

HELPING ELTHAM HIGH STREET



Cllr Spencer Drury (right) with shopkeepers and customers in the Eltham arcade.

This summer it has become clear that the regeneration works on Eltham High Street have had a serious impact on the shops, reducing the number of visitors and putting their futures at risk. Eltham North Councillor Spencer Drury became involved in supporting the High Street traders by:

- Attending a meeting of the traders in June to hear what

was happening to their businesses.

- Organising the collection of a 1,000 signature petition and its formal presentation to Greenwich Council.
- Proposing a motion to Council asking for them to reduce Business Rates during the period of the works, introduce free parking and advertise that the High Street was open.

Unfortunately the Labour Councillors rejected the motion, with one Eltham representative saying the claims were 'blown out of proportion'. However, the campaign has prompted the Council to take action and we are hopeful that shops will get at least some support with their Business Rates, despite the previous lack of action.

Spencer said "This is a real worry as Eltham doesn't have the Council's support like Woolwich and we are going to have continue to fight to get the shops the support they need."

REDUCING ALLOTMENT CHARGES



One success this year for Eltham North Councillor Spencer Drury has been in pressuring the Council into reversing the increased charges for pensioners who hold allotments in Greenwich. In answer to Spencer's questions, the Council confirmed that in March 2015, without consultation, concessions had been removed for new allotment holders doubling the charges for pensioners from £50 to £100pa. After further intervention from Spencer, the Council agreed to reinstate the concessionary rate for pensioners and reintroduce an allotment holders forum to discuss charges in future.

FUNDING LOCAL PROJECTS

Greenwich Conservatives proposal for ward budgets was adopted by the new Council administration in 2014 and working with ward colleagues (regardless of party) we have supported some excellent projects in the last year. I am particularly proud to have organised funding for a new van for the Foodbank and new equipment for the Boys Brigade in Eltham.

IMPROVED PARKING AROUND THE CORONET

Years of hard work should finally reach fruition this summer with the completion of a small car park outside of the Kinesis Gym in the old Coronet cinema building. The car park was left pending when the Coronet development was completed and questions from Cllr Spencer Drury established that no date had been set for its construction. After a stream of questions to the Council, legal advice was taken and eventually a commitment to start work given. This should make life much easier for residents and shops in the local area.



Cllr Spencer Drury with Adam Thomas outside the Coronet pre-regeneration.

PARKING ON GLENLEA RD

Following the introduction of pay and display parking in a section of road with no residents living on it, Eltham North Conservatives have called for Greenwich Council to change course and return to free parking on Glenlea Road.

At the beginning of April, Greenwich Council introduced Controlled Parking Zones around Eltham, however, on the western section of Glenlea Road, where there are no houses facing the road, the Council opted to introduce pay and display parking to try collect more revenue from motorists. Only a few

weeks into the process, it was quite clear that the effect of the policy has been to leave this section of Glenlea Road empty, while forcing commuter parking on to other neighbouring roads, making it harder for residents to park and driving customers away from local shops.

In response, Spencer has collected a petition to try and reverse this policy. A paper copy of the petition has been presented to Greenwich Council and we would encourage residents to sign an online petition at change.org ("Restore free parking behind Eltham Station by removing charges on western Glenlea Rd").



Activists James Shipp and Adam Thomas with Cllr Spencer Drury on Glenlea Road (no cars obviously)

WARD ROUND-UP

Scoreboard for Eltham Baths

Following questions from local residents, Spencer raised the issue of the non-functioning swimming timing system and it has now been replaced.

A Town Square for Eltham

In our last In Touch residents may recall the suggestion of a town square for Eltham beside the M&S car park. Working with the Council, Spencer has helped move this forward and an initial step has been taken with a planning application.

Protecting character of Progress Estate

In March, Spencer pointed out that a Council decision meant that houses on the Progress Estate could be painted any colour. This decision is now being reviewed.

Eltham Clock working again

Last autumn Spencer helped the campaign to repair Eltham's town clock by questioning the Council Leader & highlighting her mistaken belief that it belonged to the church.



Eltham clock stuck at 12 o'clock and Spencer using a megaphone at a Greenwich swimming gala when the scoreboard /microphone were broken.

A message from your Conservative Councillor for Eltham North ward

Dear Resident

Thank you for taking the time to read this annual report. I think it has been a busy and productive year and I hope that that this leaflet gives you a taste of the work I have been doing as your Councillor, in addition to a range of casework for individual residents.

One of my frustrations in the last two years has been my inability to be part of a united front when representing Eltham North ward. The two Labour Councillors in the ward naturally wish to defend the Council and this has made it harder to put Eltham first. As a result I am pleased to announce that local residents **James Shipp** and **Charlie Davis** are going to be working with me in the ward with the intention of being your Council candidates in 2018. If you would like us to deal with any issues you have with the Council, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,
Cllr Spencer Drury