

LONDON News Extra



Battle to save vital London health services

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● Brian Paddick shakes up Mayoral race

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KEN'S CRIME

SHAME

Labour Mayor broke promise and has failed to tackle violent crime

Violent crime in London is again in the headlines. The Christmas and new year period has been plagued with almost daily news of violence - usually involving the use of knives and guns. The news has again highlighted Labour Mayor Ken Livingstone's failure to tackle the problem. Senior GLA member Lib Dem Mike Tuffrey said, "Ken won re-election in 2004 with a promise to cut crime by 50%. But instead violent crime has soared. Ken has let us down." More and more Londoners are just fed up with Ken and the Labour Government's broken promises and excuses on crime.

Crime is expected to be the top issue as London goes to the polls to elect a new Mayor in May. Experts are predicting a close fight between Ken Livingstone, Lib Dem Brian Paddick and the strange Tory choice Boris Johnson. Brian Paddick is a former senior police officer with over thirty years experience of fighting crime in London. Brian Paddick said, "Politicians like Ken and Boris talk tough on crime, but they have failed to deliver." "As London's Mayor I will make cutting crime my top priority. It's time to get knives and guns off our streets."



● ENOUGH IS ENOUGH - Labour Mayor Ken Livingstone has failed to tackle rising gun and knife crime.

Photo by Rex Features

GLA LIB DEMS SAY:

A real choice for London

Four years ago around two thirds of London voters voted against Ken Livingstone.

Ken scrapped back in as Mayor, but since then things have got worse.

Ken failed to keep his promise to cut crime by 50%. Violent crime has soared.

Londoners are paying some of the highest rail and tube fares in the world - often for a poor service.

Ken has done some good things in his eight years as Mayor, but most people now say it is time for a change.

Many Conservative supporters are simply dismayed at their party's candidate Boris Johnson.

The MP for Henley is well known for his clownish behaviour. But they know that's not what London needs in a Mayor.

No wonder more and more people are taking a look at former top cop Brian Paddick.

Mr Paddick has real experience of tackling crime in the capital.

His open and honest approach is in stark contrast to politicians like Boris and Ken.

As London's Mayor, Brian would put people first and get things done for London.

"STOP THE WASTE"



• Lib Dem London Assembly Members Geoff Pope, Sally Hamwee, Graham Tope, Dee Doocey and Mike Tuffrey.

In just a few weeks, Londoners will be receiving their largest ever council bills from Labour Mayor Ken Livingstone.

Since coming to power nearly eight years ago, Ken has DOUBLED his share of the council tax bill.

On top of this, Londoners have been faced by the sight of the Labour Mayor wasting millions of pounds of taxpayers money. More and more people are saying that it is time for a new Mayor for London.

Liberal Democrat Greater London

Assembly Member Sally Hamwee said, "Many Londoners feel let down and ignored by the Mayor. He has wasted millions while poverty has grown and violent crime has risen."

"Londoners want money spent on improving transport and tackling crime - not an a huge PR operation to try to make the Mayor look good."

Currently the Mayor of London has more press officers than the Prime Minister of Britain!

The Liberal Democrats are pledging real change with a Liberal Democrat

Mayor and a Liberal Democrat led London Assembly.

Liberal Democrat Graham Tope said, "With Brian Paddick leading the way as our new Mayor, we can change London for the better."

"We can cut Ken's waste and spend the money on the priorities of ordinary Londoners."

"This will mean more money spent making our streets safer, action to improve transport and to protect our precious environment."

Thames clean up success

Success can be declared in the Liberal Democrat campaign for European action to clean up the River Thames.

Once-a-week raw sewage overflows into the river have been a regular - and scandalous - occurrence. But because of Lib Dem pressure action now has to be taken by Thames Water.

A high-profile campaign waged over three years by London Liberal Democrat Euro-MP Baroness Sarah Ludford, including a petition to the European Parliament, led to the European Commission threatening court action and fines against the UK.

This was for failing to respect an EU directive it signed up 15 years ago which makes treatment of sewage before discharge obligatory.

The European Parliament petitions committee, while noting that actual planning has now begun for the £2 billion tunnels to capture and channel the discharges for treatment, has pledged to keep an eye on progress.

Sarah Ludford said, "This is another EU success story for Londoners and I am delighted to have had the chance to play a vital role. I am very grateful to my constituents who signed my 2005 petition."

"The publicity and pressure we

• London Lib Dems Sarah Ludford MEP, Sarah Teather MP and GLA member Mike Tuffrey have been campaigning to clean up the Thames.



generated motivated the European Commission to take enforcement action. Londoners' health is the winner."

"I have advised the MEPs' petitions committee not to close the file, but to return to it from time to time to

check there is no so there is no backsliding. But my advice is also that it is better to hold off from fines - unless absolutely necessary to get action - so as to invest the money in the works."

This column is supported by the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

Brian Paddick FOR OUR NEW MAYOR

For the latest news about Brian Paddick's campaign, please visit Brian's website.



www.brianpaddick.org



London NHS

UNDER THEIR BATTLE

The unpopular Labour Government is pressing ahead with further cuts to the NHS in London.

In recent years we have seen ward closures, loss of many vital services and many job losses in London's NHS.

2008 is set to see more Labour health cuts in the capital. Campaigners across London have mobilised to stop the cuts.

Carshalton Lib Dem MP Tom Brake is leading the battle against to save his local hospital (St Heliers) - just one of the hospitals that faces cuts.

Tom Brake said, "Labour promised better health services but their cuts are the worst we have seen since the last Conservative Government. We will fight to protect our local hospital and vital services across London."

The Liberal Democrats recently carried out a huge nationwide NHS survey. The

results are grim reading for Gordon Brown and Labour Mayor Ken Livingstone.

Brent Lib Dem MP Sarah Teather said, "The survey results are showing massive dissatisfaction with the way Labour are running our health services."

"We need a real change in how the NHS is run so we can cut waste and make sure money gets to frontline services."

Labour's disastrous decision to spend billions of pounds on an new NHS computer system is just one example of how money isn't getting to where it is needed most in the NHS.

Lib Dem candidate for Mayor Brian Paddick commented, "How can Labour justify huge cuts to London's NHS when they are wasting so much money? It's clearly time for change."

"As London Mayor I will fight to get the best health services for every Londoner."



● Campaigners fight to stop the closure of another London hospital

Fares shocker

Londoners are paying some of the most expensive rail and tube fares in the world it has been revealed.

Travel on trains in the capital cost FOUR TIMES as much as in New York.

Mayoral candidate Brian Paddick said, "Ken Livingstone likes to compare London with New York, but on rail fares it is an unhappy comparison."

"Londoners are having to put up with record fares and heavily congested trains. It's time for action."

Brian Paddick has launched a London wide rail survey to give rail users their chance to have their say on what needs to be done to improve the system.



● Lib Dem campaigners brave the cold to carry out a major new survey of rail users in London

TIME TO DROP ID CARD PLAN



● Nick Clegg wants real action to make our streets safer - Labour's ID Cards won't cut crime.

New Liberal Democrat Leader Nick Clegg is calling on Labour to drop their ID card plans.

The plans will cost billions, but will do nothing to make our streets safer.

Many people simply don't trust the Labour Government to look after their personal data any more.

Last year the Government lost a record 37 million items of personal data - putting

ordinary people at risk of identity theft and other crimes.

Nick Clegg said, "The time has come for ministers to admit that this scheme is doomed to be an expensive failure, they should scrap the ID card scheme now."

Brian Paddick, a former top policeman in London, added, "Carrying a plastic ID card in your pocket is not going to make you safer. We need real action to cut crime now."

Post offices across London face axe

Dozens more post offices across London could be set to close.

Labour's post office closure programme is closing an incredible 2500 post offices across Britain.

This is on top of thousands of closures made

by the last Conservative Government.

London campaigner Brian Paddick is leading the campaign to keep London's post offices open.

Brian Paddick said, "London's post offices play a vital role in our local

communities. Labour and the post office are ignoring the needs of customers by closing yet more branches."

The Liberal Democrats are the only the party with plans to keep and improve Britain's post office network.

Who can make London better?

Former top cop Brian Paddick shakes up stale mayoral race

The race to be London's next mayor has been electrified by the entrance of former London top cop Brian Paddick.

Mr Paddick spent over thirty years policing the capital. He worked his way up from a beat policeman to become one of the most senior police officers in London.

His entrance into the mayoral race as the Liberal Democrat candidate gives Londoners a real choice as to who runs the capital.

Simon Hughes MP said, "The question for many is who can do the best to tackle crime, improve transport and protect London's environment?"

"More and more people are saying Ken Livingstone has

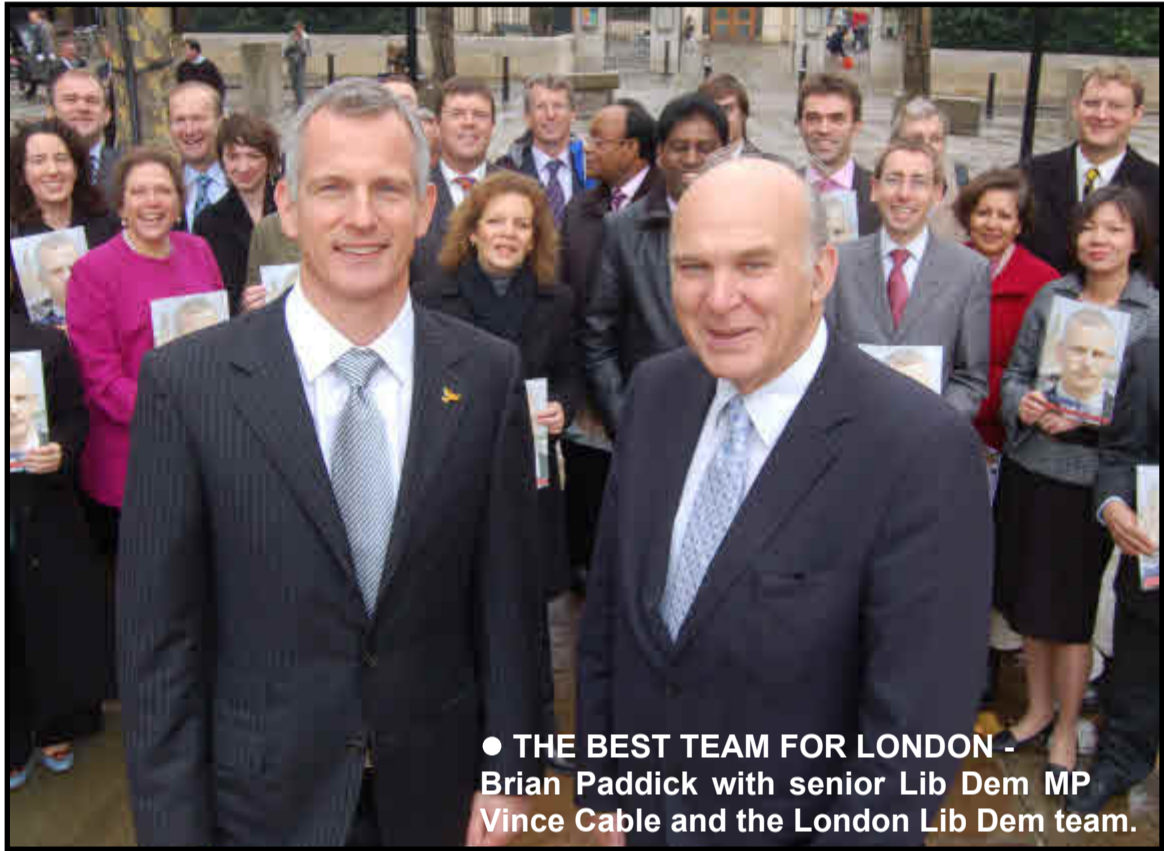
had his time. No one wants to see the clownish Boris Johnson running our vital services."

"Brian Paddick is the serious alternative to Ken. He has the experience and the drive to get things done for people in all parts of London."

The race for Mayor is expected to be a close three way fight, but Brian Paddick is looking forward to the challenge.

Brian Paddick said, "I have lived and worked in London nearly all of my life. I am passionate about our city."

"My priorities will be to cut crime, improve transport and to tackle the waste that currently goes on at City Hall. I will be a Mayor for all of London - not just the city."



● THE BEST TEAM FOR LONDON - Brian Paddick with senior Lib Dem MP Vince Cable and the London Lib Dem team.

THE THREE FRONT RUNNERS TO BE LONDON MAYOR

Oxfordshire MP Boris



As MP for Henley in Oxfordshire, Boris Johnson was a shock choice for Conservative candidate for Mayor. He is best known for his appearances on game shows and for his high profile and very public gaffes. Even Conservative supporters doubt whether Boris is simply up to the job of running London's vital services?

Former top cop Brian Paddick



A Londoner through and through, Brian spent over 30 years as a police officer in London. He retired last year as one of the most senior officers in London. His experience makes him uniquely qualified to be a new kind of Mayor for London. Brian's priorities include getting knives and guns off our streets and improving transport.

More of the same from Ken



For several years, Labour Mayor Ken Livingstone was a popular Mayor. However nearly two-thirds of Londoners voted against Ken last time. Many feel that Ken has had his time as Mayor and that it is time for a change. Ken has failed to live up to his promises on crime and has wasted millions of pounds of taxpayers money as Mayor.

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Help Brian and the Lib Dems win for London

Brian Paddick and the Liberal Democrats are working hard to improve our area. You can help their campaigns to cut crime, improve transport and to make our city a better place to live. Just fill and return this form.

Your name-
Your address-
Postcode-
Email-

I will vote for Brian Paddick and the Lib Dems on election day
I will display a poster
I will deliver leaflets in my road
I can make a donation to help Brian Paddick's campaign
£50 £20 £10 Other £
Please make cheques payable to the Liberal Democrats.
A donation of £10 or more entitles you to become a member of the Lib Dems. Please tick here if you do not wish to be enrolled



Brian Paddick
www.brianpaddick.org

Return to: Brian Paddick, 4 Cowley Street, London, SW1P 3NB

The Liberal Democrats would like to use the information above to contact you from time to time to keep you informed of campaigns we may think of interest to you. Please write to us if you do not wish to be contacted in this way.