



# Harriet Harman QC MP

## MP for Camberwell & Peckham



### AYLESBURY RENEWAL

At last the Council have finally decided the way forward for the Aylesbury. They have chosen to pull down the estate and build new homes for sale and for rent.

But though the big decision has been made, there is still a long way to go before all the estates residents – both tenants and leaseholders – can see what the future holds for them.

The first thing the Council needs to sort out is the situation for the residents now. Residents cannot be expected to endure another winter with heating and hot water breaking down. Just because the estate is to be demolished, it doesn't mean faulty lifts, blocked chutes and broken lighting can be left. On the contrary – the Council must sustain the confidence of residents that they have not been forgotten while the detail of the demolition plans are worked up.

The Council needs to get on with the demolition and rebuilding as soon as possible. And they must be absolutely certain that they quickly and fairly re-house tenants and buy out leaseholders. The worse thing is when most flats are empty and the last tenants live in a no-man's land of squatters and drug dealing.

That happened on the North Peckham Estate redevelopment and is happening on the Acorn Estate now. Lessons must be learned – that time is critical in such large redevelopments.

The Council should put a halt on new applications for the right-to-buy on the Aylesbury. It doesn't make sense for the Council to be selling flats now, when they know they will have to buy them back. And long-drawn out negotiations with leaseholders has, in previous large-scale redevelopments, delayed the rebuilding. Together with the three Councillors, I am pressing the Council to carry out an early evaluation of flats owned by leaseholders to ensure that leaseholders get a fair deal.

Because speed is important, now that the decision has been made, I hope that there will be no move to try and get the council to reverse it. They have clearly made their decision, they have the backing

of the Government and the reality is that there will be no turning back. Attempts to reverse the decision will only cause further delay without any prospect of changing the decision. David Miliband MP, the Government Minister for Communities and Local Government, has made it clear to me in a letter of 13th October 2005 that there is absolutely no possibility of a '4th option'.

I will be closely monitoring the Council. And I will be strongly supporting the residents on the tenants' associations and the NDC board. They are hard-working, community minded people who have, over the last years spent hundreds of hours in meetings trying to thrash out the best solution for their estate. They have had to take tough decisions and they have my full admiration. I will also be working closely with the team of Faraday Ward Councillors. Not all wards are as lucky as to have a team of councillors with the dedication and commitment of Cllr Lorraine Lauder, Cllr Abdul Mohamed and Cllr Paul Bates.

The improvement of the estate is not for the sake of the Council, or the neighbouring areas – its for the residents themselves. The residents must be protected from the threats that demolition plans can bring and must be the beneficiaries of the new homes.

Now the decision has been made, the council must - in full consultation with the tenants – get on with it.



Harriet with Cllr Abdul Mohamed, Cllr Lorraine Lauder and Cllr Paul Bates

# Harriet Harman MP Advice Surgeries

**Southwark Town Hall, Peckham Road,  
London SE5 8UB**

Friday 7th Oct	<b>10.00am</b>
Friday 14th Oct	<b>10.00am</b>
Tuesday 25th Oct	<b>6:00pm</b>
Friday 4th Nov	<b>10.00am</b>
Friday 11th Nov	<b>10.00am</b>
Tuesday 22nd Nov	<b>6.00pm</b>
Friday 2nd Dec	<b>10.00am</b>
Friday 9th Dec	<b>10:00am</b>
Tuesday 13th Dec	<b>6.00pm</b>

I hold regular surgeries at the Town Hall. If you've got a problem you can come to see me. Or you can email me on [harmanh@parliament.uk](mailto:harmanh@parliament.uk) or write to me at The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. There are about 60 people at every surgery. They tell me - and my team - what the problem is and we tell them what I am able to do to help. I then write and keep them informed of the progress on their case. I know my surgeries are important for those I can help - with problems on housing, benefits or immigration, but they also help me meet and keep in touch with the concerns of my constituents.

My House of Commons Action team - Dora Dixon-Fyle, Fiona Brenner and Charlotte Montague are well-known in Westminster as really dedicated and hard-working.



Harriet & team at an advice surgery in the Town Hall



Harriet talks to two police officers in Camberwell

## Southwark Police 1000 Campaign

The latest figures show that there are now in Southwark 890 police, with 165 civilian staff and 36 Community Support Officers to back them up.

More police, especially patrolling the streets and estates, is one of the top demands people in my constituency make. So I set up the Southwark Police 1,000 campaign in 2002. 1,000 is the number of officers that the Southwark Police say they need to carry out all their duties.

The campaign, which I chair, includes local councillors, Tessa Jowell MP and Simon Hughes MP, Val Shawcross, our GLA member, the Police Sector working parties and the Southwark Police Consultative Committee.

We meet regularly to take stock of our progress and to work out next steps. So far we've put pressure on the Metropolitan Police Authority, the Mayor of London, the Metropolitan Commissioner, and the Home Secretary. And since the time the campaign started, we've got 115 more police.

We're making progress, but still have a long way to go.