

VALERIE SHAWCROSS AM

Summer Update



A mid-year snapshot of Val's work for
Lambeth & Southwark at the London Assembly!

2011

Bus business

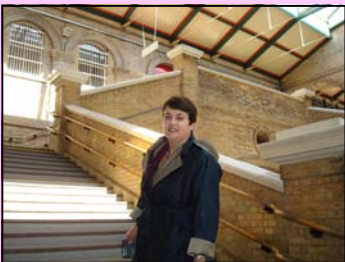
Bus services continue to loom large in my mailbag/inbox and current hot topics include overcrowding and a need for larger buses on the P12, where I have worked with local councillors and parents and children from St Francesca Cabrini primary school.

Problems are continuing with unreliability on the 343, and I meet regularly with representatives from Evolution Quarter residents' association and TfL on this. TfL are working on some new suggestions for how the lack of bus services through North Peckham can be improved.

And, after a long campaign, the Weir Estate in Streatham is to benefit from a much needed extension to the 255.



Train Services and Access to Stations



Many of you will be aware that the South London Line service between London Bridge and Victoria via Peckham Rye will close next year. My survey of 2,500 residents in the Clapham area—which received a 10% return rate—clearly shows the inconvenience this will cause to commuters in Clapham.

Another cause I am campaigning on is the need for new lifts at Crystal Palace station—I presented a petition to the Assembly on this recently. I hope this will help secure the same success as at Denmark Hill station, where installation of new lifts has finally begun!

Standing up for Cyclists

I was pleased to join with cross-party Assembly colleagues recently to meet with the London Cycle Campaign and accept their 10,000 signature petition calling for more cycle awareness training for HGV drivers.

My colleague John Biggs and I have also been working together on cyclist safety on Blackfriars Bridge, amid concerns about the way the road has been reconfigured to accommodate the new Blackfriars rail station. And at Vauxhall, I am lobbying for TfL to improve pedestrian facilities and cyclists' safety around the infamous gyratory.



Down the Tube



There are three key Underground lines running through the heart of my constituency—the Jubilee, Victoria and Northern. Technical problems have dogged the Jubilee and Victoria line upgrades, leading to delays and even evacuations. Despite continued reassurances from TfL that the Jubilee upgrade will be completed this summer, we are still unsure as to when this will happen.

The Northern line upgrade is now underway, and I am keeping a close eye on plans for the extension to Battersea. I think this is a necessary project, but local people's concerns about noise and loss of green spaces, must be addressed.



Policing pressures

My London Assembly colleagues and I are concerned about the impact of budget cuts on police numbers, particularly after the 2012 Olympics.

Decline

I remain a member of the Metropolitan Police Authority and the projections for police numbers over the next two and a half years show a marked decline. Police numbers are predicted to fall by around 900 by 2014 and the numbers of police community support officers (PCSO's) is set to drop by almost 1,000.



Reductions

Changes to Safer Neighbourhood Teams could also see one sergeant running two teams and reductions in team sizes. I am deeply concerned about this and will be arguing for the case to retain Safer Neighbourhood Teams in their current format.

Good News for two Good Causes!



Ebony Horse Club

As a patron of **Ebony Horse Club**, who provide horse riding lessons and opportunities for disadvantaged children from the Brixton area, I am delighted that the club's new riding school in Loughborough Junction is almost finished! This provides a fully accessible community facility with stables for eight ponies and horses, stable yard, paddock and classroom. **Congratulations on a great job!**

www.ebonyhorseclub.org.uk

I was delighted to host the launch event for the **Save Herne Hill Velodrome** fund at City Hall earlier this year and watch the group's progress with interest. The Velodrome campaign is in line for a half million pound grant of Olympic legacy funding from Southwark Council—**this piece of local sporting history deserves a new lease of life.**



www.savethevelodrome.com



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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