

Autumn/Winter 2015

London News

News and views from across London delivered to your home

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SPECIAL FEATURE

Caroline Pidgeon “I will fight cuts to our neighbourhood police”

THREAT TO EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD PCSO AND UP TO 8,000 POLICE OFFICERS

▲ The plans from London's Conservative Mayor could see every neighbourhood community support officer and 8,000 police officers axed.



Caroline Pidgeon (left), who is the Liberal Democrat candidate for Mayor and lead Assembly Member, is fighting plans that threaten the future of neighbourhood policing.

The Metropolitan Police have to make large cuts but these plans could see over 1000 Police Community Support Officers working in neighbourhood teams across the capital axed, and up to 1 in 4 police officers lost.

“PCSOs are the eyes and ears of the police on our streets and provide reassurance to Londoners. The Tory Mayor should cut these plans - not cut our police,” said Caroline.

Save our safer neighbourhood teams say Lib Dems

“The roll out of neighbourhood based policing has made a huge difference to London,” added Caroline.

“There is ample evidence that many people, particularly young people, are more likely to engage with and report

offences to PCSOs. These plans would rip the heart out of neighbourhood policing teams. In a stroke much of the progress that has been made in making our city safer will be lost.

“With police officer numbers also under threat we need to fight to protect community based policing in London.”

**Take
Action
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PETITION
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London News
COMMENT

A different kind of Mayor?

The race to be Mayor of London has, more often than not, been more of a soap opera than a battle of ideas.

It's been all about the big personalities rather than using the office of Mayor to do the often unglamorous task of running London day to day.

Look at our Conservative Mayor's broken promises to deliver a night tube service this Autumn. His lack of preparation has meant he has had to kick his plans down the road after opposition from tube staff and the trade unions.

But this is just a symptom of a wider problem.

To date, London's Mayors have put their own personal political agendas first.

Next May Londoners have the chance to vote for something different.

You can vote for a no-nonsense woman, in Caroline Pidgeon who gets things done, backed up by a strong team of Liberal Democrat Assembly Members at City Hall.

Caroline has shown with her work on the London Assembly that she can deliver a London that works for everyone.

No third runway



▲ Caroline Pidgeon and Merlene Emerson, who is standing to be a Liberal Democrat London Assembly member and is a long time campaigner against Heathrow expansion, at a recent rally in Westminster.

At City Hall London's political parties have kept a united stance against Heathrow expansion. But that hasn't been the case in Westminster with the Chancellor George Osborne in particular favouring expansion.

Speaking at the recent rally in Westminster, organised by Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise (HACAN), Caroline Pidgeon said: The case against Heathrow expansion is not

just strong - it has never been stronger.

"We all know how serious air traffic noise is, affecting

The case against expansion has never been stronger

communities across London. But there is also the issue of air pollution.

"The laws on tackling air pollution in London and the

construction of a third runway are incompatible."

Heathrow is not the solution

Barnes resident and anti-expansion campaigner Merlene Emerson added: "Despite all the lobbying from Heathrow there is actually unused airport capacity in the South East. If George Osborne is serious about his Northern Powerhouse he should stop forcing so many people from across the UK to fly from Heathrow."

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Farron challenges PM to help refugees

Tim Farron has challenged the Prime Minister David Cameron to take action to help 3,000 unaccompanied child refugees from Syria.

Following a visit to Lesbos, where he met refugees and charity workers, the Liberal Democrat Leader said: "We have an opportunity to step up to the mark and accede to the request that Save the Children has put our way to help 3,000 unaccompanied children. We'll continue to have the

discussion about Britain taking its fair share of the refugee population in Europe, but this is a specific issue and surely David Cameron can find no reasonable excuse not to agree to help."

Camden and Barnet Lib Dem Campaigner Zack Polanski, who has been organising street stalls to raise awareness of the crisis, added: "I believe Londoners want to lead the way in being generous and welcoming to those in crisis."



▲ Lib Dem Leader Tim Farron has become the first UK political party leader to see the situation on the Greek islands first hand, when he joined groups helping refugees on Lesbos.

Pidgeon sets out vision for better childcare



▲ Caroline knows first hand about what it means to juggle work and a family. She has set out plans for 'wrap around childcare' to help London parents.

London Live filmed the launch of Caroline Pidgeon's campaign to be the Liberal Democrat candidate for Mayor of London. Speaking at a nursery school in Islington, Caroline outlined her key priority of making childcare work for parents.

Caroline set out her vision, based on her own experience as a working mum, saying: "Childcare in London is a really major issue - it's a real barrier for getting women, particularly, back into work. It is a huge cost in terms of how much

people pay for the hours they need.

"It's also the availability - sometimes you can't get a place, sometimes you can't get the hours you need at the beginning or end of the day, or in school holidays.

We know looking at the figures - 10% fewer women are going back to work in London than in the rest of the UK

"There are no policies out there. No one is talking about this in a way that really will solve the problem.

"We need to find ways to solve this

and look at working with businesses to create part-time opportunities to enable women to go back to work rather than this brain drain from London's economy.

"We know looking at the figures - 10% fewer women are going back to work in London than in the rest of the UK. That needs to ring alarm bells."

Caroline added: "As Mayor I would make sure that I use the resources available to support the provision of better childcare that works for everyone in the 21st century."

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

From Olympic legacy to a homes legacy

writes Emily Davey



London rents and house prices are the highest in the country. Many of those on low and middle incomes cannot afford to rent in London. The Liberal Democrat team at City Hall have set out a plan to fund 50,000 new low rent homes.

The top up of £20 a year on our council tax for the Olympics, which Londoners started paying in 2006 ends in 2016. The Lib Dem team thinks we should continue to pay the £20 but use the money to build more homes. This way we could build 50,000 new homes with all the transport, schools and facilities they need. These homes would be let out at a low rent to people on low incomes.

These homes at council rents will be needed even more now the Conservative Government has extended the right to buy. The Conservative Government has given council tenants over £100,000 off their council homes should they want to buy them and now it is giving Housing Association tenants the same discounts. Unsurprisingly the properties are being snapped up leaving even fewer low rent homes for Londoners.

Help to rent and rent to buy

Earlier this year the Liberal Democrats set out plans to help young people in the private rented sector onto the housing ladder, including a help to rent scheme and a rent to buy scheme.

Emily Davey @Emily4London is a lawyer who specialises in social housing cases and is standing to be a Lib Dem London Assembly Member.

Study finds Oxford Street is the most polluted road in the world

A study from King's College London has found Oxford Street is the most polluted road in the world.

The Liberal Democrats have a long track record of campaigning to pedestrianise the iconic street which would help tackle pollution and improve road safety.

Liberal Democrat Assembly Member Stephen Knight said: "Oxford Street is one of the most iconic shopping streets in the world with 200 million people visiting a year. It is one of the cornerstones of London's

economic success. Yet Oxford Street is also currently one of the most dangerous roads in the UK. The diesel fuelled buses & taxis that stutter along it have produced the highest known concentrations of nitrogen dioxide anywhere in the world. And one person is knocked down by traffic on Oxford Street every 5 days."

You can support the Liberal



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londonlibdems.org.uk/oxfst

Wealthy football teams should pay for the policing of games

At a time when the Met is facing serious budget pressures London's football teams are forcing the Metropolitan Police Service to pick up a policing bill of over £4 million a year.

It has been revealed by Caroline Pidgeon, Leader of the Liberal Democrat London Assembly Group, that between the start of last year's football season and May of this year the cost of policing outside football stadiums generated a bill of £4.2 million for the Met.

"The London football club that caused the highest bill was Chelsea with a bill for £627,275, followed by Arsenal at £491,869 and Tottenham Hotspur at £480,433.

Caroline Pidgeon said: "When the Met's Commissioner has warned Londoners of the immense budget pressures facing our police service, with the prospect of thousands of police officers being lost, it is simply madness that commercial football teams are not paying the full policing costs for their matches. Many commercial clubs are owned by billionaires and are paying out million pound salaries to their players, they can afford to make a contribution."



Protecting London jobs

Over 3 Million jobs will be put at risk if Britain leaves the European Union, with many of these in London.

"The truth is the EU needs reforming, but pulling out altogether would be disastrous for our economy," said Caroline Pidgeon.

"Right here in London the EU has provided vital funding for job creation projects and for cutting-edge scientific research at institutions like King's College London.

"Employers like Diageo in Brent, Ford in Dagenham, Siemens in Tower Hamlets and Hillingdon, have all said that the jobs they provide are linked to

Britain's EU membership and the access to global markets this brings."

London should be in the heart of Europe

London Liberal Democrat Assembly candidate Dawn Barnes, who works for a London university, added: "It's not just business that benefits from our EU membership. Being able to work and study in other European countries offers many advantages to many thousands of Londoners.

"The Liberal Democrats are the only party that is united in support of an in vote when the referendum comes. This is because we are committed to an open tolerant UK," added Dawn.



▲ Are priority should be protecting jobs and growth in the capital, not putting our economic recovery at risk as the 'leave campaign' is set to do.

BETRAYED!

Lowest paid Londoners hit by Conservative cuts



▲ Conservative plans to slash tax credits will hit thousands of hard working London families.

Nearly 400,000 London families will be worse off because of Conservative plans to cut tax credits.

Figures produced by the House of Commons Library show 370,900 families in London currently in receipt of tax credits will see their entitlement reduced.

Despite claims from the Conservatives that those affected will benefit from plans to increase the minimum wage, the independent Institute for Fiscal Studies has said Tory figures don't stack up. The IFS shows a £750 average loss will only be offset by £200 as a result of the new minimum wage.

"The changes to tax credits will hammer families in London. The Tories just cannot claim to be on the side of working families.

"638,100 children here in the capital now face living in a poorer household. Losing this money means a harder struggle for parents trying to make ends meet and worse chance in life for their kids," said Liberal Democrat London Assembly candidate Rob Blackie.



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Printed by Mortons Media Group Ltd, Media Centre, Morton Way, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, LN9 6JR. Published & promoted by S. Drage on behalf of London Liberal Democrats all at 2nd Floor 8-10 Great George Street, London, SW1P 3AE.

Join Caroline's team today!

Name: _____ Postcode: _____

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- I will be voting Lib Dem in the London elections in May
- I can deliver leaflets in my area
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Liberal Democrat membership surge



Since May, Lib Dem Membership in London has surged, with 5,000 new members swelling the party's ranks.

Election successes
 The party has also scored a number of successes at local council

by-elections holding seats with increased majorities in Kingston and Sutton. In Southwark's South Camberwell ward Lib Dem candidate Ben Maitland (pictured above) pushed the Conservatives into fourth place.

Most impressively in

Twickenham the Lib Dems took a seat off the Conservatives, that had just been vacated by the newly elected Conservative MP!

If you want to join the Lib Dems and fight for a fairer London return the form on the left free.