

Harriet Harman MP
Report to Camberwell and Peckham GC / AGM
18th February 2010
St Giles Centre
8pm

0102

Dear Friend,

Apologies for arriving late this evening, the Cabinet has been meeting in Durham today. Thank you for all your hard work and support this year. The months ahead are important for campaigning, not just for a further term for a Labour government but also to win back Southwark Council from the Liberal Democrat -Tory alliance.

Update on Lakanal Fire

Residents have raised concerns with me about the length of time the police investigation is taking. I have a meeting next week with the chief investigating officers to discuss the timescale.

I have requested that the fire advice for Marie Curie residents be reviewed - residents are fearful because the people who died in Lakanal followed advice to stay in their homes. Yesterday I had a response from Ron Dobson (London's Chief fire officer) refusing to review the fire advice for Marie Curie. I will request a meeting with him - it is essential people feel safe in their homes.

Leigh Day & Co Solicitors, who are representing Sceaux Garden's T&RA, have written to Sir Justice Thayne Forbes and requested that the T&RA be considered "a properly interested person" at the "super inquest". I have written to support this request.

Casework

I had a particularly busy advice surgery on Tuesday this week with over 100 people seeking help - the office has called the people who were not able to wait and chose to leave their numbers - we are working hard to ensure that everyone has a response within 10 working days.

General Election Update

My first of three election leaflets has now been completed and I have attached a copy for you to see.

The fundraising social is being held on 25th March in the Sun and Doves with Peter Mandelson confirmed as our guest speaker. Many thanks to Megan, Mark and Johanna for organising the event - I look forward to seeing you all there!

Visits since last G.C.

January

Sat 30th Jan - I was campaigning in Livesey ward with candidates Tayo Situ and Catherine MacDonald, Labour Party members and Labour councillors. I had a meeting in Mel's Café with T&RA reps who will be coming into Camberwell and

Peckham after the next General Election. I assured them that if I am elected I will represent them with 100% commitment.

February

Mon 1st Feb – I attended the Southwark Tigers reception in the House of Commons and am backing their campaign for a modern clubhouse.

Thurs 4th Feb – I joined local councillors and residents at the Aylesbury Exhibition launch to congratulate everyone on their hard work. Now that the Area Action Plan has been adopted we can really move forward.

Wed 10th Feb – I invited Southwark Trade Union members to join me in the House of Commons – many local issues were raised including possible redundancies at Peckham Academy – I have written to the school.

Sat 13th Feb – I was campaigning in Peckham Rye Ward with candidates Gavin Edwards and Renata Hamvas.

Sun 14th Feb – I visited businesses on Rye Lane with Cllr Tayo Situ

Mon 15th Feb – I was delighted to speak at the first ever Southwark Pensioner's Parliament in the House of Commons – I will be organising for the next one to be held in the House of Commons chamber.

Up coming constituency visits/meetings:

Tues 23rd Feb – I will be leading a delegation of Turkish Cypriots from Southwark to meet with Minister of Europe, Chris Bryant MP.

Tuesday 23rd Feb – I will be meeting with chief investigating officers for Lakanal fire investigation – I want assurance that everything is being done to ensure that the investigation is being carried out as thoroughly but as quickly as possible.

Labour Party Campaign visits since last GC – Swindon, Barking, Yorkshire and Humber conference, Progressive London Conference, Hackney Women's Forum, Swindon, Elton, Leicester, Middlesbrough and Durham.

I would like to pay tribute to the work of the excellent Labour councillors who will not be standing at the local election on 6th May – many thanks for your dedication over the years.

I look forward to working with all of you in the run up to the Local and General Election - and thereafter.

Best wishes,

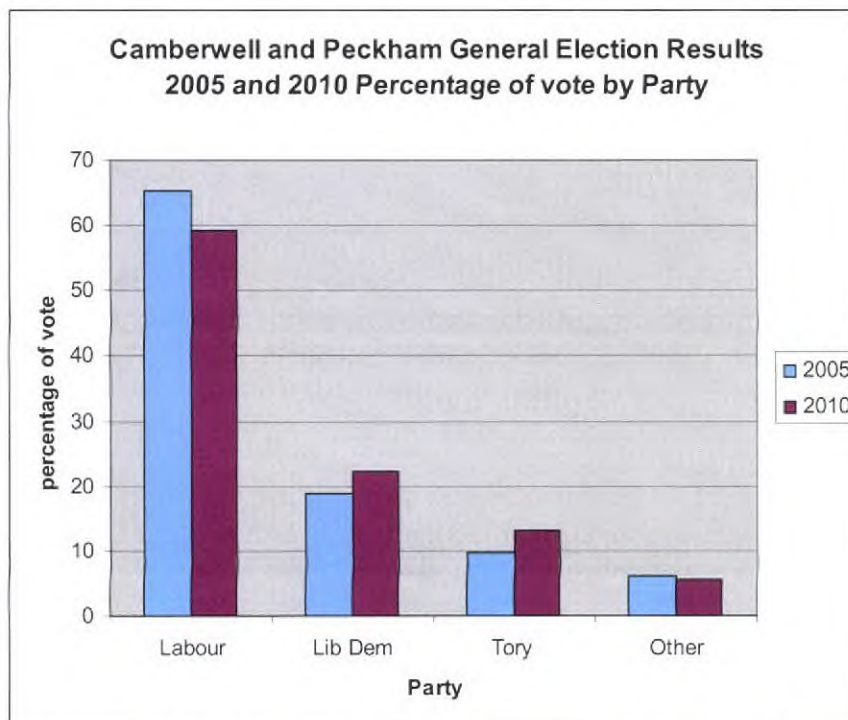
Harriet

Harriet Harman MP
Report to Camberwell and Peckham GC
20th March 2010, St Giles Centre 8pm

Dear Friend,

Thank you for all your hard work during the recent local and general elections. Congratulations to our hard working Labour councillors who have been elected to run Southwark Council. We now have all Labour Councillors and candidates who have been elected in Camberwell and Peckham and I look forward to working alongside them all, under Cllr Peter John our excellent new council leader. As we reflect on our great victory, we know we have work to do. We have to keep up our contact with our voters, those who we represent. The Labour party is in touch with people, listening to their concerns and on their side. We will go forward locally even stronger than we were before.

It is a great honour and a privilege to have been re-elected as the Member of Parliament for Camberwell and Peckham with an increased majority. And after the resignation of Gordon Brown as Labour Leader, as Deputy Leader I am now Acting Leader of the Labour Party. But I want to assure you all that my constituency is my foremost priority and I will continue to address the interests and concerns of my constituents. My commitment is always to be available for you and to help you in any way I can.



The fundraising social held on 25th March in the Sun and Doves with Peter Mandelson was a great success and we raised £5,500 for the CLP. So a big thank you to all who supported the evening. I hope that you can join me there this evening after the GC for a celebratory drink!

Though Labour are now in opposition we will be a strong, effective, self-confident and determined Opposition, holding the Government to account. I will continue to fight for my constituents, for their jobs, schools, hospitals and children's centres. Transport links, primary schools and policing could all be put at risk as the new Tory Lib-Dem Government plan to cut the budget deficit quicker than the Labour Government would have. The spending cuts could also affect jobs in the local area as many people in Camberwell and Peckham work in the public sector. I am determined to fight these cuts and ensure that the Government is held to account.

I would also like to thank my agent Cllr Barrie Hargrove, all of our previous councillors who stood down at the election and thank them for their hard work, and to congratulate two former Southwark councillors who have now become MPs, Susan Elan Jones and Alison McGovern.

Best wishes,

Harriet

Harriet Harman MP
Report to Camberwell and Peckham GC
20th March 2010
St Giles Centre
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Dear Friend,

Thank you for all your hard work and support during the recent local and general elections. Congratulations to our hard working councillors who have re-taken control of Southwark Council. It is a great honour and a privilege to have been re-elected as the Member of Parliament for Camberwell and Peckham. And after the resignation of the Labour Leader Gordon Brown I am now acting leader of the Labour Party. But I want to ensure you all that my constituency is my foremost priority and I will continue to champion the needs, however large or small, of my constituents. My commitment is always to be available for you and to help you in any way I can.

Update on Lakanal Fire

The Fire and Police are due to report next month, following this we will learn when the inquest will reconvene.

I have requested that the fire advice for Marie Curie residents be reviewed - residents are fearful because the people who died in Lakanal followed advice to stay in their homes. Yesterday I had a response from Ron Dobson (London's Chief fire officer) refusing to review the fire advice for Marie Curie. I will request a meeting with him - it is essential people feel safe in their homes!

Leigh Day & Co Solicitors, who are representing Sceaux Garden's T&RA, have written to Sir Justice Thayne Forbes and requested that the T&RA be considered "a properly interested person" at the "super inquest". I have written to support this request, and can report that the request has been granted. This will mean residents can ask questions during the inquest.

Casework

My casework surgeries have resumed following the election and we continue to see people seeking help with a wide range of problems. Especially complaints regarding the council's housing repairs service and waiting list. We are working hard to ensure that everyone has a response within 10 working days.

General Election Update

Though Labour are now in opposition we will be a powerful opposition. I will continue to fight for my constituents, for your jobs, schools, hospitals and children's centres. Transport links, primary schools and policing could all be put at risk as the new Tory Lib-Dem Government plan to cut the budget deficit quicker than the Labour Government would have. The spending cuts could also affect jobs in the local area as many people in Camberwell and Peckham work in the public sector. I am determined to fight these cuts and ensure that the Government is held to account.

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Labour Party Campaign visits since last GC – (LIST from RM)

I would also like to thank all of our previous councillors who stood down at the election and thank them for their hard work. I would also like to congratulate two former councillors who are now MPs, Susan Elan Jones and Alison McGovern.

I look forward to working with all of you in the run up to the Local and General Election - and thereafter.

Best wishes,

Harriet

June 2010 – report to GC

Harriet Harman MP for Camberwell and Peckham

Dear Friend,

As you know the race is on for the next Leader of our Party. This is going to be an important election for Labour as we are choosing someone to lead us in opposition and to be the next Prime Minister. We have to be determined not just to get back into government but to make sure that we protect people from what might be the worst excesses of the Tory/ Lib Dem coalition government. The new leader of the Labour Party will be announced on September 25th.

I am making sure that the leadership election runs smoothly and when the new leader is elected I will be their deputy. So I am not casting a vote and will remain neutral. This election marks a milestone for this country as it is the first time in any political party that the leadership contenders include a black candidate. Diane Abbot was nominated to be one of the candidates for Labour's leader and that was a proud day for women, a proud day for black people and a proud day for the Labour Party. Four million people will vote in the leadership election including party members and members of the affiliated Trades Unions and socialist societies. New members who join before 8th September can also vote, so please encourage friends and families to join.

As many of you know this month saw the brutal murder of a 17 year Samuel Ogunro whose body was found in Jowett St. On Saturday 5th June I joined the Police at the scene to call for people with any information to come forward. No-one should have to endure the loss of their beloved son in such terrible circumstances. We need to catch the culprits for the sake of Samuel, for his bereaved mother and father and for the sake of the decent hard-working community of Peckham who deserve to know that those who stoop to brutal murder will not get away with it; they will be caught and sent to prison.

In my current position as Acting Leader I'm pleased to be able to raise constituents' concerns at Prime Minister's Questions. On Friday 4th June I joined local residents and Cllrs on the Poets Corner Estate in Peckham, they informed me of repeated anti-social behaviour and drug dealing on the estate. They are asking for CCTV cameras to be installed to help provide evidence and convict those responsible. I have challenged the Prime Minister over the Coalition Government's plans to make it harder for local authorities to install CCTV cameras.

I have pressed the Lord Chancellor Ken Clarke MP to provide legal aid funding to the Sceaux Gardens T&RA. This will ensure that they have legal representation and advice during the Lakanal Fire inquest.

Four local schools are due to be re-built as part of Labour's Building Schools for the Future programme. These are Highshore School, St Michaels & All Angels, Sacred Heart and St Thomas the Apostle. The funding for this is now under threat from the Coalition Government. I have met the head teachers of St Thomas the Apostle and Highshore. I have made representations to the Education Secretary Michael Gove MP and have challenged the Prime Minister on this important issue at PMQs. These crucial works must go ahead so that our children have the buildings and facilities to learn in that they deserve.

Best wishes,

Harriet

Report to GC, Thursday 16th September 2010, St Giles Centre

Dear Friend,

In the Emergency Budget earlier this year the Chancellor, George Osborne, said that his Budget would be a fair Budget. He promised that it would "protect the most vulnerable in our society". I feared that this would not be the case and that it would hit those who could least afford it the hardest. A recent report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies has shown that sadly, I was right. This Budget will hit the poorest hardest.

I will be working with Southwark Council to protect the most vulnerable – especially disabled people, the elderly and children in care. And even though the Government have abandoned it we will keep a very clear eye on the issue of equality.

The Tory and Lib-Dem Government is cutting vital police funding which has already led to fewer police officers on our streets – we must ensure that this doesn't happen in Southwark.

I am campaigning with Tessa Jowell MP, Val Shawcross our Labour London Assembly Member and local organisations to ensure that police numbers in Southwark are not cut. Local residents value the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the close connection beat police officers develop with an area. If numbers are cut and Safer Neighbourhood Teams are scaled back then the impact on local people will be significant. Cutting back police and Community Support Officers will lead to an increase in crime which no-one wants to see and which will cost society and the economy more over time.

In 12 days time I will be handing over to our new Leader. My task over the month I have been acting leader has been to ensure that after our General Election defeat we picked ourselves up and fought back. And that is exactly what the party has done.

Since May 6th 32,411 new members have joined the party – the fastest increase in our membership ever recorded. The party finances are on a sound footing. Our Labour MPs and shadow cabinet are united as an effective and energetic opposition. Nationally in council by-elections we are winning more votes than the Tories – reversing the gap at the General Election. Votes cast in council by-elections show Labour 34% Tories 28% Lib/Dems 20%

So I look forward to handing over to our new leader and carrying on with my work as Deputy Leader.

Campaigning in Camberwell and Peckham.

I hope you will join me campaigning on the doorstep around every ward in the constituency. I am arranging a programme across every ward and will email you before each campaign session. Labour being on the doorstep and keeping in close contact with people is vital as they face the impact of the Tory/libdem cuts.

Celebrating the life of Clare Cousins

Declan and Clare's family and friends will be celebrating her life and work on 11th December at St Giles Church. Please make a note in your diary to join us.

Southwark Lunch at Conference

Please join me for lunch at conference – it will be on Monday 27th September 2010 at midday in Pizza Express on Great Peter Street. Please could you let me know if you are coming by emailing harrietharman@london.com or calling 0207 219 1326.

Harriet

Harriet Harman MP for Camberwell and Peckham
Report to the GC
November 2010
8pm
St Giles Centre

The last GC took place on 16th September 2010 – there was no GC in October due to the fundraising dinner with Yvette Cooper MP as the guest speaker.

The Comprehensive spending review – 20th October 2010

With the Tories - backed by the Lib/Dems - planning to cut benefits as well as police and schools - it is more important than ever that the Labour Party is out on the doorstep listening to local people's concerns and showing people we are on their side.

I have written a letter to the Home Secretary and Mayor of London signed by all Southwark MPs, Val Shawcross AM and all Labour and Lib Dem Southwark Councillors urging them to protect police numbers in Southwark. I have received an encouraging response from the Mayor of London and am awaiting a response from the Home Secretary.

On 26th October 2010 I met with Cllr Ian Wingfield and Cllr Fiona Colley to see how we can work together to protect constituents from changes to Housing Benefits and protect the tenancy rights of residents of the Aylesbury. I have written to Grant Shapps MP and am awaiting a response.

Camberwell and Peckham International Advisory Panel

I am honoured and privileged to have been appointed Shadow Secretary of State for International Development. Setting up the Department for International Development (DFID) and trebling our international aid are among the most important achievements of the previous Labour Government. Making sure this Government maintains our leadership on international development will be my main objective.

I know that many people in Camberwell and Peckham is concerned about tackling global poverty. I have set up the Camberwell and Peckham International Advisory Panel which will meet for the first time on 3rd December 2010. Please let me know if you would like to join the panel.

Campaigning

On 23rd October 2010 I was on the door step in Peckham with local party members. We knocked on doors on Marmont Road, Goldsmith Road and on the Oliver Goldsmith Estate and spoke to many people. In Dunstall House there were broken lights in the hallway, dirty stairwells and two lifts out of order which I wrote to the council about. The council wrote to me the next week to tell me the lifts have been repaired and the lights have been fixed, and a deep clean has been arranged. I have written to residents and asked them to contact me if they have any problems in the future.

Peckham Community Council

On 3rd November 2010 I attended the Peckham Community Council to report on the Southwark Police 1,000 Campaign.



Camberwell and Peckham Labour Party GC
Thursday 20th January 2011
8pm St Giles Centre

Summary Report since last GC on 18th November 2010

1102

Case work update

I have taken action on 660 cases since the last GC – all cases are being responded to in under 6 working days. This month I will be producing a quarterly casework report which I will email to you.

2010

- 27th November 2010 – Speaking at the Eastern Region Conference
- 2nd December 2010 – Peckham Ward and South Camberwell Ward Christmas Parties
- 3rd December 2010 – Camberwell and Peckham International Development Advisory Panel
- 8th December 2010 – Meeting with London South Bank University to discuss tuition fees and cuts to their funding.
- 10th December 2010 – Speaking at the Gun and Knife Crime Conference at Harris Academy Peckham
 - Meeting with residents at Marie Curie House after fire on 9th floor
 - Christmas party at Links Community Centre, Rotherhithe
- 11th December 2011 – Opening of the Epharaim Early Years Nursery in Peckham
 - Attending the memorial service for Clare Cozens
- 16th December 2010 – Christmas lunch with the Golden Oldies at Walworth Methodist Church
 - Meeting with Grant Shapps MP about the future of the Aylesbury Estate
- 17th December 2010 - Celebrating Christmas, Dwali and Eid with Southwark Asian Elderly Association
- 20th December 2010 – Meeting with representatives of the Peckham Area Housing Forum
- 30th December 2010 – visit to the Pelican Estate after tragic shooting

2011

- 11th January 2011 – Meeting with Southwark Black Parent's Forum
- 13th January 2011 – Meeting with Nick Herbert MP, the policing minister, asking him to protect police numbers in Southwark
 - Meeting with Grant Shapps re Southwark's funding settlement
 - Spoke a public meeting of residents on the Pelican Estate to discuss shooting
- 18th December 2011 – welcoming pupils from Gloucester Primary School to the House of Commons
- 19th December 2011 – Attended the official opening of new wing at Harris girl's School, East Dulwich

Future Events

- 3rd February – speech at LSE on International Development
- In March I will be making a speech on Remittances to the London South Bank University

General Update

I have met with Val Shawcross, Peter John and Tessa Jowell to discuss how we tackle the issue of Simon Hughes MP breaking his promises. My advice surgeries will be moving from the town hall later this year and I would be grateful for suggestions on where I should hold them in the future. After the AGM next month I will focus on attending branch meetings as well as the GC, so I hope to catch up with you there.

Best wishes,

Harriet