



## Housing and Schools

On August 24<sup>th</sup> our Town Council Planning Committee met in public to consider planning applications for the 'super school' and the consequent applications from Countryside Properties to build on the land made available by demolishing the old schools. The committee rejected all planning applications presented with one abstention. Two Tory councillors, not on the planning committee, voiced their support to object to all planning applications. East Herts. Council will consider these applications on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Stortford's Resident's Associations opposed all applications at the meeting on the grounds of building on green belt land and traffic problems arising from housing development by building 1000 new homes in Stortford. Only a Governor from Bishop's Stortford High School and Hertfordshire Chief Education Officer spoke in favour of the applications. Labour should draw two conclusions from this event.

- The Residents Associations are articulate and organised but it is not clear who they represent and it will remain so until or if they seek election. We need to keep our distance from their activities
- The objections to building of new homes, if successful, limits the stock of new and energy efficient housing in Stortford.

Labour needs to concentrate on housing as an issue locally and nationally. Get it right and we will start winning elections. The housing market is in crisis. See Dennis Mc Shane's article which I have enclosed.

**Peter Mitchell**

## The Leadership Elections

Over the next few days ballot papers will be sent out to Party members for us to vote in the Leadership elections and an election for the National Policy Forum.

**Have you made your mind up yet?**

### House Meeting

On August 12<sup>th</sup> an enthusiastic group of members met at the Tillbrook's house for a house call from Jim Fitzpatrick MP. We were all involved in questioning Jim about David Milliband's stance on Party policy and more general discussion on broader issues that affect Labour's future. Luckily we managed to find the loudspeaker button on the phone(!) so we were all able to hear his answers and the phone-in lasted for about one and a half hours. After Jim went off the line the conversation continued late into the night and a great time was had by all! Thank you Les and Madge for your hospitality.

### Meeting with David Milliband.

In the days following the House Meeting invitations were made to members to meet David Milliband in person in Harlow on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August. The meeting was well attended by members of the CLP and non members and chaired by Bill Rammel. David addressed us and then the meeting was open to questions. He stressed the need for the Party to change 'the way we do politics'. I have yet to decide who will get my vote but David's performance was confident and I found him impressive. He has the support of Labour MPs whereas Ed Milliband has the unions. I wait with interest to see who we choose to be our leader – Diane, Andy, Ed B., Ed M., or David?

**Linda Mitchell**

## RESOLUTIONS

At the August meeting draft resolutions were discussed. Votes on these resolutions will be taken at the September OGM. Amendments can be made in writing to me or at the meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Drafts are on the reverse of this month's agenda.

Peter Mitchell



## Events and Dates for the Diary

### 100 Club Draw

There are no prize winners to announce for August.

The 100 Club raises funds for fighting elections. At the next meeting we will have letters explaining the scheme and bankers forms available if you wish to join. Alternatively you can contact Peter Wood on 01992 584398

### Dates for the Diary

The next Branch Meeting will be held at Pearse House, Parsonage Lane, Bishop's Stortford on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 8.00 pm.

The next CLP Meeting will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> September at the Drill Hall in Ware. All welcome.

A District Party Meeting will be held in Bishop's Stortford this month to organize for the local elections in May 2011.

## Local Labour Party Contacts:

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*Peter Mitchell* 01279 654190  
Secretary

*Madge Tillbrook* 01279 655628  
Membership Secretary

*John Battersby* 01279 305256  
Treasurer

*Linda Mitchell* 01279 654190  
Campaign Co-ordinator

### Constituency Delegates:

*J Battersby, D Mitchell, L Mitchell, L. Tillbrook, S Tripp, P Tripp*

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**STOP PRESS**  
**Welcome to all our new members. We are planning to have social events soon. Any ideas?**  
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## Your Newsletter, Your Say

Not getting your views heard? Ring a Branch officer or email the Deputy Secretary on [mitpeter1@ntlworld.com](mailto:mitpeter1@ntlworld.com). The deadline for items for the next newsletter is:

**September 27th 2010**

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