

## Valerie Shawcross AM

London Assembly Member for Lambeth and Southwark

*fighting for your safety first*

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As your London Assembly Member I like to keep you up-to-date on what I am doing on your behalf in City Hall and the constituency, and I hope the items are of interest. If you would like to contact me, about these or other issues, my details are at the end of this newsletter.

### Fighting Crime

Communities across Lambeth and Southwark have sought my support in their efforts to tackle antisocial behaviour and crime.

#### Crystal Palace Action

I met residents in Gipsy Hill Police Station and heard concerns about how living on the borders of 5 boroughs leads to uncoordinated crime prevention work by councils and a lack of co-ordinated police action. I am supporting them by calling on police to set up an area-based team.

#### Herne Hill

Tessa Jowell and I are working to support work to improve cross Borough Boundary Policing at Herne Hill. Herne Hill Community forum have highlighted concerns that we are taking up.

#### Camberwell

The Camberwell Community Forum held a public meeting where I heard that Southwark Council and Lambeth Council are failing to collaborate to manage antisocial behaviour, alcohol abuse and begging and an initiative is needed to make the area feel safer.

I am working with the Forum to help deliver a better coordinated approach.

#### Help at hand

I support the Mayor's plans to increase police numbers in London and believe all evidence says we should be focusing additional police and police community support officers into policing our streets and neighbourhoods.



Ian Thomas, Borough Commander, Ken Livingstone, David Brunskill and Val at the meeting to discuss crime in Rotherhithe  
copyright Hayley Madden

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### Tackling Crime in Rotherhithe

Ken Livingstone accepted Val's invitation in September to attend a public meeting of residents in Rotherhithe exasperated by the violence and yobbish behaviour of young gangs.

Following the meeting and much local lobbying by community leaders, the Southwark Borough Commander presented a more detailed plan to the community for upgrading the police response in Rotherhithe as well as allocating 2 new additional police community support officers. The "Rotherhithe peninsula Action Plan" achieved a 25% reduction in crime in the area in its first month.

Val said "It's great that we are making progress in the fight against crime in Rotherhithe.

But this is not a moment for complacency - we must all work together, the police and the community, and scare off the criminals and the yobs who too often scare us."

Valerie

## A Loughborough Junction at the crossroads support for a new study to help regeneration in the area.



The Loughborough Junction area - otherwise known as the Angel - is receiving London Development Agency support for a new study to help regeneration in the area.

Val said "I am glad that the Mayor's regeneration donor has started to recognise the need to uplift this area, my aspiration for Loughborough Junction is that the new East London Line tube/train service should have a new platform stop built and scheduled at the station. The area also needs constant and effective policing to tackle the persistent drug dealers who drag the neighbourhood down.

A petition in support of an East London line stop at Loughborough Junction is currently out.

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## Spotlight on South London's theatres

Did you know that the GLA has a cultural strategy for London and sees our theatres as a vital part in our economy, as well as adding quality to our lives?

The London Development Agency has made major grants to assist with the building of a new Unicorn Children's theatre on Tooley Street and to rebuild the Young Vic Theatre on the Cut.

If you live in West Norwood you may have noticed the South London Theatre in the old fire station. It is entirely voluntary run and managed on a shoestring but provides great opportunity for young people to get involved in theatre. Congratulations to all at the South London Theatre.



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## Racial harassment, attacks, abuse? Report it Call 020 7635 8882 - Racial Incidents Forum

Val hosted the launch of the Southwark Racial Incident's Forum, which provides support and advice for those who have suffered racial crime. Southwark Race and Equalities Council have played the key role in establishing this community lead project. (see across - Val helping to cut the cake at the launch)

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## Better buses for South London?

In early November, Val organised two public consultation meetings so she could inform Transport for London of improvements needed. Some of the most common complaints were:

- Bad behaviour of some passengers causes grief on buses - more action is (and needs to be) taken.
- Irregular service: there are still long gaps and frequent bunching
- Overcrowding on buses is a problem; often don't stop because they are so full.
- Where there is only one bus to catch it really matters how late it is; London Buses should prioritise buses where there is no choice of route.
- Poor driving is a cause of concern, especially for the very young or old. London Buses representative, Andrew Boag, said people should report bad driving to 020-7918 4300
- Several people asked for Countdown to be extended and improved.
- TFL need to look at where buses terminate - too many routes terminate near the Streatham borders

Despite clear progress since Transport for London was established in 2000, there is clearly still room for improvement. Please contact TFL directly or Val Shawcross with your comments, suggestions and complaints



## Cross about crossings

Although TfL only runs the main 'red route' roads in London Val has taken up numerous complaints from Councillors, parents and schools about inadequate pedestrian crossing facilities.

Val is currently lobbying for improvements at Clapham South station with Councillor Joanna Clason Peckham High Street with Councillor Andy Simmons and the crossing at Brixton Hill near Water Lane Junction with a local school and Councillor Nick Cattemole.

## An accident waiting to happen

Joanna Clason said

" We are delighted to have Val's support with improving dangerous crossings - it is vital we get the Council and TfL to work together."

Val said

"The local councils and Transport for London just wait for accidents to actually happen before upgrading crossing facilities. This needs to change - we need to improve roads and crossings before a child dies or is seriously hurt."

## A new Elephant?

Mayor Ken Livingstone has expressed in principle support for the redrafted regeneration plan to redevelop the Elephant & Castle area, but with reservations about the amount of social housing.

Val said

" I share the Mayor's concerns that the council's current plan will reduce the number of council rented homes overall. I believe that as well as new private homes, they should aim to replace the same number of spacious council homes around the site".



Val and Ken look at proposals for the Elephant and Castle

(copyright Hayley Madden)

## In the heart of Vauxhall .....



Val's recent walkabout with the Kennington Association and KOV to look at the effect of congestion charging on the area took a surprise turn when Val meet a four legged resident at Vauxhall City Farm.

## Movement on the Railways

Val has met with Richard Bowker (Chair SRA) and SRA Board Member David Quamby to raise issues concerning the poor state and neglect of South London Stations as well as key issues on the East London Extension - including the threat to close Rotherhithe Station.

## Clean ups needed

Additionally Val has taken up the issue of the many dark and dank overground rail bridges in London. South Lambeth Place (Vauxhall) is currently being cleaned and upgraded following pressure from Val and Sail Street Bridge (Lambeth) has been taken up by Val. "These dark dingy places add to peoples fear of crime, and can be so easily upgraded".

Val Shawcross AM, London Assembly Labour Group,  
City Hall, Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA

## Catching on to the Tram!

Val has continued to press Transport for London and the Mayor to make progress on Trams for London.

"The London Tram is planned to link Brixton and Peckham with central London. There are studies underway looking at options for siting the all important tram depot and examining the impact of the tram on local traffic- but the Mayor still aims to install this tram scheme by 2011 and I fully support him" said Val.

Detailed discussions about the proposed extension of the Croydon Tramlink scheme are about to take place. Val said

" From my discussions with Transport for London there is a clear message - Local Councils must whole heartedly back tram plans if they want them introduced in their areas.

So I urge all tram supporters to lobby their local councillor to back the plans for the tram. "

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## A better way of working for London's Fire Brigade

Mayor Ken Livingstone and Val jointly launched the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) draft London Safety Plan.

The draft plan outlines new ways of working, concentrating more resources on preventing fires and other emergencies as well as fire fighting.

Val, who is Chair of LFEPA, said: "This development is a much better way of working for London's fire service. This Plan gives us the opportunity to redirect our resources where they are really needed."

The period of open consultation on the draft plan continues until the end of the year. If you want to see or comment on the plan you can find it on the web at [www.london-fire.gov.uk](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk) or telephone 020 7587 6390.



Val meets the British Transport Police in October to swap notes on London's security and to talk about the policing of South London's overground and underground stations.

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