

GREEN NEWS CHAUCER



John Tyson



Preeti Sekhon



Phil Vabulas

A SAFE, SECURE HOME IS A PRECIOUS THING

Working with residents to keep roofs over their heads

As Greens we believe our homes are a fundamental basic right. Whether you own or rent, you want to know you and your loved ones have somewhere to live. And there's no more important time than over winter.

Green activist John Tyson worked throughout the summer with the Ledbury Action Group to get the Council to commit to rehousing residents and safeguarding their estate, in Peckham. Successive councils had ignored residents' concerns over building safety, and an engineers' report finally commissioned this year found that the four blocks were at risk of collapse from a gas explosion.



Working with Ledbury residents

Closer to home, we've been chasing the Council on vital repairs. A burst pipe under Aird House, Rockingham Estate, has been flowing for weeks. We're pushing the Housing Officer for a resolution.

Private renters in Metro Central Heights contacted us about concerns they had on housing conditions, and we suggested looking at the London Renters Union, an initiative brought about with help from Green London Assembly member Sian Berry, aimed at giving renters better rights, lower rents and a fairer housing system.

John says, 'Whether it's a flooding washing machine, an unexpected rise in your rent, or the threat of eviction, we all know how that stress and fear subsequently infects every waking hour. The housing crisis is every bit as much about having decent flats and houses for us all to live in.'

LESSONS FROM LAKANAL

Greens campaigning for fire safety

The Grenfell Tower disaster left the whole nation in shock, but the similarities to Southwark's own tragic fire in 2009 at Lakanal House, Camberwell, where six died, were startling.

Green activist John Tyson and Green London Assembly member Sian Berry presented a petition with over 100,000 signatures to the Home Office calling on the Government to implement recommendations from the Lakanal inquest. Proposals such as retro-fitting sprinklers, made by the coroner in a letter sent to government ministers in 2013, were largely ignored.

The Council's response to fire safety has been heavy handed, and caused distress to some residents. Some have raised concerns that the zero tolerance to all outside furniture is too reminiscent of what came in after Lakanal. What about reviews of compartment breaches?



Sian & John petitioning the Home Office

John says, 'A key lesson from Grenfell was that we need to listen to people. Residents raised concerns that weren't heard. Our response needs to be to find fire safety measures that are practical, ensure safety, but recognise individual needs.'

WORKING TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE HAS A VOICE

GREENS IN SOUTHWARK CAMPAIGN WITH BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE

Across Southwark regeneration has brought significant change, but who really benefits? The Green Party is committed to making sure locals are given the opportunity to make their areas work for them. Local voices have an expert knowledge of their area, of what needs to be preserved, and what needs to be changed.



Greens at the Bricklayers tube rally



Chaucer Ward

Our activists are helping traders and locals worried about the proposed demolition of the Elephant & Castle shopping centre, which has been a vital community asset for decades

Southwark Green, John Tyson, started a petition to save bingo at the shopping centre. Older residents are being discriminated against under current regeneration plans

We're supporting locals opposing proposed development on Tarn Street until it's shown how it will benefit the community

Whilst the Council is proposing to spend £1.2m on Dickens Square park regeneration, we're asking why they've cut their parks teams from 5 to 2

Southwark Greens joined local businesses in a cross-party campaign calling on TfL to add a tube station at Bricklayers roundabout to their proposed Bakerloo extension

Southwark Greens are helping Lokma Restaurant, who want the Council to help preserve Bermondsey Abbey ruins beneath their floor

We're engaging with the amazing Vital OKR, who are working to stop the demolition of crucial businesses and industry on the Old Kent Road

John Tyson, the Green Party candidate for Chaucer Ward says: **'Losing our communities is not a price worth paying for regeneration.'**

GET IN TOUCH



If you have a comment or query about our area, John, Preeti and Phil would love to know. Here's how you can get in touch:

Email contact@southwark.greenparty.org.uk
Twitter @johnnytyson / @philvabulas

Want to meet? We're happy to arrange a time

HANDY TO KNOW

TAKE IT TO THE STREETS: Download the Love Clean Streets App to quickly report graffiti, fly-tipping, potholes, abandoned cars, dog mess, and much more in your area.

GET RECYCLING: Just 35% of household waste in Southwark gets recycled or composted, yet 60% of what gets binned could be recycled.

SAFE ADVENTURES: Get your kids out having fun by temporarily closing your local road. Play Streets allows your kids to play on the street without any traffic. Apply here: <http://www.southwark.gov.uk/transport-and-roads/play-streets>

GO GREEN – CHANGE FOR THE BETTER