

Grabbing the gongs at 'green Oscars'

As the Chair of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) I was honoured to accept the Corporation of London's Sustainable City Trophy on behalf of London Fire Brigade recently.

Forty similar schemes are being developed over the coming years and we are also pioneering the use of waste fire hoses in commercial furniture design!

Emissions

This is the top award in London's so-call 'green Oscars' and recognises LFEPA's 'sustainable procurement' policies. This involves measures like purchasing fire engines which meet EU standards for harmful emissions, creating a sustainability investment fund for renewable technologies and energy saving measures and expanding our contacts in the recycling industry. So far two fire stations have been fitted with wind turbines and a further two fitted with solar panels.

Recycling

I am delighted that City of London Corporation has recognised the Brigade for its foresight and commitment to tackling green issues



Val and Barbara Riddell, LFEPA resources director, receive the award from Zac Goldsmith.

Mayor slashes bus fares

I was delighted with the Mayor's recent announcement that bus fares for London are to be slashed by 10% as of September 30th this year.

Discount

Oyster pre-pay users will now be charged just 90p for a bus journey at any time of day, while weekly bus pass users will also enjoy a discounted rate of £13 for a weekly pass – a pound off the current price. It is estimated that 1.6 million Lon-

doners will benefit from the new lower fares.

Improved

Large parts of Lambeth & Southwark are not served by the underground and many people rely on our hugely improved bus network to get out and about. I hope even more people will buy an Oyster card too!



Celebrating Lambeth and Southwark's Older People

Recently I have been looking at ways to help raise the profile of older Londoners and the great contribution they make to the city, for example through work as volunteers, carers and activists.

It has been suggested that this could be achieved in an effective and enjoyable way would be by holding an awards event aimed at older Londoners in Lambeth and Southwark. This would recognise and celebrate the involvement of those over 60 in the life of London. After some initial meetings this looks set to go ahead in the late autumn.

More information on this will follow, so get thinking about an older person you know who deserves recognition.

Pick up problems at West Dulwich station

Drivers wishing to pick up or drop off passengers at West Dulwich station have recently been getting fined for correctly parking in the stations 'pick up/drop off' bays in Thurlow Park Road.

There is insufficient 'pick up/drop off' provision at West Dulwich, particularly if an elderly or disabled passenger needs escorting to the station or luggage needs unloading. I have contacted TfL to get this looked into.



News from

Summer 2007

Valerie

Shawcross

Lambeth & Southwark's Labour Voice on the London Assembly

Let's perk up Peckham

I am always working to improve travel conditions for my constituents and I have been very pleased recently to have promoted exciting discussions with Network Rail, Peckham Town Centre Management and The Lane ward councillors Mark Glover, Gordon Nardell and Susan Jones, about potential reworking of Peckham Rye's station frontage, and creation of a possible 'station square' for the area.

As local people, or those who use Peckham Rye station will know, sadly this very beautiful old building is currently obscured by some poor quality buildings. The illustrations opposite show how the station was once part of a Victorian Square and how the present state of the area could look if it were to be redeveloped.

I have been very pleased with the positive response that I have received towards the idea. There is tremendous potential for public sector agencies to work with commercial concerns to great effect on this project—for example did you know that the station building contains a huge hall which was used as a billiards club in the past? I believe there are great possibilities for bringing this beautiful space back into use, perhaps as a pub, café or restaurant for station users and local people alike.

I very much look forward to seeing how this progresses and will of course, keep my constituents informed.

What do you think of this idea? Do you use the station regularly and have comments or suggestions about how the area could be improved? Please get in touch using the reply slip on the back page.

Peckham: Past, Present and Future?



C. 1880



Today



In the future?

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.

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News in Brief

Sorting Streatham's *stations*

• **Cross River Tram** –The recent consultation received a huge amount of support for the tram—very many thanks to everyone who took the time to respond. These results are now being considered to identify the best route for the new tram link.

• **Crystal Palace Park**—visitors to the park will have noticed progress being made with the old turnstiles near the station having been removed recently. Capel Manor horticultural college are hoping to re-open the farm sometime during 2007 and an exciting programme of concerts and events is planned for the park over the summer—visit www.crystalpalacepark.net for more details.

• **Brixton Central Square**—a public exhibition on designs for a new streetscape for Brixton, has just ended. A great deal of feedback has been received and the planning process will allow for consultation with local people. For more information you can contact the Future Lambeth team on 0800 052 6336 or email futurebrixton@lambeth.gov.uk

There's been good news for Streatham commuters recently as following lobbying from me and others all three rail stations have seen improvements:

Call for repairs at Streatham station 'grot spot'

Several Streatham commuters contacted me recently about flooding down the stairs at Streatham station, caused by a large hole in the station ceiling. As well as looking unsightly this also meant that puddles of water and buckets in the stairwell in heavy rain caused a health and safety issue. After I visited the station and contacted the train company and Network Rail, the needed repairs were carried out. In addition, Southern will be spending £20k on revamping the ticket office and bright anti-vandal lights are to be fitted in the stairwells.

Ken celebrates station improvements at Streatham Hill

I was pleased to join Mayor Ken Livingstone at Streatham Hill station earlier this year to mark the completion of security improvements at 50% of London's suburban rail stations—funded by the Mayor through Transport for London. The occasion included a visit to Southern Rail's state of the art CCTV centre, based in the station. TfL and the Mayor have now spent over £20million pounds on security improvements on London's overground rail network. They are now calling on all train operators to allocate funding to raise station security across London.

Long awaited second entrance at Streatham Common

Up to 7,000 commuters a day will now have easier access to Streatham Common's platforms, after £600,000 investment from Lambeth Council, TfL, Southern Rail and Network Rail. The old entrance building on the corner of Streatham Vale and Eardley Road has been derelict for years and I was pleased to attend the opening of the new refurbished entrance in May by transport minister Tom Harris MP and the then Mayor of Lambeth, Cllr. Liz Atkinson. In addition, the Department for Transport will be installing new lifts as part of the 'Access for All' project.



Moves to tackle anti-social behaviour on Bermondsey estates

Residents on the Four Squares and Kirby estates in Bermondsey have suffered excessive anti-social behaviour from gangs of youths for some time. Earlier this year it was decided that enough was enough and I joined the residents and Southwark police in their call for a 'dispersal zone' in the area.

Scatter

Dispersal Zones, which mean police can arrest groups who refuse to scatter in a particular area and escort younger children back to their homes, have proved successful in other boroughs where

similar problems have arisen.

Survey

I conducted a door to door survey in the area which showed a clear public call for action. Following our campaigning, the Council have announced that a dispersal zone will take effect on the Four Squares and Kirby estates in the week commencing 16th July 2007 for a period of six months. The zone will also cover the Slippers' Place, Millpond and Pynford Estates. I hope that this move will mean a reduction in anti-social behaviour in the area.



Phone box drugs den—outrage as BT put profits above public protection in Brixton

For some time now, I have been working with Lambeth Police, Transport for London and Lambeth Council to try and get some of the phone boxes outside Brixton Underground station removed.

Crime

In all, there are 12 boxes in this area and police claim that the boxes are encouraging drug dealing and associated crime in the town centre. Transport for London, who are planning a large-scale refurbishment of the street scene in Brixton Road are also unhappy with the boxes as they impact on these proposals. Despite repeated requests to BT and promises of co-operation, little

has been forthcoming.

I am outraged that this is still unresolved. TfL and the police have quite clearly stated on a number of occasions that the kiosks contribute to overcrowding, block 'sight lines' along Brixton Road which makes it difficult to identify the drug pushers operating outside the station, and above all, provide a haven for drug users and dealers.

Problem

BT have stated demand for use of the kiosks as a reason why they cannot be removed, claiming that customers wishing to make calls need to be accommodated. However there are a number of phone boxes close to this area which do not pose such a problem to transport users or the police.

The campaign continues—you may have seen my appearance on BBC London in a report on this issue!

Val being interviewed.



Demanding better *buses*

I have been working with local residents and councillors to resolve several issues with our bus services—here is a round up—and see overleaf for details of new cheaper fares!

Call for more 2's and 432's for Tulse Hill

Tulse Hill councillors Marcia Cameron, Toren Smith and Ade Aminu have collected a 150 signature petition as part of their campaign for more buses to be provided on routes 2 and 432. Passengers are fed up with being squashed like sardines on these routes. I presented the petition to the London Assembly in April and TfL are considering adding a new service to Tulse Hill to be numbered route 415.

343 Overcrowding

As residents of Camberwell know, the 343 is the only bus service running along Southampton Way. A well used service, the 343 buses often can't pick up passengers along this part of the route because they are too full. I have surveyed and met with residents in the Southampton Way area for their views on the 343 bus and have asked TfL to look at the number of passengers travelling on the 343 route with a view to providing a more frequent service with more buses.

Success for Streatham Vale Night bus petitioners

Earlier this year I presented a petition (pictured with Cllr. Mark Bennett) calling for the N133 to be rerouted along Streatham Vale—where currently there is no night bus service and those arriving home late or working shifts can face a long, dark walk. I am pleased to say that TfL are now proposing to consult on this proposal. This goes to show what local campaigning can achieve!

Tackling Taxi Touts in Clapham

We've all seen the high profile media campaigns by the Mayor and the Safer Travel at Night (STAN) campaign warning of the dangers of using an unlicensed minicab. Although things have improved over the last few years, unfortunately nine women a month are still sexually assaulted by unlicensed drivers, so it is always safer to use a licensed cab or night bus to get home. I was contacted recently by Cllr. Christopher Wellbelove due to an ongoing problem with taxi touts creating nuisance in Clapham. We contacted the Met's taxi unit, who have been monitoring the area and things should improve. If you see any behaviour of this kind do inform myself or the police..