



Valerie Shawcross AM

London Assembly Member for Lambeth and Southwark

Welcome to my summer 2003 update, bringing you news, views and information direct from City Hall. I hope it gives you a flavour of some of the work currently underway. If you would like to contact me, about these or other issues, my details are at the end of this newsletter.

Valerie

More police for Southwark!

After intense lobbying from Val, and the Southwark Police Campaign, the Metropolitan Police Authority set the final figure of 852 police officers for Southwark. This is 50 officers closer to the Campaign's target of 1,000 police officers.

Southwark has benefited from the allocation of 14 new Police Community Safety Officers (more coming) and the Mayor has prioritised 4 of Southwark's bus routes with a new crime-busting initiative.

But there are still local areas, which are suffering from severe crime, and antisocial behaviour – Val took part in a deputation to Southwark police to focus on problems in Rotherhithe and has been supporting the Herne Hill forum in their attempts to get Southwark and Lambeth police to work together around the junction area.

Upbeat about Blue Beat Community Police Centre

Val visited the successful Bermondsey Blue Beat team, a Southwark community warden scheme, the 'eyes and ears' for safer streets. The good news is that plans are now underway to extend the scheme to Camberwell.



Val Shawcross and Ian Wingfield welcome Southwark's new Commander, Ian Thomas to the job. " Val and I look forward to working closely with Ian, over the months and years ahead. " Ian Wingfield said.

State of our stations campaign

Ken Signs Up to 'Big Fix' on Brixton Station

At May's Question-time, Mayor Ken Livingstone, agreed to Val's challenge to do a 'big fix' on Brixton Station, and agreed to visit Brixton with her to see what needs doing.

Tim comes to Stockwell

New tube boss Tim O'Toole is shortly to visit Stockwell Tube Station with Val, at her request, to look at crime and anti-social behaviour problems at the station.

Val said " This is one of many stations where the authorities don't recognise the problems facing passengers. "



A visit to City Hall

Val Shawcross has welcomed many local voluntary groups to City Hall. As well as offering the opportunity to discuss local issues with your London Assembly Member, it's a chance to see the fantastic view from London's Living room. On certain days you can watch London Assembly Members question the Mayor in the Chamber. Then it's off for a cup of tea and a walk by the river. Contact Val if you would like to arrange a visit

(photo opposite: Bankside Traders visit City Hall)

A visit to Brunel Engine House

Val visited Brunel Engine House to meet Robert Hulse, Curator of the Museum, and Sir William McAlpine, one of the museum's patrons. This was a chance to look at their plans for the future of the Brunel Museum and to share aspirations for Rotherhithe.

Robert Hulse said " We are pleased to have the support of the Mayor of London, Valerie Shawcross and London Borough of Southwark to build a new education and visitor centre to this world famous engineer. Brunel began and ended in London, on the Thames, and we are uniquely placed to build the first museum to span his career.

(Photo across: Bryn Bird, Val, Sir William McAlpine and Robert Hulse look at the plans)



Grot Spots!

Is there a grot spot near you? Somewhere people graffiti, dump their rubbish, abandon cars and not enough is done about it? A big deep pot-hole? Let Val know, so she can get onto the authorities responsible and ask them to put it right.

East London Line Extention gets the go-ahead from Alistair Darling

The East London Line - a rail/tube project which should provide transport links between South London, East London and Docklands - has finally fought off individuals' legal attempts to de-rail the project, and now the project has official Government backing. Valerie – who has pressed for the East London Line extensions for many years – was amongst the first to welcome the Government's official go-ahead, following the 'signing off' of the business case. Val said:

“ Now we can focus on bringing the East London Line tube to South London. At the moment rail bosses plan to run trains without stopping at Brixton. I am urging the Government to work with Mayor, his transport body Transport for London, and the rail authorities to make Brixton an East London Line destination so that Lambeth residents have a fantastic new service, and all East London Line commuters benefit from a Victoria line interchange.

As the East London Line Group point out there are many transport benefits for South Londoners:

- Ø Making public transport better for orbital journeys as well as providing new commuter and cross-river links to centres of employment, eg South London to Canary Wharf
- Ø Significantly reduced journey times for numerous routes
- Ø Knitting together London's suburban railways and Tramlink, north and south of the river
- Ø Increased emphasis on convenient alternatives to the car

Bring the tram to Streatham

Val's campaign with Streatham people and businesses to bring the Croydon Tram to Streatham continues.



Val organised a private meeting between local people and the Mayor so they got an opportunity to tell Ken just why Streatham needs a tram. Ken hinted at the meeting that the Croydon Tram link Extension to Streatham looks favourable. The scheme has now progressed to the next stage, and is being looked at in detail.

Ken Livingstone said

“There is a strong case for extending the Croydon Tramlink between Purley and Streatham. The support of the local boroughs and communities will be vital to make this a reality.

Val Shawcross has been an outstanding advocate for desperately needed transport improvements in this part of London. “

This meeting followed a petition organised by Val and leading local resident, Ralph Beckford, and Community Leaders to support the tram extension, which was signed by over 1,000 residents in under two weeks.

Bus improvements

Val is busy lobbying for a number of bus changes and bus improvements in Lambeth and Southwark. Her latest challenge is to bring a new service to the Kingswood Estate in Dulwich, where local people face severe isolation unless they own a car.

Val said

“A lot of my time is spent on making sure that transport bosses know when their services aren't running properly, or where there are areas people aren't served properly by transport services so that we can do our best to secure improvements. Let me know if you have concerns about your local bus route and I will do my best to help.”



Roots and Shoots

Roots and Shoots provide education and training for young people in Lambeth and Southwark on horticulture, nature and the environment. Congratulations to the group for £100,000 grant from the London Development Agency towards building their new education centre.

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