

SEPTEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

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MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2018

Lambeth Town Hall
Brixton Hill
London SW8 1RW
12 pm to 2.30 pm
RoomTH1-16

SOCIAL CARE IN LAMBETH

Speaker: Cllr Ed Davie, Cabinet Councillor, Health and Social Care.

For years the Social Care system has been failing to meet the needs of people who rely on it most. The Social Care System is grossly underfunded. It has been plagued by a number of troubling issues i.e. the unfairness of means testing, a postcode lottery, inadequately trained and poorly paid care workers, their poor employment conditions, the lack of support for family carers, the quality and standards of care services and social delivery by private companies. In addition there is a lack of an effective and robust monitoring system which often fails to detect inadequacies and lack of care in care homes. There is no doubt that this failing care system is in dire straits and in need of radical and urgent reform.

The Local Authority has a duty to safeguard children, young people and adults 'protecting them from abuse or neglect, getting the right response as early as possible and creating an environment in which they feel safe and healthy'. Lambeth Council needs to work more closely with residents and stakeholders in the borough to achieve this level of care.

We have invited Cllr Ed Davie to answer questions relating to the Pensioners Manifesto. We want to know what funding, policies and practices are in place to provide adequate and effective social care for older people in the borough. We are aware that there are certain constraints on social care delivery as a result of the government's Austerity measures, nevertheless, we need to know how a Labour Council is working on the local level to combat the onslaughts on our Public Services and the Welfare State and to safeguard the care system.

Come and be part of this important debate and put your questions to the Councillor with the brief to lead on the delivery on social care in the borough.

Tea, coffee, biscuits, raffle.

Welcome back from the summer recess. Since our meeting in July, the changing political, social and economic landscape has highlighted a number of issues. We are witnessing the changing developments around Brexit, the fallout from the Chequers deal, a government in disarray, the threat of job losses and shortages, of businesses threatening to relocate, rising food and energy prices. Problems in Health and Social Care are ongoing and the housing crisis persists. The Windrush Scandal rages on with further revelations of its impact on lives of the people affected.

What all of this means is that now more than ever we need to join with like-minded organisations to bring about the changes that will transform the lives of communities young and old in the future. We can no longer be satisfied with being treated as second class citizens on the margins of society and denied a share in the riches and benefits and freedoms of this wealthy country. We call for and demand better. LAMPAG is an **action group**. It is a **campaign group**. We have the tools and support to campaign alongside other campaigning organisations to defend our Public Services and Welfare State and to achieve social justice and equity.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank members who 'manned' the LAMPAG stall at the Lambeth Country Show over the two days. Despite the problems of gaining access to and actually finding the site, we had a fruitful two days speaking to visitors to the tent, providing information on pensioners issues and talking about the work of LAMPAG and the NPC. We managed to sign up 5 prospective members of the public and one LAMPAG member paid her subscription. I would like to thank Lambeth TUC for once again making a space available in their tent to us. Without their generous gesture we would have been unable to have a presence at the show because of the exorbitant charges for a space.

A **big** thank you to the fundraising team which held an enjoyable and rewarding fundraising Tea Party at The Old Laundry on Saturday 4th August. Our gratitude to members of the group for their generous donations of cakes, sandwiches and drinks. There was a surprising and novel raffle draw which went off well. The party was an excellent way of engendering new friendships, of socialising and also of spreading the word. Thanks to you all we raised a whopping £850.

I would also like to thank the young people of Young People Matter for their support on the day and for providing the music. It shows once again that young people **do** matter

CELEBRATING AGE AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH

October is a significant month in the pensioners' calendar. 1 October is International Older People's Day when the world celebrates the achievements and contributions of older people to their families, communities, societies and economies often ignored. It is also the day when we highlight the different experiences and challenges which confront an ageing population globally and set out what governments need to do to repair and put an end to the damages to older people's lives as a result of poverty, lack of human rights and freedoms, prejudice and discrimination. We hope to have a stall in Brixton where we will be talking to the public and publicising the importance of the day and our work in LAMPAG. It is also the month when we especially celebrate, recognise and value inspirational individuals and events within Black communities around the world and locally. The month brings to the forefront inspiring stories of great Black people who have made their mark on history and the world stage in the field of politics, literature, culture, music, the media and

sport. **We will be celebrating Age and Black History Month with a special event and guest speakers in the Assembly Hall at Lambeth Town Hall on Monday 29th October**

LAMBETH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING
20 September
7 – 9 pm
Committee Room B6 Lambeth Town Hall

Lambeth's Overview and Scrutiny committee is holding its next meeting at Lambeth Town to discuss housing related issues in the borough. This is a public meeting and residents are welcome and encouraged to attend. You do not have to register in advance unless you wish to make a contribution.

Agenda

- Resident engagement, including the second and final action update with regards the Residents Involvement in the Housing Scrutiny Commission which reported in June 2016.
- Major works
- The private rented sector.

Please make every attempt to attend. As residents of Lambeth whether in social, private or rental accommodation, we all have our views on national and local housing issues. This is an opportunity to make our voices heard. I will be speaking on behalf of Lambeth older people and in the light of The Pensioners Manifesto. **See you there.**

PENSIONERS' PARLIAMENT JUNE 2018

This year's Pensioners' Parliament saw the biggest representation of pensioners from North London in years. This was due to the work of the Islington Pensioners Forum in engaging with its members and neighbouring pensioners' group and setting up a process which made it possible for them to attend. We have invited Dot Gibson, secretary of the Forum to come and speak to us about how she mobilised the pensioners to manage to go despite the fact that the costs have risen. We would like to emulate this initiative in South London and hopefully achieve the same or a similar measure of success.

Subscriptions

Members are reminded that at the AGM in March the annual subscriptions were raised to £10, paid in full or half yearly. Subscriptions are now due for members who have paid for half a year. We are entirely self funding and depend on subscriptions, donations and raffles to meet the ever rising costs of stationary and postage costs. Your support in this regard is appreciated. It will help us to continue to carry on our important work.

Committee meeting: Monday 24 September, 11am to 1pm Lambeth Town Hall.