

BID TO STAMP OUT VILLAINS

A NEW offensive aimed at stamping out crime on a depressed inner city estate was launched on Tuesday.

Shadow Home Secretary Tony Blair cut a tape to open Britain's first community route, on the Camden Estate, Peckham Road, Peckham, funded by Southwark Council.

A thick orange line has been painted on a main route running through the square and powerful light-

personal alarms for victims of domestic violence and CCTV for Elephant and Castle and parts of Peckham.

Home Office surveys show that most people are 'very worried' about being burgled, mugged or robbed.

Tuesday's new initiative was applauded by the police, community, politicians and councillors who all stressed the importance of working in partnership to crack crime.

Mr. Blair said criminals were forcing people to live in fear and it was a great shame such measures had to be taken.

Peckham MP Harriet Harman said she would use the route when she attended her surgeries at the Camden Tenants' Association hall in Camden Square.

Frank Forde, Tenants Association chairman, said, "We are taking the initiative. The muggers are on the run."

He said he had lived on the estate for years but they were yet to catch a mugger despite numerous attempts.

He said the attackers tended not to be from the estate but knew the escape routes through the maze of garages and 350 flats.



● From left to right: Acting Chief Supt. at Peckham Duncan Croll, Cllr. Jeremy Fraser, Cllr. Charlie Cherrill, MP Tony Blair and Harriet Harman MP.

Sunday sales battle

by JON BIRD

AN MP is battling to protect shop workers from being forced to take to the tills on Sundays.

Yes, confusion and legal wrangling over Sunday trading ended on Wednesday night when MPs voted through a package of measures.

They decided by 333 to 258, a majority of 75, to allow big stores and supermarkets to open for up to six hours on a Sunday and small shops all day.

But Deptford MP Joan Ruddock, shadow home office spokeswoman, has tabled an amendment to assure that Sunday workers receive premium payments.

The south London MPs who voted for partial deregulation were: Keith Hill (Streatham), Tess Howell (Dulwich), Bridget Prentice (Lewisham East), Jim Dowd (Lewisham West), Harriet Harman (Peckham) and Joan Ruddock (Deptford).

ing will be trained on walkways.

Two or three closed circuit televisions will be installed to deter would-be criminals.

The vandal-proof cameras, surrounded by steel casings, will be mounted high on buildings and transmit pictures via underground fibre optics to a constantly staffed control room at Southwark town hall in Peckham Road. The measures will cost around £20,000.

Installing the hi-tech equipment by the end of March on the Camden Estate is one of a package of measures designed to fight crime in the borough.

Among other areas being looked at are upgrading lighting on pedestrian crossings, providing more secure door-entry systems,

HARRIET HARMAN

REPORT

JANUARY 1994



Number out of work falls

THE number of jobless in south London has fallen again prompting hope of a sustained recovery.

The level of unemployment in Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham and Wandsworth went down by 1,401 to 87,097 last month — a fall of 1.6 per cent.

The biggest fall was in Deptford where 301 people left the dole queues and the number out of work in Vauxhall, south London's worst hit area, dipped below the 10,000 mark to 9,911.

But the recovery still looks sluggish in Southwark and Bermondsey where just 16 people found work in November, bringing the total unemployed in the area to 7,777.

Around 87 people are now chasing each job vacancy notified to south London's job centres. In October 95 people chased each job in south London.



● MP Harriet Harman.

Labour MP for Peckham, Harriet Harman, fears that the Government's proposed public sector pay freeze will mean new job losses.

She estimates 37,000 jobs will go in London.

Mr. Harman said, "Because high unemployment has caused borrowing to spiral out of control, public sector workers are now being asked to pay the price for the Government's mismanagement of the economy."

Labour MP for Streatham, Keith Hill, expressed concern that there were still 7,690 out of work in his constituency — just 29 fewer than in October.

He said, "This Government has done little over the years to stem the tide of unemployment in Streatham."

Employment spokesman for the Association of London Authorities, Peter Brayshaw, said slight falls in the overall jobless figures offered 'cold comfort' to the young unemployed, who were unable to get jobs because of lack of work experience.

'Poor face double whammy insurance tax'

FAMILIES in some of London's most crime-ridden areas will be hit hardest by next year's insurance tax, which Labour described today as a "double whammy." Publishing a survey of insurance quotes in various areas of London, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury Harriet Harman said the premiums in poor areas were up to four times those

by DAVID SHAW
Parliamentary Correspondent

of relatively affluent areas. She said quotes she had obtained for a standard £15,000 home contents cover were: Upminster £75 a year; Enfield, Croydon and Richmond £90; Putney, Barking, High Barnet and Oval £120; Chelsea £165 and

Hampstead, Hackney and Peckham £330.

In last month's Budget, Chancellor Kenneth Clarke announced plans for a three per cent tax on house and car insurance premiums.

Ms Harman said this meant that those already paying higher premiums would now be hit by an additional tax burden. It was an "iniquitous double

whammy," she said. She warned Labour would vote against the tax and urged Tory MPs to join in and rebel.

Crime had gone up 69 per cent in London since the Tories came to power in 1979, she said. "Having presided over an unprecedented rise in crime, the Conservatives are now punishing the victims with this new tax."

HARRIET HARMAN MP

REPORT

JANUARY 1994

Happy New Year

I'd like to wish happy new year to all the members of Peckham Labour Party.

1) RACE

I issued a new year's message to all the churches, voluntary organisations, councillors etc on the theme of good race relations and standing out against racism. I highlighted the fact that we have, living in Southwark, many people who have come from different parts of the world and people who were born here to parents who immigrated from overseas.

High unemployment, rising crime and overstretched hospitals are all problems for our area but those problems are made worse if the community divides against itself along racial lines.

We must ensure that racism plays no part in the elections this year. We must stand firmly against the politics that put a BNP councillor in at the Isle of Dogs and that means many more families living in fear of racist attacks. The government's deportation of the Jamaican visitors who arrived here at Gatwick on 21st December was disgraceful and simply appeared to condone racist views. I have protested to the Home Secretary and tabled questions about the conduct of this matter.

2) ELECTIONS 1994

The major tasks which face the Party this year are the Council elections and the European elections. Obviously it is essential to keep a healthy working majority on Southwark Council. Although we can be confident that Richard Balfe will be returned as our Euro MP with a strong majority, we need to get every vote out as the press will be adding up not just the number of MEPs from each party, but the number of votes in the country as a whole for each party.

3) MEMBERSHIP

To help us in the elections we need to continue to build the membership of Peckham Labour Party.

Last year the party agreed to go on the pilot project to build our membership by offering a reduced membership fee of £3.50. I have just obtained the latest figures from Walworth Road and last year we recruited an extra 144 new members. Much of the work was done in St Giles ward where they doubled their membership with an extra 58 members. That is an excellent result and I hope we can carry on building the membership campaign. We also need to continue to chase up members who have gone into arrears so that the new members strengthen the party rather than simply replace those that have lapsed.

Many thanks to all those who worked so hard in the membership campaign.

4) THE ECONOMY

Despite the fall in the official total of unemployed, it is clear that stubbornly high unemployment remains a huge problem both in Southwark and the country as a whole. It has to remain top of our political agenda.

The tax increases in the 1993 Budgets which will come into effect from April 1994 will hit particularly hard those on low incomes.

In the Finance Bill we will be highlighting the fact that there are 12 new tax increases. Increased taxes on earnings and new taxes on spending. Throughout the passage of the Finance Bill through Parliament we will be making the point that the Tories can never again be trusted on taxation, they cannot claim to be the party of low taxation and that they are the party of unfair taxation.

5) VAT

We will be having a vote in the House of Commons on the government's refusal to repeal VAT on gas and electricity and will be presenting more petitions to put further pressure on Tory MPs to rebel. So if wards have got any more signed petitions that they have not yet given to me could they please send them to me.

6) PUBLIC INVESTMENT

Having sharply cut back public investment in hospitals, schools and public transport, the Government say it doesn't matter because private finance will somehow move in to fill the gap left by the withdrawal of public funds. I carried out an analysis of the Government's "Private finance initiative" and discovered that of the 78 projects they claim as part of their success story only 13 are actually under construction. Of the 13 under construction many are small scale such as waste incinerators. Meanwhile important infrastructure projects such as Crossrail and the Channel Tunnel rail link remain deadlocked. Please contact my office if you would like a copy of my report "Public/Private Fact or Fiction"

7) NORTH PECKHAM TASK FORCE

The North Peckham Task Force will be finishing its work on 31 March 1994. I am tabling parliamentary questions and carrying out an analysis of what changes there have been in the economy of Peckham as a result of the Task Force.

8) CASEWORK

My surgeries and mailbag continue to be packed with queries and problems from constituents. In addition to my existing casework over the past 2 months I have had 40 new cases, which included:

Housing	14
Social Services	8
Immigration	8
Others	10

9) GALLERY TICKETS

I have 2 Gallery Tickets available for Prime Minister's Question Time on Thursday 3 March and Question Time on Monday 21 March. It starts at 2.30 pm and you can stay as long as you want. If you would like to come, please let me know.

Harriet Harman
January 1994

(tel: 071 219 5137)

FURIOUS residents are demanding a gang of foul-mouthed youths are kicked-off their estate.

Trouble has escalated on the Crawford Estate, Crawford Road, in Camberwell, in the wake of a gang of teenagers who took over a large communal lawn for noisy evening soccer sessions. When one resident told the youths, drawn

HARRIET HARMAN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR PECKHAM

SEPTEMBER 1994

by JON BIRD

to the Crawford from other estates, to leave all her car windows were shattered.

She witnessed the vandalism, but speaking out has cost her and her family dearly.

Once the thugs discovered she was prepared to give evidence in a court case she was verbally abused and called a 'grass' and a 'whore.'

Last month her car windows were smashed in a catapult attack and a week later a youth allegedly assaulted her.

A group of mothers from the estate took to the grass, determined to stop the sessions but the situation dissolved into an argument.

The woman was then allegedly attacked by one of the gang, left with a bleeding nose and bruises and grazes to her back.

Since then gallons of liquid soap have been poured over cars on the estate and a concrete slab has been dropped through the back windscreen of her husband's car.

She said, "These people do not have a better side to appeal to. People on this estate are just not going to carry on putting up with this. It is going to end in gang warfare."

The level of noise and vandalism has reached such a pitch that residents have appealed to Peckham MP Harriet Harman to take action.

On top of the noise and disruption there is also evidence that youngsters are using three blocks on the estate to take heroin, residents claim.

Tenants' association chairman Peter Slater said talks were being set up with the police and a council to deal with the increased vandalism and noise on the estate.

A Southwark Council spokesman said it was prepared to seek court injunctions to stop culprits from congregating on the estate.

Supt. Peter Ingham, of Walworth police confirmed there had been problems on the estate and said, "We will help people down there alleviate the nuisance using everything we legally can."



VAT petition

PECKHAM: Harriet Harman MP has launched a petition urging the Government to scrap its plan to increase VAT on fuel from 8 per cent to 17.5 per cent next April.

The petition, kicked off on Monday as part of the Labour Party's national campaign against the tax hike, will be formally presented by Peckham MP Ms. Harman to the House of Commons in the autumn. Trade unions, tenants' associations, Labour Party branches and community organisations have been given copies of the petition.

HARRIET HARMAN

SEPTEMBER 1994

1) POLICING IN PECKHAM

I attended a meeting of the Faraday Sector Police Working Party on Wednesday 7 September. Also present, in addition to the representatives and the police was an employee of the private security organisation which polices the Kinglake Estate and the Aylesbury Estate. What was absolutely clear at the meeting was that the tenants in the estates throughout the area feel that they cannot rely on the police to deter crime. They blame the Tory Government, not the police. But they feel that, if they are to be protected, it is down to them to make the arrangements. They believe that this is not just a short term arrangement but is a pattern which will grow throughout the year.

Castlemead estate in St Giles Ward is also using private security.

I think this has the most immense implications. People are saying that the Government is failing in one of the most basic duties of government, to keep law and order. Whilst they are presently more than happy with the work of the private security firms, who patrol the estates, I believe it is only a matter of time before problems emerge. Those involved in private security work are not vetted and trained as the police are. They wear a uniform but they have no more legal rights than ordinary members of the public.

Whilst sympathising wholeheartedly with the concerns of the tenants that their security must be protected, I am deeply worried about where this new development will lead. I hope we can have further discussion about this in the party locally.

2) HOUSING

Five Estates: I have been to a number of further meetings about the Five Estates. This is the Council's bid to the Department of the Environment for inner city regeneration funds. The proposal is to demolish Camden and Sumner Estates in Liddle Ward and to demolish those parts of North Peckham and Gloucester Grove which have not yet been improved. I remain deeply concerned about what will happen to those tenants who did not want their homes to be demolished and do not yet know where they will go when their flats are knocked down. I am liaising closely with the tenants' associations and the councillors about this. If the project goes ahead it will be of crucial importance to ensure that as much information is given as early as possible to all the tenants who will be effected.

The root of the problem is that the Government is cutting back on funds for Southwark and dictating how any funds should be spent. We must make sure that the tenants understand and support the council's position and that everything possible is done to ensure that tenants' wishes about where they are rehoused are respected.

- * The Five Estates was one of the issues I discussed in a meeting with the Camberwell Clergy which I attended at St Luke's Church in Liddle Ward.
- * I have undertaken walkabouts to take up tenants issues on the Elisabeth Estate in Faraday Ward and the Crawford Estate in St Giles Ward.
- * I also attended the AGM of the Harris Street TA in Brunswick Ward.
- * I recently did a walkabout with tenants representatives on the D'Eynsford Estate. They are very concerned to have entry phones as at one particular entrance to one of the blocks muggings are running at 2 a week! Together with the local Labour Councillors I am making representations to the Council about this.

3) HEALTH

Over many long years we have seen Kings College Hospital run down. The proposal has now been made to close Guys Hospital. All this has been done with the Government claiming that Londoners have too much money spent on their health. Labour has always challenged that - and pointed out that poverty and unemployment combined with poor housing conditions means that there are higher illness rates in South London. Now the Department of Health Economics at York University has revealed that less is spent on health for people in Lambeth and Southwark than is spent on the health of people in wealthier areas. I have challenged Virginia Bottomley to publish this research and reconsider the allocation of resources to Lambeth and Southwark.

Guy's Hospital: I spoke at a meeting to brief the staff at Guys Hospital on the latest developments in the Guys Campaign. There is a great deal of progress because the Guys and St Thomas' Trust Board have thrown out their own plans to close Guys...partly because they cannot get even the services they plan to transfer on to the St Thomas' site.

The Trust are therefore looking again at the whole issue.

This presents us with a further opportunity to emphasise that we want:

- * No further bed cuts in South London Hospitals
- * No further cuts in hospital services except where the service is improved by being transferred into the community
- * No further job cuts resulting from cutting services

4) **VAT PETITION**

I have circulated all the tenants associations and community organisations with the petition against VAT on gas and electricity going up to 17.5% in April next year.

Our aim is to put maximum pressure on the Chancellor to make him drop the VAT increase in the November Budget. I have had a tremendous response to the petition, not only from Peckham but from around the country. I have visited the North West, Scotland The North and the West Midlands as part of Labour's tax campaign.

Peckham Labour Party have been actively getting signatures so the Labour presence on this vital issue has been very visible.

5) **PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARIES**

We expect to get the final decision of the Boundary Review on 1st November. It is then we will discover whether Bellenden Ward as well as Lane and Waverley Wards will be taken from Dulwich and added to the Peckham Constituency.

6) **THE ECONOMY**

I am launching a campaign on behalf of the Labour Party attacking the Tories record on public spending. They have not, as they promised, cut the % of national wealth which goes in public spending. What they have done is slashed vital investment programmes (like transport) and spending on education and instead increased the amount they are spending on the growing number of people who are forced to claim either Income Support, Unemployment Benefit or Housing Benefit.

Tenants warned of 'seven-year nightmare'

N hall bosses are being accused of 'ethnic sing' in their bid to bulldoze thousands of

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Elderly turn up heat in VAT on fuel fight

● The North Peckham Est.

by JON BIRD

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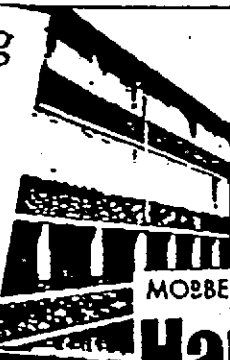
**HARRIET HARMAN MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
FOR PECKHAM**

OCTOBER 1994

Protesting over VAT

THIS Conservative Government has shown that it has an addiction to VAT. They have increased it from 8 per cent to 17.5 per cent since 1979, they have extended the scope of VAT 14 times since 1979 and, this

By PAUL O'NEILL
THOUSANDS of petitioners are hoping to force a last-minute change of heart over VAT on fuel.



MOBBED: Pressmen flock to Labour's Harriet Harman outside the hall

Harriet steals the show



Peckham (left) and the Gloucester Grove estates

improve the area.
"We simply don't have the money to do the work and we need to have a tripartite agreement between ourselves, the Government and the private

£1 million square opens

PECKHAM: A long-awaited town square finally opens this week. The £1 million Peckham Square — complete with a hi-tech canopy system which changes colour with the weather — will be unwrapped on Thursday by Peckham and Dulwich MPs Harriet Harman and Tessa Jowell.

The square is sited at the junction with Peckham High Street and Peckham Hill Street and will be used for open air music, drama and a specialist market.

The celebrations will continue throughout the weekend with appearances from soul singer Omar and comedian Miles Crawford.

He said if South London won't bid there would be grand decanting and work to count

accept a grant of up to £15,000 to buy their own homes, he added.

The SRB draws other separate Government programmes, including Estate Action. Councils will have to compete for slices of the cash: thought to total about £200m.

PECKHAM SQUARE

REPORT - OCTOBER 1994

1 EMPLOYMENT

I have been re-elected onto the Shadow Cabinet (having lost my place last year) I have been appointed Shadow Secretary of State for Employment, which is a great privilege and a challenge

The themes that Labour will need to continue to press are

- * *Full Employment* - Unemployment is a waste. You cannot have a successful economy while you waste the talents and abilities of the workforce. The Tories are indifferent to unemployment. Unemployment is a key dividing line between Labour and the Tories
- * *A Modern Labour Market* - The world of work has changed. Most people will now change their jobs up to 6 times during their working life. Women are now half the workforce, many work part-time in order to combine work and family responsibilities. Technological change means a constant need to upgrade skills
- * *A Dynamic Economy* - The Tories have delivered a low growth high unemployment economy. Labour's plans for rebuilding our economic base are essential to providing jobs and growth

Our challenge will be to ensure that Labour's traditional objectives of security at work, opportunities and a decent standard of living are delivered in a changing world

We plan to have a minimum wage campaign starting in the spring. The public purse should not have to subsidise poverty pay. There should be a minimum wage, and then Family Credit instead of being a subsidy to employers should be a top up for employees and an incentive for people to come off benefit into work

Ian McCartney MP is the Deputy in the Employment Team and Kevin Barron MP is going to be responsible within the employment team for training. Angela Eagle MP (a former member of Peckham Labour Party) is part of the team as she is Chair of the PLP Employment Committee

2 TONY BLAIR: NEW LEADER

Tony Blair's first speech to conference showed his determination to lead Labour to victory at the next election. He also announced a debate throughout the party to establish a new constitution setting out Labour's aims and values in a language which is clear and easy for everyone to understand. People in the party have sometimes, in the past, said that Labour does not make it clear what it stands for. The debate on the constitution is an opportunity to make that clear

3 PRIVATE SECURITY

I am continuing to raise the issue of the growth of private security patrolling estates in Peckham. I attended the Southwark Police and Community Consultative Group and it was agreed that this should be the subject of a discussion at a future meeting. I am writing a paper for the Committee which I will also circulate to local tenants associations and community groups.

The police are supposed to be responsible for law and order. That is supposed to be one of the most basic functions of the state. By allowing the police to fail in this and by standing by while private security take their place, the Government are presiding over the privatisation of law and order. This has enormous implications.

Certainly people's fear of crime cannot be ignored. People cannot be left feeling vulnerable in their own homes and afraid to go out. But questions arise about this private security. Who trains them? Who vets them? Who will deal with complaints against them? Shouldn't we instead be increasing our efforts to get the police to do the job of patrolling estates? Why should people have to pay twice, once through their taxes and again for private security?

4 COMMISSION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

This month the Commission on Social Justice, set up by John Smith, published its report. It is a coherent and substantial attempt to make constructive proposals about the changes needed for a modern welfare state. It deserves serious consideration. It includes two principle issues which are very important: "welfare to work" - the need to end the barriers which prevent people going out to work because they are worse off in work than on benefit, and the need to address the growing problem of poverty in old age.

5 NEC

I have once again been elected to the NEC of the Labour Party. I'm very grateful to Peckham Labour Party for nominating me.

6 ESTATE WALKABOUTS AND OTHER LOCAL VISITS

- * I have carried out walkabouts on Grosvenor Estate and Brayards Estate
- * I attended the Southwark Pensioners Forum 3rd Annual Conference and spoke about the continuing campaign against VAT on fuel in response
- * I attended the launch of the Nunhead Safety Forum. This is an important initiative taken by the local community and supported by the local councillors in response to a gang of youths terrifying people in the area and mugging people. I have taken up the issue of extra policing and also the importance of the council ensuring dangerous alleyways are blocked off and lighting and facilities for young people are adequate.

~ I attended a meeting of the **Southwark Lay Visitors**. They are volunteers who go to the local police stations to look at the conditions in which people are held in custody, ensure conditions are satisfactory and ensure that people are being granted their rights to see a solicitor and to make phone calls. They do very important work and I have sent their annual report to the Home Secretary and to the local police urging them to accept the Southwark Lay Visitors recommendations.

* I had one of my regular visits to **Southwark Community Relations Council** to discuss issues of concern to ethnic minorities with Hyacinth Parsons

* I attended the **opening of Peckham Square** and the new cinema in Peckham. Peckham badly needs a continuing face lift. It is important that all the developments are well maintained when they are finished and that they are carried out with the support of local people.

* I attended the funeral of **Joan Gotthard** who was the backbone of the Elmington Tenants Association. Joan was one of the finest examples of local people who worked hard to build a sense of community. She will be sadly missed by her husband Sid, her daughter and all her friends on the Elmington.

* I attended the AGM of the **Guys and St Thomas Trust Board**. I set out the concern of the Guys Campaign that though there were hopeful signs that the Government might be backing off the closure of Guys, it would not be a satisfactory outcome unless a full Accident and Emergency department was also kept. Throughout London we have seen hospitals closed by first closing A and E and then slowly running them down.

* I also visited the **Bloomfield Centre** at Guys Hospital to familiarise myself with their work for young people with psychological problems.

* I am working with the **Southwark Trade Union Support Unit** on their research project on public sector employment in Southwark.

* I joined **St Giles Ward** petitioning against VAT on fuel.

7 PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARIES

The Boundary Commission proposed cutting down from 6 to 5 the number of constituencies in Southwark and Lambeth. We failed to succeed in our objection to the creation of a constituency that included wards from both Southwark and Lambeth, (Dulwich and Norwood). But we appealed trying to keep Bellenden in Dulwich and prevent it being moved into Peckham. Unfortunately we did not succeed in this appeal and we are now exploring whether there are any further channels of objection left to us.

Harriet Harman MP
2 November 1994