



YOUR HITCHIN

HITCHIN GREEN PARTY NEWSLETTER

WALSWORTH EDITION - MARCH 2010

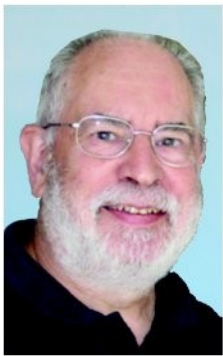
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ISSUE TWO - SPRING 2010

GREENS SELECT RICHARD WISE

In May I shall be asking you to vote for me as the Green Party candidate for the Hitchin & Harpenden parliamentary seat.

Most voters I speak to are outraged at the current political class & the mess they have made of the country. People want to see a new approach. But there will be no change from the other parties because all they offer is more of the same.



Both Labour & Tories support policies based on free market dogma & the privatisation of essential public services. Not only does this fail to address our long-term needs but also,

as recent research has shown, economic growth in rich countries like the UK does not make people any happier.

After decades of these policies Britain is a more unequal society. Our futures have been mortgaged by government policies that encouraged debt & speculation rather than investment in our infrastructure & jobs that fit our changing world.

- * Our **health service** is smothered by bureaucracy.
- * We have a dysfunctional & expensive private **railway** system.
- * Our **energy** infrastructure has been neglected by profit motivated foreign owners leaving consumers exposed to probable future energy shortages .

The Green Party has policies that aim to reverse these trends. You can find more details online details at: <http://tinyurl.com/p6t839> or please ask me if there is anything you are particularly interested in at rlwise@mac.com

Richard Wise is a recently retired university lecturer who has lived in Hitchin for 30 years.

“We want safer roads” say residents



The feedback from our residents' survey shows that speeding traffic is a worry for many people in Walsworth.

A recent report in the **British Medical Journal** showed that introducing a 20 mph speed limit on residential roads in London slashed casualties by 40%. Surveys consistently show that most people support reduced traffic speeds. The Department of Transport's 2009 guidance has made it possible for residential roads to have a 20 mph speed limit without any physical traffic calming measures.

Concerned resident and mother **Sarah Pond** says *"slowing traffic in side roads would mean safer neighbourhoods for all of us"*.

One of the roads suggested to us is **Woolgrove Road**. Would you support a 20 mph limit there or in any other roads near to you?

A 20 mph speed limit on residential roads would result in:

- * reduced injuries & fatalities
- * more people walking & cycling
- * safer & friendlier roads
- * improved quality of life & health
- * improved traffic flow
- * less noise



ACTIVITY REPORT

In our last edition we asked residents to help us with a survey of local concerns. We would like to thank those of you who responded -- your feedback is really useful to us & we have followed up on some of the issues raised. These include:

- * missing road signs
- * vegetation blocking street lights
- * uneven pavements
- * potholes

We are still collecting residents' views & look forward to meeting more of you.

Reporting problems

Many problems with roads or pavements such as:

- * Potholes (the most reported issue!)
- * street lighting
- * overhanging trees
- * uneven surfaces

can be reported to the council at <http://www.hertsdirect.org/actweb/hfr/default.cfm> or by ringing 0300 123 4047

Town Centre Redevelopment: What's Going On?

Tory-run NHDC has decided to redevelop Churchgate at a likely cost of tens of millions of pounds. Yet contracts will be signed before we know anything about the scheme.

Questions that need to be answered:

- * Will the development help small local businesses or will Hitchin become a clone town of chain stores?
- * Will it encourage walking, cycling and bus journeys & reduce the number of cars travelling through the town?
- * Will any new buildings be energy efficient?
- * What will happen to our market?
- * Does the viability of the proposal depend on an economic recovery?
- * If in the future we all need to cut down the amount we consume (because oil is more scarce & expensive) then is a huge investment in a retail development really sensible?
- * Why was the much cheaper alternative of refurbishing Churchgate rejected?



What could a Green councillor do for you?

In Islington, Green councillor Katie Dawson was instrumental in bringing in:

- * a programme of new apprenticeships
- * free sports for young people
- * 20mph on all residential roads in the borough
- * a million pounds for extra allotments &
- * a new centre for repairing household items - saving local people money & avoiding more stuff ending up in landfill.



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