



### **The Equality Bill**

As the Minister for Women and Equality I am proud to be bringing forward the Equality Bill in Parliament this spring. Southwark is exactly the kind of place that will benefit from this Bill.

It will simplify and strengthen the law, promote equality, fight discrimination in all its forms - including age discrimination - and introduce transparency at work to tackle the pay gap which still exists between men and women.

To find out more about the Bill and what it will mean for you visit my website or call 0207 944 0601.

### **Camberwell Baths win £1.4 million Government Funding**

I strongly supported the local community's bid for Government money to refurbish Camberwell baths and I was pleased that the Minister for Sport, Gerry Sutcliffe MP, accepted my invitation to the baths on 21st January 2009 to see for himself what we need the money for and how the money would be spent.

I am delighted that the Minister for Sport has decided to grant £1.4 million to refurbish the baths - the full amount of money that the community asked for. I look forward to work starting as soon as possible.



*Harriet and the Minister for Sport with pupils from Lyndhurst Primary school on 21st January*

### **Fighting for a New Window Policy for Leaseholders**

The problem of window replacement and large heating charges are the most common reason leaseholders contact me for help - as well as not receiving a clear break down from Southwark Council of what they are being charged for. Many leaseholders tell me that they want to be responsible for installing and maintaining their own windows.

On 27th February I held a public meeting for Southwark Leaseholders. Many people came to tell me about their problems and discuss action. Representatives from Southwark Council and the Leasehold Advisory Service also attended.

I believe it is time Southwark Council changed its policy on window replacement and maintenance for leaseholders. I am pleased that the Council have agreed to work with me and the leaseholders to develop this new policy, as well as making leaseholders' bills clearer.



*Harriet and Southwark Leaseholders meeting on 27th February*

**Are you registered to Vote?**  
**European Elections are on 4th June 2009.**

If you have not registered to vote or you are not sure if you are on the electoral register - there is still time. The last day to register is 19th May 2009. You can call Southwark Council on 0207 525 7373 or email [electoralenquiries@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:electoralenquiries@southwark.gov.uk)

## Campaigning for Better Services for Mental Health Patients in Southwark

I am determined to ensure that members of the public who used it are given what was promised when the Emergency Clinic at the Maudsley Hospital opposite King's College Hospital was closed in 2007 - a "safe and secure" space "adjacent" and "separate" to the A&E department in King's for patients with mental health emergencies.

On Friday, 27th February I met with the Chief Executive and staff of King's College Hospital, Southwark and Lambeth Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Southwark Mind, a local mental health charity, to discuss the plans of Southwark PCT to redevelop the Emergency Department at King's Hospital.

Southwark PCT is currently consulting on the plans which show cubicles dotted around the emergency department and no separate and secure space. Southwark PCT confirmed in the meeting that they will "tear up the plans" if the results of the consultation show users are not happy.

I shall continue to campaign with neighbouring MPs (below) to ensure that this promise is kept.



### East London Line Given Go-Ahead

I am delighted that Geoff Hoon MP, Secretary of State for Transport, has agreed to the demand that I and other South London MPs made to give the go-ahead to the East London Line extension.

This means phase two of the East London Line will be constructed before 2012. The scheme will link Surrey Quays on the East London line extension to Clapham Junction, providing vital links through Denmark Hill, Peckham Rye and Queens Road Peckham.

### Case Work Update

I hold three advice surgeries a month and my team and I see the first 60 people at each surgery. My surgeries are held at Southwark Town Hall which is easy to get to and has disabled access.

Since the beginning of 2009 I have taken action on over 1000 cases.

Most people contact me asking for my help in resolving problems with their immigration status or difficulties with their housing situation. I also help people with a variety of other issues including benefit queries and health problems.

One recent case that I am dealing with concerns a Peckham lady. Her son aged 14 died in Jamaica 18 months ago when he was there to attend his grandmother's funeral. His mother is still having difficulty in paying the funeral debt of £3,000. She contacted me for help because a friend of hers told her about the work I do for my constituents.

I have already negotiated with the funeral director to reduce the bill by a third. I have contacted the travel insurance company, the funeral company and the Department for Work and Pensions on her behalf to help her further.

### Southwark Police 1000

Increased police numbers is one of the top demands my constituents have made over the years. 1,000 is the number of officers Southwark Police said they need to carry out their duties. In response, I launched the 'Southwark Police 1,000' campaign in 2002, which aimed to raise the number of police officers in Southwark to 1,000. In 2002 there were 775 officers in Southwark. I am delighted that this year Southwark Police numbers reached 1029 - but we still need more backed up by the police community support teams.

### How to Contact me:

If you have an issue you would like my help to resolve or are seeking some advice then you can contact me in several ways.

You can write to me at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA or [harmanh@parliament.uk](mailto:harmanh@parliament.uk), visit my website [www.harrietharman.org](http://www.harrietharman.org) or come to my advice surgeries at Southwark Town Hall, Peckham Road, SE5 8UB. The next surgery dates are:

**Friday 1st May at 9am**

**Friday 8th May at 9am**

**Friday 22nd May at 9am**

**Friday 12th June at 9am**

**Friday 19th June at 9am**

**Tuesday 30th June at 5pm**

## **Constituency Visits since Last GC (February 2009)**

### **March**

18<sup>th</sup> March – St Peter's School – meeting parents at the school gate. Meeting with Henry Quennell re Pathmeads, public meeting with Rosie Winterton MP "preparing for an aging society" in St Peter's Crypt.

21<sup>st</sup> March – local Party campaigning in Peckham Rye Ward – Carden Road

27<sup>th</sup> March – Ivydale School visit – breakfast club and meeting parents at the school gate, Advice Surgery, meeting with Mr Yureren and other constituents regarding the Turkish Cypriot community in Southwark

### **April**

13-15<sup>th</sup> April – visit to Ghana (a report will be published shortly with details of the visit)

### **May**

9<sup>th</sup> May – Campaigning in South Camberwell – East Dulwich Estate

12<sup>th</sup> May – CLP Officers meeting, House of Commons – where Jack Jones memorial lecture was agreed and it was decided to invite Neil Kinnock to the Gala dinner in October which he has agreed to.

21<sup>st</sup> May – Campaigning at Peckham Rye Station. BAME Women Councillors Task Force event at Harris Academy at Peckham

22<sup>nd</sup> May – Lyndhurst Primary School – meeting parents at the school gate

28<sup>th</sup> May – meeting with local CLP to discuss receipts

30<sup>th</sup> May – campaigning with local Party members, South Camberwell Ward

### **June**

3<sup>rd</sup> June – Oliver Goldsmith Primary School - visit to breakfast club and meeting parents at the school gate

4<sup>th</sup> June – campaigning with local party members, visiting committee rooms and polling stations in Camberwell and Peckham

### **Upcoming events:**

19<sup>th</sup> June – visit to Sacred Heart Secondary School to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

22<sup>nd</sup> June – School gate – Peckham Park School, Meeting with Peter May, London Region to discuss campaigning

26<sup>th</sup> June – photo opportunity to launch the campaign of the "save our line" campaign, Denmark Hill Station

**Camberwell and Peckham GC**  
**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009**  
**St Giles Centre**  
**8pm**

**European Election Results/ Email to party Members (sent 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009)**

Dear Friend,

Against a very bleak set of election results for Labour in the country as a whole, I was very encouraged to see that the voters in Southwark maintained their support of Labour and I am very proud of all that our local Labour Party members have achieved in recent weeks. Our results for Southwark were:

	Southwark			London		
	2004	2009	difference	2004	2009	difference
Labour Party	31.7%	29.5%	-2.2%	24.7%	21.13%	-3.57%
Lib Dem	23.8%	24.3%	+0.5%	15.3%	13.62%	-1.68%
Conservative	13.7%	15.7%	+2.0%	26.8%	27.18%	+0.38%
Green Party	11.0%	14.9%	+3.9%	8.4%	10.81%	+2.41%
UK IP	8.90%	7.18%	-1.72%	12.3%	10.68%	-1.62%
BNP	3.13%	4.28%	+1.15%	4%	4.9%	+0.9%
Turnout	34.9%	30.43%	-4.47%	37.3%	33%	-4.3%

Our Party has been sorely tested and you have shown what we are made of. You have shown what being Labour is all about – standing strong together, achieving more in solidarity than we ever could alone, putting the interests of people on middle and modest incomes first. That is why we will continue to strengthen the economy and sort out the abuse of MP's allowances and continue to support the people who need a Labour Government the most.

I understand how hard you have been working and we couldn't be more grateful for your level of passion, commitment and loyalty. Thank you.

I look forward to seeing you again soon,

Harriet

Email – CM to set up yahoo address

### **Fundraising:**

Letter to members before the short campaign – asking for time and financial support and giving them details of campaigning

Campaign launch/fundraiser

Fundraising officer – Michael Situ

### **Mobilisation**

Harriet to call various party members/activists – Barrie to help to draw up list – start drawing up at beginning of February

### **Themes and Messages**

Working as a team - combination of local and national campaign – to discuss at EC how best to combine campaigns

National message – 5 things Labour will do, 5 things Tories would do, 5 things Labour have done (see attached)

### **Local good news stories to campaign around/for literature:**

**Police** - We now have 1,059 police officers in Southwark

**Leisure** - Government investment has saved the Camberwell Baths

**Transport** - Agreement for the go ahead to the East London Line Phase 2b

**Health** - The battle for a segregated area for mental health patients at Kings College has been won. First walk in health centre in Southwark has been built in Peckham. Since 1997, there have been three hospital building schemes (these can include expansion of existing hospitals as well as completely new builds) in the NHS trusts from which Southwark PCT regularly commissions services including:

- King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, **£76m**, completed October 2002
- South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, **£25m**, completed February 2008

**Children's Services** - Government investment in Children's and Family Services has risen by 98 per cent since 2001 and childcare places in Southwark have increased from 7,446 in 2003 to 10,794 in 2009.

**Schools** - The number of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs grade A-C has increased from 29% to 69% in recent years. Record Labour investment in Schools – nearly 3 times more pupils going to university from Camberwell and Peckham

### **Visits**

Strategy to be drawn up to target – secondary schools, primary schools, estates, churches.

## **Boundary Changes**

You are to take in the whole of South Camberwell, the whole of Livesey, and Peckham Rye Ward.

**Peckham Rye Ward** (target ward in local elections)- You have been out in the new part of Peckham Rye ward. CM to meet with Andy Troake to discuss strategy. Letters to members advising of boundary change and inviting for a coffee. Invite voters to meet you for a coffee morning?

**Livesey** - You will be campaigning in Livesey on 30<sup>th</sup> January. Letters to members advising them of boundary change. You have asked Richard Livingstone to liaise with the 2 new T&RAs who are coming in and invite them to meet with you for a coffee. Invite voters to meet you for a coffee morning?

**South Camberwell** (target ward in local elections) – You were out campaigning in South Camberwell on several occasions last year. Letters to members advising them of boundary change. You have asked Veronica Ward to liaise with the new T&RAs who are coming in and invite them to meet with you for a coffee. Invite voters to meet you for a coffee morning?

## **Harriet Harman MP Report**

### **Camberwell and Peckham GC**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**St Giles Centre, 8pm**

#### **Visits since last GC:**

##### **June**

19<sup>th</sup> June – visit to Sacred Heart Secondary School to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

22<sup>nd</sup> June – School gate – Peckham Park School Gate and Meeting with Peter May (London Region) and Camberwell and Peckham Labour Party Officers, to discuss campaigning strategy coming up to the next general election

26<sup>th</sup> June – photo opportunity to launch the campaign of the “save our line” campaign, Denmark Hill Station with Tessa Jowell MP, Val Shawcross AM, local Councillors and local activists

##### **July**

4<sup>th</sup> July – visit to Lakanal House and rest centre in Bushey Hill Road

5<sup>th</sup> July – visit to the rest/help centre on Bushey Hill Road

10-15<sup>th</sup> July – visit to Washington (Government Business)

##### **Up coming visits**

17<sup>th</sup> July – walkabout on Southampton Way Estate and visit to Harris Street Housing Office

21<sup>st</sup> July – meeting with Lord Adonis to ask Government to help ensure TfL do not cut service South London Line (also attending Tessa Jowell, Val Shawcross, Eileen Conn, Michael Parker, Kings)

24<sup>th</sup> July – walkabout on Aylesbury Estate and Coffee Morning in Thurlow Lodge

### **Lakanal House Fire Report**

On Friday I went down to Lakanal House as soon as I was told about the fire. I spoke with residents and thanked the Fire Service, Police and local council workers for their efforts. I also went to the centre on Bushey Hill Road which was being used by the tenants that had had to flee their flats in Lakanal. I was amazed how strong and brave everyone I spoke to was, including a 70 year old woman who thought she was going to die as she waited as her flat filled up with smoke for over half an hour before she was rescued.

I went to the estate and the community centre again on Saturday morning because I wanted to be sure that everything that was being done to help the residents, including helping them get re-housed.

Over the weekend I kept the Prime Minister informed and I spoke to John Denham MP, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to tell him what had happened and asked him to set up a public enquiry to ensure that questions are answered. The Secretary of State has tasked Sir Ken Knight, the Government's Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor, to liaise with the investigators and report back to him as a matter of urgency. I liaised with the local councillors Cllr Ian Wingfield, Cllr Ali McGovern and Cllr Sandra Rhule and I backed up the local Labour Group's call on the Government for a public enquiry. They wrote to John Denham MP and moved a resolution at Full Council which was carried on Wednesday night calling for a public enquiry.

I attended 2 meetings on Monday evening. The first was with former residents of Lakanal House, and the second with tenants of Marie Curie House (the neighbouring, identical block). Also attending the meetings were the local Labour Councillors - Cllr Ian Wingfield, Cllr Ali McGovern and Cllr Sandra Rhule, the Leader of the Labour Group - Cllr Peter John, and GLA Member Val Shawcross. The residents from Lakanal House were angry - they wanted answers to how the fire had spread and why people had become trapped. They also wanted to be able to get into their flats to collect possessions, and for their lives to get back to normal. The residents from Marie Curie House were fearful and wanted to be assured that they were safe. Some said they were so worried they were not sleeping at night.

I have ensured that Southwark Council, working with the London Fire Service, conduct an emergency risk assessment on Marie Curie House. This is being completed today.

On Wednesday I stood in for the Prime Minister at Prime Minister's Questions and was able to bring the tragedy in Camberwell to the forefront of the House of Commons. My condolences to the families of those who died were echoed by the whole House of Commons.

I will continue to work to ensure that the important questions are answered -

- How did the fire start?
- Why did it spread so quickly?
- Why were some people not rescued?
- What needs to be done to make Marie Curie House safe?

I am working with St Giles Church and the Camberwell Community Council to set up the "Lakanal Residents' Fire Fund" to help the victim's families and the residents I will let you have more details as soon as I have them.



**Harriet Harman MP Report to the GC**  
**17<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

**Apologies**

Due to a diary mix up I am in Northampton campaigning with Sally Keeble MP in her marginal seat this evening. I am looking forward to seeing you at the GC in October - or at the fundraising dinner (which is the same evening) when we will welcome Neil Kinnock as our guest speaker!

**Lakanal Fire**

Jack Straw MP has told me that he will make a decision this week about who will oversee the "super inquest" into the tragic deaths in the Lakanal fire. I am pressing for the inquest to be held in Southwark Town Hall and not in the north of the borough. I am in contact with the Chief Executive of Southwark Council and the Ministry of Justice about this request.

**Recent Constituency Visits:**

**6<sup>th</sup> September** – Thank you to all the party members who came out campaigning in Nunhead Ward – we had excellent voter contact. I wrote a follow up letter to 164 residents in Evan Cook Close letting them have contact details for me and advising them of my upcoming surgery dates.

**7<sup>th</sup> September** – I visited Harris Boys Academy. I'm pleased that this school will soon move to Peckham Rye and will stay in close contact with Principal Bart Cannon to ensure the school makes a smooth transition to its new site next year.

**9<sup>th</sup> September** – I met with parents, pupils and teachers outside Lyndhurst School Gate, Brunswick Park.

**10<sup>th</sup> September** – I officially opened Southwark's first walk in GPs surgery at the Lister Clinic, Peckham. I am pleased that it has been built in the heart of a community which needs it most.

**12<sup>th</sup> September** – Southwark Borough Conference – congratulations to all members on another excellent conference. Ed told me afterwards how impressed he was by the spirit and determination of you all.

**Casework**

I have taken action on over 1000 cases so far this year. Constituents receive a response from me within 10 working days and the oldest case awaiting a response is currently 4<sup>th</sup> September. I would like to acknowledge my casework team.

**Recent Labour Party Activity (National)**

**12<sup>th</sup> September** – I visited the H.G. Wells centre in Bromley South and met with Labour Party members from Lewisham West, Beckenham, Bromley and Chilsehurst and Orpington.

**12<sup>th</sup> September** – I was out on the doorstep campaigning with Chuka Umunna and Streatham Young Labour in Clapham Common.

**15<sup>th</sup> September** – I made the after dinner speech to TUC Conference in Liverpool. We're all in fight back mode:

- We're fighting our way out of recession.
- We're fighting back to protect jobs
- We're fighting back against the Tory threat to public services.
- And we're fighting back against the arrogance of the Tories who say that the election is in the bag for them. It is not.

If you would like to see extracts of my speech you can read it on my website

**16<sup>th</sup> September** – I set up national taskforce to co-ordinate our campaign against the BNP

### **Labour Party Conference**

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at conference later this month – and welcoming our delegate this year Cllr John Friary.

If you are coming to Brighton then please come along to the Southwark Lunch which has become the most anticipated event at conference! It will be at Pizza Express, 22 Prince Albert Street, Brighton BN1 1HF at 12.30pm on Wednesday 30th September. It would be good to have the opportunity to buy you lunch and have a chat!

So I have an idea of numbers, please could let Charlotte know this week if you plan to come along by emailing [harmanh@parliament.uk](mailto:harmanh@parliament.uk) or calling 0207 219 2057.

**Harriet Harman MP Report to the GC**  
**19<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

Last GC – September 17<sup>th</sup> (October GC cancelled because of the fundraising dinner)

**Lakanal Fire**

Sir Justice Thane Forbes has agreed to my request to hold a directions hearing in December this year, I will keep you advised on where this will be – I have requested that it be in Southwark Town Hall.

**Constituency Activity since last GC:**

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> September – campaigning in South Camberwell Ward with party members

Wed 7<sup>th</sup> October – I met with members from Southwark Muslim Women's Association to celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> - October – I met with Parents and teachers outside Rye Oak Primary School

Fri 30<sup>th</sup> October – photo with councillors and council candidates

**Future Events:**

Tues 24<sup>th</sup> November – I will attend the SLP heroes awards

Fri 27<sup>th</sup> November – visit to Harris Academy to walk around the school, see how things are going and meet with the Head

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> November – Campaigning in Lane Ward

- Speech on Domestic Violence at Peckham Academy

Fri 4<sup>th</sup> December – meeting with Southwark PCT for catch up and discuss their funding

- Police 1000 meeting which will be chaired by Val

**Council Candidate Selections for Camberwell and Peckham**

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Standing Down:</b>	<b>Deselected</b>
Peckham Rye:	Eve Laws, Robert Smeath	Aubyn Graham
Livesey:	Andrew Pakes, Mary Foulkes	
The Lane:	Gordon Nardell, Susan Jones	
Peckham:	Ola Oyewumni	
Nunhead:	Dominic Thorncroft	
Faraday :	Paul Bates	
Camberwell Green:	Chris Page	John Friary
Brunswick Park:	Alison McGovern	Sandra Rhule

**Standing in the 2010 Council Elections:**

Peckham Rye: Gavin Edwards, Victoria Mills, Renarta Marli (SP)

Livesey: Cllr Richard Livingstone, Michael Situ, ? (tbc)

The Lane: Cllr Mark Glover, Nick Dozezal, Keadean Rhoden

Peckham: Cllr Barrie Hargrove, Cllr Tayo Situ, Cleo Soannes

Nunhead: Cllr Althea Smith, Cllr Fiona Colley, Sunil Chopra

Faraday: Cllr Abdul Mohammed, Cllr Lorraine Lauder, Dan Garfield

Camberwell Green: Cllr Dora Dixon Fyle, Kevin Ahern, Emmanuel Ayewole

Brunswick Park: Ian Wingfield, Helen Hayes, Mark Williams

## **Casework**

I have taken action on over 1500 cases so far this year. Constituents receive a response from me within 10 working days and the oldest case awaiting a response is currently 10<sup>th</sup> September. I would like to acknowledge my casework team.

## **Recent Labour Party Activity (National)**

**5<sup>th</sup> November - Campaigning in the Glasgow East By-Election** - to lend my support for the Scottish Labour Party local candidate Willie Bain.

I joined Willie and many local volunteers to deliver leaflets and knock on doors ahead of the by election on Thursday 12th November which we won convincingly.

**7<sup>th</sup> November** – I opened the **North West Regional Conference** in Stockport

**14<sup>th</sup> November** – I addressed the **London Region Labour Conference**



# HARRIET HARMAN QC MP

MP for Camberwell & Peckham

## Fighting for the East London Line - Phase 2B

Network Rail have now announced that South London Line trains will definitely be withdrawn in 2012. I am determined that passengers travelling from Denmark Hill and Peckham Rye to London Bridge and Victoria have a replacement service.

Most Londoners will soon benefit from the investment in transport projects such as Thameslink, the underground upgrades and Crossrail, we must ensure that residents in Camberwell and Peckham also benefit from this investment.

The Government has agreed a ten-year funding settlement which gives Transport for London access to £40 billion for major new investments, including the East London Line extension phase two (ELLX2) which will transform rail services in Camberwell and Peckham.



Harriet with other South London MPs meeting with Geoff Hoon MP on 19th November 2008

The London Mayor wrote to Geoff Hoon, the Secretary of State for Transport informing him that unless the remaining balance of the East London Line can be shared between TfL and Department for Transport then the Mayor would not be funding the project. Many people have made decisions based on the promise of the ELLX2, have bought houses, opened businesses, chosen schools for their children. We must ensure that this project which will affect so many people's lives goes ahead.

On Wednesday 19th November I joined other South London MPs in a meeting with Geoff Hoon to make sure that this scheme goes ahead. We will continue to fight to ensure that it does.

## Campaigning to save the Jobcentreplus at Camberwell Green—it will stay open!

I am delighted that James Purnell MP has accepted my strong protest about the proposed closure of the Jobcentreplus at Camberwell Green.

The Jobcentre provides a good service for local people. It is especially important in this difficult economic time that people have access to the services they need.

In March 2008 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) proposed to close the branch at Camberwell Green and to transfer the customers to the Peckham and Brixton offices.

I visited the branch to ask the customers and staff how they felt about the proposal. I met with the Minister responsible on 9th June and made the case for this branch to stay open.

I welcomed the announcement to the House of Commons on 25th November 2008 that the DWP have decided against this closure.

## Southwark Leaseholder's Fight for Fairness - February Public Meeting

I invited The Leasehold Advisory Service (LEASE) to attend my advice surgery on 5th December 2008 at Southwark Town Hall to offer constituents free legal advice.

Many Southwark Leaseholders came and I was pleased with the way that LEASE helped people and the number of people they were able to see.

I will be holding a public meeting for Southwark leaseholders in February 2009. Please email me at [harmanh@parliament.uk](mailto:harmanh@parliament.uk) if you would like to attend.



Harriet and Advisors from LEASE at the Town Hall on 5th December 2008

## The proposed waste management site on the Old Kent Road

Many residents have raised concerns about the proposed site for a Waste Management Unit at the site of the Old Gas works on the Old Kent Road, backing onto the Tustin Estate next to Manor Grove and Pilgrim's Way Primary School.

I am strongly in favour of recycling as part of waste management but I am not happy to see any developments which will make things worse for the Tustin Estate and the local area.

I have been working alongside local residents to ensure that their views are taken into account by the Council when considering the planning application in January. I shall continue to ensure that local people's views are taken into account.



*Harriet with local residents at the proposed site at Manor Grove on Friday 3rd October 2008*

## 2009 Southwark Credit Crunch Task Force

On Wednesday 29th October 2008 I held a business breakfast at Southwark Town Hall.

This was an opportunity for anyone who runs or works for a small business in Camberwell and Peckham to come and speak to me and raise any issues concerning their business during this difficult economic time – and to tell me what would make most difference to their business.

It was very well attended with over 40 local business men and women, The Southwark Chamber of Commerce, the Black Business Initiative, Val Shawcross—the London Assembly Member, The Mayor of Southwark and local Councillors.

I have fed the points raised in this excellent discussion into the Government's National Economic Council and have convened a Southwark Credit Crunch Task Force which will meet for the first time in January 2009.

If you are interested in reading a copy of my report of the business breakfast or would like more information about the task force then please email me at [harmanh@parliament.uk](mailto:harmanh@parliament.uk)



*Harriet listening to businesses at the breakfast meeting*

## East Street Market—fighting for a face lift

I have been contacted by many of my constituents about the condition of East Street Market.

East Street Market is important for the local community providing good value fresh food. It is also important as the livelihood of the traders.

I visited East Street Market with London Assembly Member and local Councillors most recently on 28th October. We met with shoppers, traders and representatives of the Market Traders Association.

The traders and shoppers raised many issues with me – including many Health and Safety concerns. East Street needs a face lift.

I have met with the Council twice this year concerning the state of the market and will continue to campaign for funding for one of London's oldest street markets. The Council are currently undertaking a review of the markets in Southwark and I will be meeting with them once it is published to discuss the findings.



*Harriet, the London Assembly Member and local Faraday Ward Councillors in East Street market on 28th October 2008*

## Save Camberwell Baths Campaign

On Friday 5th December 2008 I met with the chair and executive members of the "Save Camberwell Baths" campaign, the executive member for Leisure at Southwark Council Cllr Lewis Robinson and Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle chair of the Camberwell Community Council.

I have invited Gerry Sutcliffe MP, the Minister for Sport, to join us and visit the pool and see it first hand. The Minister has agreed and will be coming on Wednesday 21st January 2009.

I have always fully supported the campaign to keep the baths open and serving the residents of Camberwell, but they also need to be improved. I am supporting the council's bid for government money to help the baths stay open – and am delighted that the Minister has accepted my invitation to come and see the baths for himself.

If you are concerned about any of the issues raised in this newsletter and would like to be kept informed, or you would like to contact me about any other issues then please feel free to email [harmanh@parliament.uk](mailto:harmanh@parliament.uk) or write to the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. If you would like to read more about my work locally you may like to visit my website at [www.harrietharman.org](http://www.harrietharman.org)