



### General Election 2017

Thanks to all those who worked so hard in Camberwell & Peckham, especially my agent, Barrie Hargrove, campaign organiser Lorin Bell-Cross, CLP Secretary Katharine Morshead, Council Leader Peter John, the Camberwell & Peckham Councillors and members who sat at polling stations.

#### **The General Election was a terrific result in Camberwell and Peckham.**

Turnout was up from 62.3% in 2015 to 67.1%. Our majority was up from 25,824 (50.1%) in 2015 to 37,316 (65%) and our share of the vote went from 63.3% to 77.8%. There was genuine enthusiasm at polling stations where I met many people who'd never voted before.



**But even more important was our success in the rest of the country.** We are on the advance and the Tories are in retreat. We have a new found confidence and unity and the Tories are in disarray. We won seats in every region of England - including Bedford, Canterbury, Warwick and Plymouth. We made inroads into Scotland. We strengthened our team in Wales. Going in to the General Election I had feared that we would lose seats. I could not be more pleased to be proved wrong! I overestimated Theresa May and the power of the Tory-supporting press. I underestimated Jeremy Corbyn and the power of direct communication through social media. We did not win the election and form a government but there is every chance we will win next time and that we will not have to wait 5 years.



#### **The Tories are in disarray and damaging the country yet further.**

The Tories have contempt for Theresa May and there is chaos in Parliament as Tory MPs, furious at the General Election, rebel. She is now in a position of weakness negotiating with the EU. She couldn't even form a government without doing a deal with the DUP, jeopardising the peace agreement in N. Ireland. The Tories now despise Theresa May but they're paralysed. They're scared of another leadership election and they're scared of another General Election but the current chaos may well topple them into one. I anticipate there will be many votes as we challenge the

Tories and I will vote with the Labour Whip - as I've always done over the last 35 years! We are ready for another election. The sooner the better. Let's finish the job!

### Fire safety in tower blocks

Following the appalling tragedy of so many lives lost at Grenfell Tower, on 26 June I met Southwark Council Leader Peter John, Cllr Steph Cryan, Cabinet Member for Housing, Helen Hayes MP and a representative from Neil Coyle's office to review fire safety—in particular to be sure that residents in the 54 council blocks in Camberwell and Peckham are safe.

Southwark Council has two key legal duties: one is ensuring people are safe, the other is balancing the books financially. They must be able to do the first without jeopardising the second. But since the Tories took over in 2010 Southwark's budget has been cut by almost half. The cost of additional fire safety work should not be done at the expense of much-needed improvement works to kitchens and bathrooms, which are eagerly awaited by tenants. As Southwark MPs Helen Hayes MP, Neil Coyle MP and I have written to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Sajid Javid to seek confirmation from the government that they will:

- \*Cover the costs of any additional fire safety works in Southwark, including fitting sprinklers in tower blocks.
- \*Not charge leaseholders for fire safety work - about 20% of people in Southwark Council blocks are leaseholders and they already face considerable charges for planned improvement works.
- \*Carry out an urgent review of fire safety regulations, as proposed by the coroner in the 2013 Lakanal House fire inquest.
- \*While the immediate concern is homes, the government must provide resources so other tall buildings including schools and hospitals in Southwark have urgent fire safety inspections too.

In Parliament I've repeatedly called on the government to step up their response and commit to providing Southwark with the money it needs to carry out all necessary work to ensure tenants are safe—questioning Nick Hurd, [the Fire Minister on 15 June](#), [the Prime Minister on 22 June](#) and Sajid Javid, [Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 17 July](#). I will continue to do all I can to be sure tenants in Southwark are safe and hold the government to account.



## Working with Peckham Citizens

[Peckham Citizens](#) is an alliance of local organisations which includes Rye Lane Baptist Chapel, Pecan, the Hidaya Women's Association, St James the Great Primary School, Oliver Goldsmith Primary School and All Saints Peckham which work collectively to improve the local neighbourhood. On 18 May we met at Copleston Church to discuss the local community's wishes for the Aylesham redevelopment. And on 24 June I joined them, local residents, Cllr Mark Williams, Head of Regeneration at Southwark Council, and Lane ward Cllr Jasmine Ali at the Aylesham centre to press the developer 'Tiger' to set aside housing and jobs for local people on the redevelopment, which will create over 400 new homes and 50 new shops in Peckham.

To support Peckham Citizens' work to engage young people in democracy I've arranged tours of Parliament in September for St James the Great and Oliver Goldsmith primary schools. I'm pleased that we are working together and I will continue to back Peckham Citizens' campaigns.



### Mother of the House of Commons

In the debate to re-elect John Bercow as Speaker of the House of Commons, Theresa May announced that as Ken Clarke, the longest serving man MP is the "Father of the House" - as the longest serving women MP I am now "Mother of the House". This was then picked up and endorsed by Jeremy Corbyn, the Lib Dem leader, and Caroline Lucas. This is the first time there has been a Mother of the House and I will use my new role to continue to work on women's equality—starting with getting the law changed to rule out women's previous sexual history being used as evidence in rape cases.

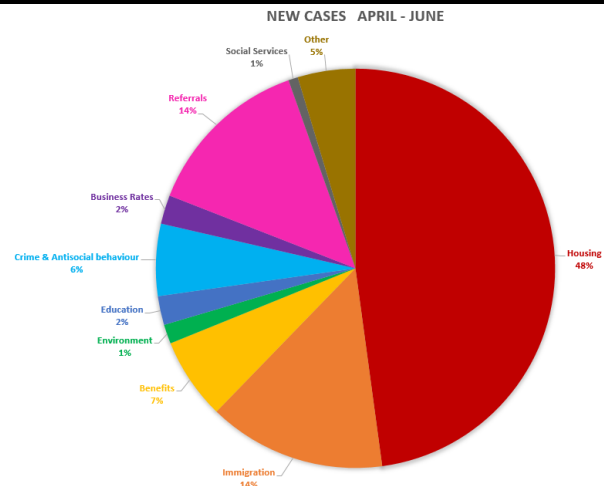
### Camberwell & Peckham General Election Thank you drinks



I was delighted to welcome Angela Rayner MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Education as our special guest at the CLP General Election 'thank you' drinks on 5 July and to see so many local members there.

### Casework:

April - 330 cases  
 May - 314 cases  
 to 15 June - 206 cases



### Constituency case studies

Mr C from Camberwell contacted me because although he had won his appeal against the Home Office decision to refuse his Ghanaian wife a UK visa, over 3 months later the Home Office had still not sent his wife her visa. I wrote to the Home Office on his behalf and Mr C's wife's visa was delivered.

Ms K, a council tenant in Nunhead, contacted me after her fence was damaged in Storm Doris. Southwark Council told her she was responsible for fixing the fence but she believed the council were. I wrote to the council and they have carried out repair works to fix the fence.

Mr M from Peckham contacted me concerned about a number of letters he had received from Southwark Council incorrectly warning him he was in rent arrears. I wrote to the Council asking for this to be looked into, they corrected the error on his account and have stopped sending him letters.

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