

Menace of intimidating dogs

At a recent meeting of the Kennington, Oval and Vauxhall Forum (KOV) the issues of the use of dogs to intimidate the public, attacks by dogs and the use of dogs to commit crime was raised.

irresponsible owners. Some areas do much to tackle dog related incidents, but this is not consistent.

Action Plan

My Assembly colleagues and I will be calling for a London-wide action plan on this issue and asking the Mayor, as Chair of the MPA, to see that this is adhered to across the city. I'd be grateful for your views—please get in touch!

Irresponsible

This is becoming a bigger issue across London, but there is no pan-London policy for dealing with these dogs—or more precisely, their

Cross Bones Graveyard, SE1

You may not realise that tucked away on Redcross Way, SE1 is a reminder of Bankside's less salubrious history!

commemorative plaque on the gates in Redcross Way and an informal shrine of flowers and ribbons made by the informal Cross Bones group.

Brothels

Cross Bones Graveyard, is owned by TfL and was originally a 'single women's graveyard' - a euphemism for the prostitutes working in Bankside's legalised brothels. Today you can see a

Memorial

The group are keen to ensure that any future development will retain a memorial of those buried there and that part of the site will be kept for public use.

Markets need TLC

Given the current economic climate, our street markets are becoming more important as a source of less expensive, quality food, particularly for fresh fruit and vegetables and also form an important part of British, and London's rich cultural history. But some of our markets have been neglected and are now in desperate need of some investment.

Investment

East Street Market in Walworth is one example, the market is now in a terrible state of disrepair. Harriet

Camilla comes to Coldharbour!

As patron of the Ebony Horse Club, based in Brixton, I was delighted to attend a recent visit to the Club by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall. Ebony Horse Club is run by Ros Spearing and her team to provide learning about riding and horses to children from Brixton who would not otherwise have the opportunity.

Awards

The Duchess met the club's organisers to look at their exciting plans for a new riding centre for the club, before meeting some of the talented young people who use the

club and presenting awards to them.

This was a wonderful event, enjoyed by both the Duchess and the young people taking part who got a real boost from meeting her. Her visit also attracted positive attention from various national funding organisations and as a result we are now more hopeful than ever of making progress in the development of Ebony's new equestrian centre for Brixton.



Harman and I have been working to encourage Southwark Council to deal with this.

In a more specialised sector, I recently visited Bermondsey Antique Market. I had a wonderful time looking at the fascinating range of items on sale—the market operates in Bermondsey Square every Friday morning—and have been in touch with TfL to try and resolve the traders' parking problems.



News from

Winter 2008

Valerie

Shawcross

Lambeth & Southwark's Labour Voice on the London Assembly

Dear Resident

A big thank you!

I was proud and delighted to be re-elected to serve as your London Assembly for a further four years in May and would like to thank everyone for their confidence and support. And while we have a new Mayor and administration, I intend to stand up for Londoners and campaign on the issues that matter to Lambeth and Southwark, as I have in the past.

Transport in South London

This year I will be serving as Chair of the Assembly Transport Committee, a key role in scrutinising key transport proposals in London. As well as acting in the best interests of London as a whole, I will of course, be using this role to advocate the importance of projects and transport services for Lambeth and Southwark, for example the need for the East London Line Phase 2 proposals to be funded.

I look forward to working with you and for you over the next four years. Please do get in touch with me if you feel I can be of any help or assistance with issues affecting Londoners.

With Best Wishes

Valerie Shawcross

Valerie Shawcross AM
London Assembly Member for Lambeth &



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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This year I have been elected as Chair of the London Assembly Transport Committee. This scrutinises how the Mayor and Transport for London (TfL) are running and developing transport services in London. Here you can read about some of the things I've been looking into.

Mayor scraps tram projects

I am extremely disappointed to report that Mayor Boris Johnson has chosen to scrap plans for a number of key transport projects, including both the Cross River Tram and the Croydon Tramlink extension to Crystal Palace.

locally, I have been campaigning for the Mayor to continue work on the CRT. In September I was joined at City Hall by Southwark councillors and members of the Evolution Quarter Residents Association, who hired an open top London bus to drive along the route of the tram to City Hall. They presented me with a petition containing over 1000 signatures calling on the Mayor to keep the Cross River Tram alive. Sadly this has fallen on deaf ears.

Petition

You will know that I have been a great supporter of these schemes for some time and this spells the end of two tremendously important transport proposals. Trams are clean, fast and reliable, the CRT would have reduced congestion on the Northern Line and local buses and boosted local economies in areas like Peckham and Brixton - arguably some of the places most in need of the Mayor's support.

Both in the Transport Committee and



Campaigners' message falls on deaf ears.

I recently led a cross-party deputation to the Mayor including councillors and Assembly Members from four boroughs to lobby for the Tram and in Committee I have also been working to promote trams as a great form of transport. Over the summer the committee visited Croydon Tram Link's Therapia Lane depot. I was Leader of Croydon council when the Tramlink was being implemented and it's clear how very successful and popular the scheme is, despite the initial opposition to it. Not only has it improved transport links but has helped the Croydon economy by

Popular



Val at the Croydon Tramlink Depot.

attracting new shops and businesses to the area. However, the Mayor has also dropped plans to extend the tram network to Crystal Palace, and the opportunity for a great boost to the local economy in Upper Norwood has been lost.

Potential

I would like to thank everyone who has supported the tram proposals and urge you to write to Mayor Johnson as part of the consultation on his new transport strategy by January 16th.

denied us for too long. But we want more!

Boost

The current works are only Phase 1 of the proposed extension and I am



Visiting the works at New Cross Gate.

working hard to secure funding for Phase 2—which would see a further branch extend from Surrey Quays through Peckham, Denmark Hill and Clapham to Clapham Junction! Obviously this would be a tremendous boost for our area and would relieve a lot of pressure on bus routes and the overcrowded Northern line.

Support

At the time of writing we are still awaiting a decision on this. I have led a cross-party lobby to the Mayor seeking his support and our MP's will be meeting with the transport minister shortly - watch this space!

East London Line Progress

If you have travelled by overground train in parts of South East London recently, you'll be aware of the progress that is being made on the new East London Line extension which will join north London with New Cross, West Croydon and Crystal Palace. I was fortunate enough to visit the works at New Cross Gate over the summer. It was extremely exciting to see stretches of brand new railway being constructed. South London is getting the improved transport links which have been

Flushed with success - Streatham Common station gets new ladies loo

Southern Railways have answered the call of nature for commuters after I lobbied them successfully for a new ladies' toilet at Streatham Common station.

Spending pennies

I was delighted to open the new loos in August. Southern have spent £30,000 on the new ladies and disabled toilets which will be invaluable not just for women in general but particularly for pregnant women and mums with small children. The work adds to improvements such as the new Eardley Road entrance which was opened last year.



Val opens the new loo in appropriate style!

Leigham Vale Bus Battle

I have been supporting residents in Leigham Vale with their campaigns for a new bus route along the Vale and for a pedestrian footbridge over the railway line. Both of these initiatives would vastly improve things for Leigham Vale residents by reducing the need for extremely lengthy walks to access public transport links. I have presented a 200 signature petition calling for a bus route to the Mayor and will be visiting the area over the next few weeks with Network Rail and TfL to look into the situation.



Val accepts the petition from campaigners l-r Liz du Parcq, Chuka Umunna and Malcolm Evans.

Up *your* street

Bermondsey Rat-Running

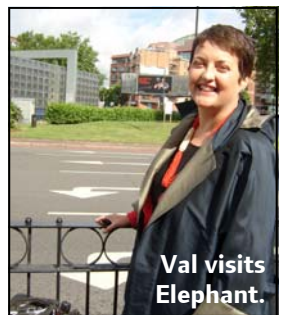
I recently hosted a visit from the Bermondsey Pensioners Action Group who told me about the problems with rat running in quiet residential streets off Jamaica Road as motorists try to avoid delays caused by the traffic lights there. I have visited the site to see the issue for myself and am in touch with TfL about this and hope we can find a solution to the problem.



At Jamaica Road with local campaigner Kath Whittam.

Elephant extinct?

The project to rejuvenate Elephant and Castle has been scrutinised and approved many times already. But the Mayor has held up the works again so that he can ensure that motorists will not be unduly inconvenienced by works to improve things for cyclists and pedestrians! The proposed scheme would replace the south roundabout with a simpler light controlled junction and removing the very inhospitable and unpleasant subways!



Val visits Elephant.

Peckham Rye Station update

You'll know that I have been a strong supporter of the Peckham Programme's plans to re-vamp Peckham Rye Station. I'm pleased to say that a new report on how this project can be taken forward will be launched in November! More updates to follow—this is an exciting development.



How a new Peckham might look?

Mammoth

I have made clear to TfL that this needs to go ahead quickly—the safety of cyclists and pedestrians demands fast action! I will be monitoring this situation closely.

On *your* train

Overcrowded Overground

One of the most annoying aspects of living and working in London can be the daily commute, particularly in parts of the capital which are not as well served by the tube network—like South London.

Capacity

The transport committee will be doing a scrutiny project on overcrowding on the overground rail network in London, to identify particular problem lines and areas. I hope we'll be able to work with the train operating companies to improve capacity and reduce the problems to

make everyone's commute a more comfortable experience. If you always have trouble finding a seat on the train to or from work, or have difficulty getting on the first train that arrives, or even getting off it again, than we want to hear from you! Please either get in touch using the form overleaf, or email our transport scrutiny team directly at overcrowding@london.gov.uk

