

Since 2004, Leeds City Council has been in the hands of a coalition of LibDems and Tory Councillors. The LibDems are crumbling, ever losing seats, leaderless in Leeds, as well as nationally.

Kirkstall Labour News

Burley - Kirkstall - Moor Grange - West Park Winter 2007/8

These are just some of the actions the LibDems voted for:

- Cutting home care to 3,000 elderly and vulnerable people
- Cutting training courses in Community Centres
- Privatising the grass cutting - an absolute disaster
- Diverted money from inner city areas to affluent Tory voting areas
- £500,000 on re-launching the Council Newspaper
- Shut day centres for old people at the weekends
- Introduced charges to community groups using community centres & Kirkstall Festival
- Spent £850,000 on a city logo already in use across the world
- Spent £200,000 on the Councillors' Lounge
- Shut hostels for the homeless
- Spent thousands of pounds on foreign jaunts whilst cutting grants to voluntary bodies
- Increased charges at sports centres and swimming pools
- Turning Woodhouse Moor into a car park, sport pitches for the university and now a drinking den for alcoholics
- Developed a bigger city council PR machine than that of Coca Cola UK
- Cut the night link bus for women
- Paying a handful of staff earning more than £100,000 per annum a 10% increase
- Increased nursery charges so that the poorest cannot afford to use them
- Shut Beckett Park School when they promised to keep it open

Massive Labour Investment in Council House Refurbishment



The Labour Government has allocated £72 million to North West Leeds to bring Council houses up to a decent standard. This will benefit not only Council tenants, but anyone in the area, as the whole

environment is improved. The LibDems and their masters, the Tories, would have you believe **they** provided this money, but:

This money came from the Labour Government

The Labour government has just made £559 million available for affordable housing in Yorkshire and the Humber. This means more affordable housing in the region for first time buyers and working families. Crucially it also means more social housing in the public sector. This is the most money that has ever been available for social and affordable housing. In Leeds, house prices have rocketed in the last few years and the number of council houses has halved. This funding is to allow local families and young people to have homes of their own.

Lucinda Yeadon



After many years of service and tireless work for Kirkstall, Councillor Liz Minkin has decided not to seek re-election next May. Determined to find a worthy successor we are delighted to introduce Lucinda Yeadon, recommended by Liz herself.

Lucinda is an active community worker. She is the Community Development Officer for MENCAP, and a member of the TUC Women's Committee. She has lived all her life in Leeds, is a member of Yorkshire Disabled Cricket Team, Riding for the Disabled and is an active campaigner in Kirkstall which she knows intimately through her work with the Kirkstall Labour Party.

Liz Minkin says: "I could be not be happier with the choice of Lucinda to follow me as Labour candidate. She will serve Kirkstall with vigour, energy and total honesty. I recommend her most strongly."

Contact us

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Councillor Bernard Atha | 267 2485 (h) | 247 8328 (w) | bernard.atha@leeds.gov.uk |
| Councillor John Illingworth | 267 3735 (h) | 343 3135 (w) | john.illingworth@leeds.gov.uk |
| Councillor Liz Minkin | 278 0218 (h) | 247 5576 (w) | elizabeth.minkin@leeds.gov.uk |
| Rt Hon John Battle MP | 231 0258 | johnbattle@leedswest.freemove.co.uk | |

What issues are most important to you?

- Graffiti
- Recycling
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Local Environment
- 20 mph zones:
- Other (please specify):

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Telephone: _____
 Email: _____

- Yes, I would like to get involved in a local campaign
 - Yes, I would like information on joining the Labour Party
- Please return to: Kirkstall Labour Party, FREEPOST RLZL-GLCU-TJJE, Leeds, LS2 9JG
- We may use the information you have supplied to contact you, if you do not wish to be contacted please tick the box.

Shenanigans at Civic Hall - this farce must end!

Leeds City Council is still being run by a coalition of LibDems and Tories, calling on the Morley Borough Independents and Greens to keep them afloat. At this rate neither the LibDems nor the Tories stand any chance of winning sole control of the council this side of the next century. They spend more time attacking each other than running the City.

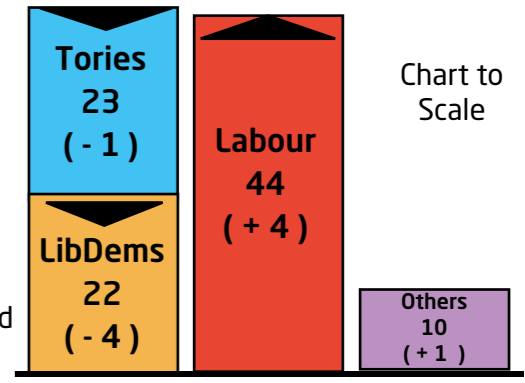
Vote LibDem.... Get Tory
Vote Labour.... Get Labour

The LibDems are crumbling as they find themselves leaderless Nationally and leaderless Locally. In Leeds, we in effect have a Tory council with LibDem poodles.

Its time to stop this farce and put the council back in safe hands.



Change on Leeds Council since 2004



Others = Greens + Morley Independents + Independents + BNP



John Battle and Rachel Reeves working together in Leeds West

Going Places

As you may have heard, John Battle MP will be standing down at the next General Election. We hope you will join us in wishing John all the best for his future pursuits.

Leeds West Labour Party have chosen Rachel Reeves, a resident of Kirkstall, to stand at the next General Election.

Rachel is an economist currently working for the Halifax in Leeds. She previously worked at the Bank of England and also at the British Embassy in Washington, is a key member of the Kirkstall Campaign Team, a Governor at Kirkstall Valley Primary and West Leeds High School.

Rachel is looking forward to representing this fantastic community and to meeting many of the areas wonderful people.

KIRKSTALL NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

The complex plans for reviving the heart of Kirkstall were given outline planning permission a few months ago. Discussions continue between the Council, Health Service and the private developers.

We are adamant that there must be a comprehensive and attractive development, incorporating a wide range of Council, Health and local shopping services, which must include 25% affordable housing.

We are pressing the Primary Care Trust to finalise its plans for our centre, and demanding that the Council demonstrate the leadership required to bring such a complicated but hugely important scheme to a successful conclusion. The Council failed to ensure the Post office stayed open on the site, despite the willingness of the Post Office and the



developers to find a solution. Our Labour Councillors are working to improve Kirkstall, but the Tory/LibDem council concentrates its efforts elsewhere.

KIRKSTALL FORGE

The plans for the redevelopment of this huge and amazing site have also been given outline planning permission, including a new rail station. The developers have been working with local residents to ensure their proposals for housing, employment and leisure are thoroughly discussed and that local people's ideas are taken account of.

Your Labour Councillors have arranged with the Council and developers that there will be discussion with local people about how the considerable sums of money from the development to benefit local communities are to be spent. We believe that Hawksworth Wood, where many of the workers at the Forge came from, should have first call.

BRIDGE ROAD

'BHS' have submitted new plans for the redevelopment of the Clover Allders site at Bridge Road, after their first attempt was refused planning permission. (They have submitted an appeal against this decision, to be held in the New Year).

CHARGES ON COMMUNITY EVENTS

This year's Kirkstall Festival was again a highly successful event. It is one of the biggest and best events run by any community organisation. Some of the charges imposed by the Police, Ambulance Service and the Council on the volunteer organisers from the Kirkstall Valley Community Association have been excessive. We support the Festival and the network of other community events.

The value of such events in lifting our spirits, providing a real family outing, and giving local talent the chance to perform is incalculable and must not be put at risk by such steep charges. We call upon the Council and Police not to play postcode politics with the efforts volunteers put in to strengthen our communities. The police have suggested a charge of £5,000 for the 2008 festival.

Here is what some other festivals in Leeds have been charged for policing:

Chapelton Festival £ 0, Leeds Mela £ 0, Unity Day £ 0



Lucinda Yeadon with Kirkstall Councillors Bernard Atha and John Illingworth

CUMULATIVE IMPACT ON THE A65

All these developments have huge TRAFFIC implications for the A65. We have been campaigning for the Council to undertake a thorough overview of the A65 corridor and we have made the point very strongly that none of the developments can be considered in isolation from the others. There must be strategic investment in managing the traffic so that local residents are not adversely affected.

One minor proposal which has been made by the Council is for the original stone shops at the bottom of Beecroft Street to be demolished to make yet more room for vehicles. We feel that this should be resisted - after all, most of central Kirkstall was demolished for the sake of more road space. We would like to maintain what is left. Please let us know your views.



After pressure from our Labour Councillors, they did agree to hold exhibitions at the store and at St. Stephen's Church Hall to inform residents of their proposals. We are very clear that the plans must be of the right quality and character for such a great site. Any new development must make the best use of the riverside setting and of the views to the Abbey. Kirkstall needs a range of proper shops, not warehouse buildings.

Council Failing on Recycling and Waste

The Tory/LibDem Council is doing a rubbish job at managing the city's waste. They have set unrealistic targets for recycling. They admit that they cannot manage to introduce kerbside glass collection until 2010/2011. It is no wonder they are falling back on the predictable and unacceptable solution of an incinerator for Leeds. We will oppose any proposal to collect the black bins less often than weekly. This option may suit some properties, but in other areas it would cause environmental health problems, with rubbish rotting in the streets.

The Leeds record is poor compared to other cities. Recycling must improve and the Council must do more to help people recycle at home and at work. The incinerator is not the answer. There are better and cheaper means than the enormous building and running costs of the proposed incinerator.

Many residents have reported carefully sorted waste being put into the lorry for landfill. This must stop!



YOUNG PEOPLE

Our children and young people need far more facilities and play areas. We are glad that the new playground at the Abbey has proved so successful, after we pointed out that the original plastic and garish proposals were not good enough.

A small youth team does sterling work in the ward, and the Hawksworth Wood YMCA is excellent, but we have protested vigorously at the Tory/LibDem decision that a few outer wards should share an extra £70,000 funding when large parts of Kirkstall have no provision whatsoever.

20 MPH ZONES



We support residents calls for more 20 mph zones in residential areas. As our roads in residential areas become more cluttered with parked vehicles, it is essential that speeds are kept down to ensure the safety of all. The signage of zones help to re-enforce to drivers that they are entering a residential area that is not intended as a through route. These zones are currently being considered for Hawksworth Wood and Moor Grange estates.