**Election Focus**

FROM ALISON DAVIS, CHLOE-JANE ROSS AND RICH WILSHER, YOUR LOCAL LIB DEM TEAM

“You are the only party and candidates consistently out in the community, that I’m aware of, listening to locals, knocking on doors, taking feedback.
And - hallelujah - with sensible plans! I do hope Beckenham remembers this come the local elections.”

E Brooks, Beckenham

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**Village Way Crossing Victory**

After 10 years of ignoring residents, parents and headteachers, Bromley Council has been forced into action.

Following our community lead campaign, covered by the BBC, Bromley Council have seen sense on dangerous Village Way and are installing a pedestrian refuge to help schoolchildren and families cross more safely. We would prefer a zebra crossing giving right of way to pedestrians, but the refuge is a step in the right direction.

Thank you to everyone that supported the campaign. But there are so many other dangerous roads in Beckenham. It’s time for a local road safety revolution and Beckenham Lib Dems will be leading the charge.

**Copers Cope Road Crossing** - The campaign for a safe crossing near New Beckenham Station continues. The refuge installed last year is in the wrong place, and inadequate on a road where speeding is rife.

**Corner Way Surgery Crossing** - Another community campaign for a safe crossing at this busy junction on route to the GP surgery, three schools, station and the High Street.

**Third highest burglary rates in Borough in your area**

Recent Police data shows that Copers Cope Ward has the highest rate of burglary in Beckenham and the third highest in the borough.

We think it no coincidence that this has happened when local policing has been reduced due to Conservative cuts. The Copers Cope Safer Neighbourhood scheme has no dedicated car, nor will they be located centrally in the Police Office on Albemarle Rd.

On a good day the entire borough only has access to 6 response cars and an area car. This is in the geographically largest borough in London.

And it’s about to get worse in November, when the Labour London Mayor’s tri-borough merger comes into effect, meaning that our police cars will be shared with Croydon and Sutton. With higher crime rates in Croydon you can guess where our police are going to spend most of their time!

Lib Dems oppose these cuts and are fighting this merger.

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**Safer to School | Safer for All** - We continue to fight for traffic calming and safe crossings near schools and on speeding hotspots. Brackley Road needs immediate action.

**Westgate Bridge** - Meanwhile Conservative Councillors’ sudden campaign to widen Westgate Bridge at a presumed cost of millions has concerned local residents who fear the bridge widening will increase traffic, congestion and rat-running on their roads.

The cost of the widening could be better spent on road safety improvements across Beckenham including an alternative solution for the bridge.

**Council invests in offices in Kent whilst failing to protect ours**

Nearly all Beckenham’s once-thriving offices are gone. The lack of office workers has devastated the day-time economy. Local businesses are reporting a significant drop in weekday trade.

Bromley Council could have protected our high street offices with a Planning Directive. They did not do this. Nor did they bother to invest in any of the Beckenham office blocks that came up for sale in the last few years.

To add insult to injury, whilst Beckenham’s essential office space was being lost Bromley Council bought offices and warehouses in Berkshire (2016) and Ashford (2017). In fact Bromley Council invested a total of £25.8 million pounds in commercial property outside of the borough in 2016-17. We think this is outrageous!

Lib Dems will identify and prioritise investment opportunities in the borough, supporting SMEs.

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**Committed, effective and local - we have a proven track record!**
Beckenham Lib Dems have a record of action in our area

In Beckenham, many active local people spend long hours working to improve our area, more in some cases than our elected Councillors. This year three active local people are standing in the Council Election as Liberal Democrats. Chloe-Jane Ross, Alison Davis and Rich Wilsher have already achieved so much for Beckenham - just imagine what they could do as your elected Councillors.

Road safety - working with parents and schools on the Safer to School | Safer for All campaign. Successful campaign for crossing on Village Way, and ongoing campaigns on other dangerous roads and junctions; Coper's Cope Rd, Corner Ways crossroads.

Local policing - Lib Dems are fighting against national Conservative cuts and Labour London Mayor's cuts and tri-borough merger that diverts local police to Croydon and Sutton.

Local transport - Chloe-Jane started and led the successful local campaign to save the Blackfriars services from Beckenham Junction. Bromley Council failed to act to protect this service, enabling Wimbledon to lobby the Transport Minister to their benefit and Beckenham residents' disadvantage. Thanks to local efforts, Southeastern continue to provide the services as far as Blackfriars.

Local health services - Beckenham Lib Dems campaigned against the closure of the Baby Clinic at the Beckenham Beacon. Our petition and pressure forced the Council to work with the newly-commissioned provider to return services to Beckenham. We are scrutinising local health provision and fighting for more funds for the NHS nationally.

High Street - Beckenham Lib Dems are part of a core group of residents and businesses working on town improvements and fighting to protect the local economy. Initiatives include the Purple Flag Award, Beckenham Business Improvement District, Beckenham Town Centre Team and town events including the Market on Beckenham Green.

Beckenham Christmas Tree – 2017 saw the introduction of the spectacular Christmas Tree of lights on Beckenham Green - commissioned and crowdfunded by Chloe-Jane.

Make your vote count on 3rd May – set a new vision for Bromley

Liberal Democrats

✔ Action on road safety, housing, school place provision, community healthcare, transport, street cleaning, high street management and green spaces.

✔ Councillors who are willing to put in the work and fight for local people.

✔ Proper consultation with local people. Improved access to Council meetings.

✔ Effective scrutiny of all Council decision-making and opposition to the Tories.

Conservatives

✗ Complacent Council that does not listen to local people.

✗ A council failing on children's services, failing on housing, failing on local health, failing on road safety and failing to do more for local people.

✗ A stale and out of touch approach.

✗ Ongoing cuts to local services whilst investing millions of tax-payers' money outside of the borough.

LABOUR IS A WASTED VOTE! They have never won here, never done any work here and their candidates have no track record. They will not be able to hold the Conservatives to account.

Lib Dems can win here!

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<th>Lib Dem</th>
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<td>Data from canvass returns April 2018</td>
<td>37%</td>
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It's so close in Copers Cope