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*Your Watchdog on
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**HELP US TO SAFEGUARD THE
 GREEN BELT**

Public enquiry 13th & 14th July - see below

TIME FOR A CHANGE?



The current dissatisfaction with MPs of mainstream political parties brought about by the expenses scandal typifies the public sense of alienation and disengagement with the existing system of political representation.

To be an elected advocate of the people should be absolute privilege and honour, but there is now a widespread perception that politicians are in public life not for what they can put into it but what they can get out of it. It is a concern that the whole mainstream party based political system has given us an excess of MPs who represent us but are not representative of us.

Constrained by the directives and dogma set by a remote central office, the ability of mainstream politicians to always act in the best interest of local people and communities can be compromised. But it is with Independent representation that faith can be restored to our political system. It is surely more desirable that first loyalty must be to the aspirations of the people and community rather than to the 'party whip' and the doctrines of a mainstream party?.

With an independent representative the mandate is clear and uncompromised, placing the interest of the people first and foremost – and that is what the true spirit of political representation should be about.

A General Election is needed as soon as possible to flush away the discontent, disillusionment and disgust with the existing political system and give an opportunity for a fresh brand of politicians to serve the interests of the people.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

on so called fact finding missions, for those that behave themselves, all at our expense.

Now is the time for a shake up – why not elect Independent Members of Parliament who put you first, not their pockets, and actually live in the area?

What are your views? Please let me know at 28 Derham Gardens, RM14 3HA or email bulletinra@yahoo.co.uk.

RON OWER

**BACK TO THE
 TOWN HALL**

Please note the Public Inquiry on the appeal to overturn Havering Council's decision not to grant planning permission for a "permanent headquarters for travelling showmen" at Park Farm Road, South Upminster reconvenes on the 13th and 14th July at the Town Hall, Main Road, Romford starting at 10.00 am. Please show you care about our local Green Belt Countryside and attend.

KEEP OUR AREA GREEN.

RON OWER

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT



I have always believed that Party Politics has no place on Havering Council – having seen first hand the dreadful damage the Political Parties have made to our everyday lives – The fiasco of the Dolphin Centre, a waste of £10 million pounds plus; paying one of the highest Council Taxes in the Country – I could go on and on!

Looking at the National Government scene like you, I have been absolutely taken aback by the sheer arrogance of the Members of Parliament who have been caught out fiddling their expenses. As we reported last month, the MPs for Upminster and Romford were amongst the highest claimers on 'second homes' whilst being a very easy journey to Westminster by train. To add insult to injury, during the debate in Parliament to stop the second homes claims – the MP for Upminster had the cheek and audacity to stand up in what was called a maiden speech to defend her second home. The Tory Leader was livid on this own goal.

What this whole saga has proved is how damaging the political system has been to the nation. The political parties have turned Parliament into their own secret club, with extensive holidays, trips abroad

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WHAT A CHEEK

Just as the June *Bulletin* was being delivered, further details of the expenses claimed by the Conservative Members of Parliament for Romford and Upminster were highlighted by the National Press.

Firstly, the claims for Second Homes paid for by the Taxpayers. Over the last 4 years the MP for Romford claimed £104,699 and the MP for Upminster £82,886 – both of whom claimed higher amounts than MPs representing Constituencies in Scotland, Devon or Cornwall – considerable distances from Parliament. The MPs for Upminster and Romford have excellent rail connections to Westminster – in fact around an hour or less!

The National Media then gave details of individual claims by these Tory MPs. Whilst there was no cleaning of moats, DVDs or

Trouser Presses, there were claims for groceries – The Tory MP for Romford was embarrassed that details of his claims for “Jellied Eels and Farley’s Rusks” were published – Amongst the claims by the Tory MP for Upminster were £3100 to redecorate a flat, £6,350 for a new bathroom and £804 for a Microwave, television and a fridge.

Are we now seeing the end of the gravy train, will we see Parliament actually reformed?

RON OWER

LOCAL ELECTIONS 2010

Elections for Councillors (to Havering Council) takes place next May. We will be requesting your support once again to elect six Resident Councillors here in Upminster and Cranham – further details of the nomination procedure will be in next months *Bulletin*.



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BELL CORNER

Very many thanks to all those who have contacted me or Ron giving your views on how traffic congestion can be reduced at this junction of St Mary’s Lane and Corbets Tey and Station Roads. Discussions are taking place with Council Officers and I will keep you updated. Please keep your suggestions coming.

Cllr LINDA HAWTHORN

PAVEMENTS IN UPMINSTER

Councillor Linda Hawthorn has requested that a number of areas in Station Road and Corbets Tey Road are looked at by the Council who have confirmed that an area, outside Lloyds Cash Point, will be re-laid in Station Road. Linda has specifically asked that

the Council’s StreetCare continue to monitor the area.

DIAL - A - RIDE

The annual cost of Dial-a-Ride provided by Transport for London we referred to last month costs is over £28 million.

CRANHAM TREASURER NEEDED

The Cranham Residents’ Association will be requiring a Treasurer as from March 2010. Our existing Treasurer, John Walpole, has done a great job over the years and will be taking a well earned rest. The work is interesting and not too onerous and I would be happy to discuss the position with any interested persons. Please give me a call on 07863 116029 for further details.

Cllr CLARENCE BARRETT

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CRANHAM SOCIAL HALL

COFFEE AND
CONVERSATION - THE
STORY SO FAR

Our events programme has been varied. We have been pampered with Chinese Head Massage and Reflexology by our neighbouring business, entertained with a slide show of Cranham Past by Richard Moorey. The "Cake Break" Coffee Morning raised well over £100 for The Multiple Sclerosis Society and another Fundraiser has supported the Little Haven Children's Hospice. At the end of May we tasted the sausages from "The Giggly Pig Co." and enjoyed Tracey's story of how she came to set up the business. Any suggestions for future events welcome, contact Val on 222074. We are already organising a talk on Cranham

Marsh! How about a Saturday evening "Harvest Hog Roast", and then there is Christmas!!!

Do join us on Friday Mornings
between 10.30 am and 12.30pm.

CRANHAM YOUTH PROJECT

Plans are well advanced to give our local young people "Somewhere to Go". Hopefully by the end of July **Cranham Social Hall in Front Lane** will be the venue on Friday evenings. This project is a joint venture between The Front Lane Community Association, who run the Cranham Social Hall, The Neighbourhood Police Team, The Cranham Youth Support Group, Hall Mead School Youth Panel, and Havering Youth Service. The Cranham Social Hall is also looking forward to some

building projects which will enhance the comfort and convenience of the hall for all users. These works have been made possible by a grant from "Veolia Cleanaway Riverside Trust".

VALERIE MORRIS, FRONT
LANE COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION

WAITROSE OPENS

Typical, isn't it. You wait ages for a new supermarket, then two arrive at once! Just months after M&S opened in Station Road, the old Somerfield in St. Mary's Lane has miraculously turned into a gleaming new Waitrose - their 207th store.

Following the multi-million pound makeover, Branch Manager David Martin enthused: "It's fantastic to be opening in Upminster, a town that reflects our own passion for

quality food. It's great that we have been able to provide jobs for all former Somerfield staff and create a number of new positions". Regular shoppers will certainly be pleased to see familiar faces among the 113 employees, all now partners in the John Lewis Partnership. Waitrose has a well-deserved reputation for selling quality food, and I've always admired their commitment to organic and sustainably-sourced produce. the new store also boasts separate counters for meat, fish, cheese and delicatessen, and even an olive bar! Alongside these tempting goodies, there's a wide and growing range of everyday groceries at reasonable prices, under the "Essential Waitrose" banner. And if you're short of time, Quick Check lets you scan and pack your

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The first customers to use the new store.

Picture courtesy of John Robinson.

Welcome to Upminster, Waitrose. We wish you a long and happy stay. And with so many good things now within walking distance in Cranham and Upminster, please can someone tell me why people drive to Romford every week?

JOHN ROBINSON

DISCOVER THE WILDLIFE ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Essex Wildlife Trust invites everyone to join wildlife discovery walks at Cranham Marsh Nature Reserve. No need to book, just come along at the time shown. We ask for a donation to trust funds of £2.50 per adult (accompanied kids free).

Wild flowers and Insects, Monday 13th July, 6.30 pm – 8.00pm

The aim of this gentle stroll round Cranham Marsh is to identify the main groups of pollinating insects and discover what different types of flower they visit. Meet by the kissing gate at the end of Park Drive, Upminster, at 6.30pm. More information from Joy Emerson (01708) 440297 or Reserve Warden Tony Gunton (01708) 220897.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Trinity Church (the church next to Roomes) is holding a flower festival entitled "A century of change" on the weekend of the 12th and 13th September in aid of the National Association of Colitis and Crohn's Disease.

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(www.christianhope.org.uk).

We are currently assisting schools in Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi through the provision of school materials, (furniture, pens & pencils, sports equipment) and also setting up "computer rooms". As many hill schools have no mains electricity, laptops are perfect as they consume little power and can be run from a generator. We will remove all personal data from your computer before sending it off to new life in Africa. A much happier environment for your laptop than your attic! Contact CHI on (01708) 377795.

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