

Cathedral Labour News

Worcester

Winter 2015 - Delivered free by Labour Volunteers

PARKS STAFF, STREET CLEANERS AND BINMEN TO BE PRIVATISED



Councillor Lynn Denham in Fort Royal Park

Have Your Say

Worcester City Council is putting all park staff, street cleaners and binmen out to tender, along with Wychavon and Malvern Hills council services. Worcester's **in-house** binmen have made **savings** every year, whilst the **Spanish company** which empties Wychavon bins has put its **price up** each year!

Your Labour Councillors wanted the city's efficient in-house team to bid for the shared contract but Conservative Councillors voted it out. All these essential services will now be run by a **private company** from 2017.

Following pressure from Labour Councillors, you now have a chance to tell the Council how important these services are to you. Go to www.worcester.gov.uk/voiceit or get a printed survey from the Hive, the Guildhall, the Commandery or Horizon before 18th December.

Tell the City Council what you think!

Planning Debunked!

We are frequently contacted about planning issues. With **241 applications** in Cathedral Ward last year, many people are affected by planning decisions.

- since March 2011, government expects 'the answer to development and growth should wherever possible be 'yes'
- planning authorities can no longer give preference to brownfield sites or specify energy efficient buildings
- there is a presumption in favour of all applications for housing - it is harder to say no!
- **public opinion against an application is not enough**
- Government made it easier to build **without**

planning permission in 2013 for home extensions and garage conversions etc

- the **value** of your home is **not** a planning consideration
- there is no right to a view from your house
- conditions can be attached to planning permission to restrict business hours, require road improvements or protect wildlife or heritage assets
- developers can appeal if they think their application has been unreasonably refused

If you have any planning questions, please get in touch with Lynn or Jabba and we will do our best to help





Safer Communities

Your Labour Councillors, **Lynn Denham** and **Jabba Riaz** meet regularly with local people and the police to resolve any crime hotspots.

We help set local police and enforcement priorities to focus on residents' concerns. We work with landlords, businesses and others to address anti-social behaviour and promote community safety.

Bike Theft

- 67 were stolen in Cathedral Ward in 6 months
- Make sure your bike is always securely locked even at home or if you are only leaving it for a short time.
- Get your bike security marked with smart water so it is harder to sell on and can be

returned to you if lost or stolen.

Community Cohesion

We support West Mercia Police in saying *By joining together, we demonstrate our strength and unity as a community to celebrate and promote diversity, respect, tolerance and coherence.*

Lynn and Jabba are both active in organising multi-cultural community events. Lynn has organised many successful events in Fort Royal Park. Jabba helps deliver activities at Horizon and a cricket project for young people.

Ring 101 to report a crime or suspicious activities.

Fighting for Fairness

Since George Osborne announced £4.4bn cuts in tax credits in July 2015, Labour has been fighting for fairness for working families.

Your Labour Councillors were concerned that **6,300 families** in Worcester would lose an average £1,300 a year. This would have

- increased in-work child poverty
- acted as a disincentive to work
- had a negative effect on the local economy.

After all our lobbying, we welcome the Chancellor's U turn on 25th November. Yet only one week before this, Tory Councillors refused to accept deep concerns about the proposed tax credit cuts in Worcester and voted against writing to our MP and the Prime Minister.

Thank you to all those who signed our petition to stop the tax credit cut.

If you would like to help us fight for a fairer country you can get involved or keep in touch with our campaigns via our website www.worcesterlabour.org.uk

Contact Lynn or Jabba about local ward campaigns.

Labour - on your side, fighting for a fairer country



Ways to get in touch



Lynn 07828 971146 or Jabba 07887 556840



www.worcesterlabour.org.uk



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Your Labour Councillors - always ready to listen and help

We speak up for local residents on the issues that matter and take **action**. Every Cathedral community is important to us.

You can talk to a Labour Councillor any **Saturday** at the Guildhall, from 10am-12, without appointment

