have raised this with ministers and asked what can be done to tackle this criminal activity.

# All Change at London Bridge!

I have been in discussions with Network Rail recently about their plans to redevelop and modernise London Bridge station.

The plans will see a new open



Tooley Street view of the new-look station.

concourse, better access between all the platforms and bus station and a new area for shops and cafes. The new development will also, I believe, improve the streetscape in the area and along Tooley Street.

### Cyclists

However, as with all large projects like this, there are some issues including access for cyclists after the transformation is complete and some

## South London Line update

Many of you will know that the **South London Line (SLL)** between Victoria and London Bridge via Denmark Hill is due to be withdrawn next year.

Fresh lobbying has begun to call for the implementation of the previously planned part-replacement service between Victoria and Bellingham which TFL then dropped despite its relatively low revenue cost.

### Survey results

I conducted a survey of residents in the Clapham area over the summer—a huge 92% of respondents—from a 10% response rate—said they would be inconvenienced by the loss of the service and will be using these results to show why a service into Central London needs to be maintained for the affected stations such as Wandsworth Road and Clapham High Street. If you will be affected or would like to find out more, please get in touch using the details on the back page.

### Benefits

I am working with those concerned and Network Rail to improve the outcome for those affected and ensure that they continue to get the facilities they need while allowing commuters and the local community to benefit from this exciting project.

# At *City Hall*

This year I am serving as the Deputy Chair of the Transport Committee at the London Assembly. Some of the committee's work has included:

**Tube performance:** The committee found that the tube has got more unreliable since upgrade work began several years ago and that the main reason for delays was equipment failure. The Committee made a number of recommendations to TfL about improving the situation and will review this in a few months time.

**Tube upgrades:** Fed up of having your tube service suspended at the weekend? The committee has been investigating progress on the upgrades and looking at reasons why the end of works and weekend closures—especially on the Jubilee line—have overrun. The Mayor still says he can't give a decisive answer on when the final closure will be.

**At Question Time:** I have raised a wide range of questions with the Mayor through our monthly Mayor's Question Time (MQT) meetings including tackling street drinking in Camberwell, issues involving traffic management in the Kender triangle area, the Elephant and Castle renewal, technical issues with the Cycle Hire Scheme and its possible expansion, poor drainage and blocked gullies on TfL red routes, the impact of the Cycle Super Highways and much more. Please contact me if you want to **suggest a question** to ask. Alternatively, you can view the database of questions to the Mayor at:

<http://mqt.london.gov.uk/mqt>

**TfL Customer Services**  
I am currently doing a 'rapporteurship' into the quality of TfL's customer services information and complaints procedure on behalf of the Transport Committee. **If you have any comments about this, please get in touch!**

# Up your *Street*

## More va-va-voom for Vauxhall?

I have been working with local councillors in **Vauxhall** and have met with the council and Transport for London to improve the Vauxhall area. In particular I support the removal of the gyratory system and plans to improve the street scape and experience for pedestrians and cyclists in the area.

The proposal to extend the **Northern Line** to Battersea, is I believe, a worthwhile, and on the whole beneficial prospect for the local area. However, I also understand residents' concerns about practical issues during construction and running of any

new line such as the need for ventilation shafts, noise problems etc. Residents are being reconsulted and I hope that the scheme will deliver its benefits to the community with the minimum of inconvenience to local people.

Councillors in **Stockwell and Clapham** have been championing the need for the Barclays Cycle Hire Scheme to be extended south of Kennington. Lambeth council are in discussion with TfL on this and I hope that a solution which brings enhanced value for money facilities further south can be reached.

## Traffic trouble—for pedestrians

**Pedestrian and cyclist safety on the road continues to be a priority of mine.** I have been working with boroughs to lobby TfL on this issue, including opposing proposals to remove pedestrian crossing lights at some junctions.

TfL have recently dropped plans for a new crossing at the junction of **Lordship Lane and the south circular in East Dulwich**—I am back-

ing local councillors efforts to get this reconsidered. We need to get more people to walk and cycle if we want to cut emissions and improve the environment.



At Lordship Lane with Cllrs. Andy Simmons and Helen Hayes.

## Bus service update

**Concerns about bus routes continue to roll in—here is the latest on some key routes in Lambeth & Southwark:**

**2**—route 2 has suffered delays because of a burst water main in Brixton and a number of accidents but should now be improving again.

**3**—TfL blame this route's poor performance on roadworks in Central London and expect this to improve soon.

**343**—I have met with TfL and local residents from the Southampton Way area on a number of occasions to look at possible solutions to the lack of reliable bus services in the area. We are plugging away but results remain disappointing.

**P12**—TfL continue to claim that unreliability on this route is due to road works and are introducing larger two-door vehicles in October to ease capacity problems. So watch this space...