



On Tuesday 13th November, a group of Women of Worcestershire Labour Party members and supporters travelled by coach to Westminster - there were representatives from Worcester, Wyre Forest and Droitwich.

Unfortunately our planned meeting with Jacqui Smith at the Home Office was cancelled as Jacqui was making a statement to the House. It is planned to organise other events for women members in 2008.

For information on women's activities within the Party, please contact Women's Officer, Jane Flynn on 420305 or janefflynn@worcesterlabour.org.uk.

COULD YOU BE A COUNCILLOR ?

Worcester CLP is underway with the selection process for May 2008's local election candidates.

We would love to hear from anyone who may be interested in becoming a councillor, or finding out what is involved in a councillor's job.

We are intending to hold an "Introduction to being a Councillor" session, early in 2008. CLP Chair, Chris Winwood, would love to hear from you on
01905 763929
chriswinwood@worcesterlabour.org.uk

A message from Mike Foster MP

It certainly was an eventful 2007 for us. We said farewell to Tony Blair, Labour's most successful Prime Minister and welcomed Gordon Brown to the post. Whilst riding the crest of the wave, and coping with floods, terrorists and pestilence, we won a spectacular council by-election victory. Worcester was in the headlines again for that.

Since then, things have become more difficult. Whatever your views on probable election dates, it is clear the indecision cost us. So has the range of problems we have encountered since. But that comes with the territory of Government. And we wouldn't swap that for opposition!

In 2008, voters will continue to see that the fundamentals of what we are doing are right. Schools are improving, the NHS is better and crime continues to fall. What we will need in 2008 is renewed effort by all of us to defeat the Tories in the council elections and prepare the ground for a general election.

We all know how much has been achieved under a Labour Government and my pledge for 2008 is that I will continue to do my best to prevent Worcester slipping back into the hands of the Tories and I will do my utmost to ensure that your voice is heard in Westminster.



Mike & Chris at a meeting to discuss the Deputy Leader election in August



The financial settlement provided by our Labour Government to Worcestershire County Council has taken the Tories by surprise at County Hall. Instead of the dismal negative settlement forecast by the Tory controlled County Council, we have added to the coffers an extra £14 million over the next three years, along with millions more for education. The Labour Group of County Councillors will grasp this opportunity to press that the recently announced cuts to our elderly people - such as the hot meal service, the reduction in spend on our roads and highways as well as youth services provision will be reversed so that front line services are well protected.

Your Labour Group has been effective in 2007 by winning an extra £15 million for our roads and reversing the decision to close vital educational outdoor centres - **Labour Working to protect Front Line Services.**

If you would like more information, please contact the County Council Labour Group Leader County Councillor John Buckley on - jbuckley@worcestershire.gov.uk. You can keep in touch with the Labour Group activities at County Hall by going to our website -

www.wcclabour.co.uk



As you may have read in the local press, the Tory city council cabinet proposes to spend £8k to consult a panel of Worcester people on their views of different services. Panel members will be presented with a list of items and asked to prioritise them for the level of council tax.

Labour oppose this plan and we think it is a sham - short term, knee jerk attempt to line up a range of different cuts that the Tories will then use, claiming these cuts are a result of public consultation

We are also now involved in looking at options for the future of the Guildhall including possible leasing of parts of it to outside organizations or businesses. Labour is particularly keen on keeping the availability of the main hall for organisations and charities to use on a regular basis. We are also keen on keeping the Guildhall open as both a heritage attraction and the seat of city governance.

If you would like more information, please contact City Council Labour Group Leader, **Adrian Gregson**, agregson@worcester.gov.uk.

Come along and meet LIAM BYRNE, Minister For Immigration & Minister for the West Midlands at The Green Centre in Dines Green on 12th January To Discuss Expansion Of Worcester

Worcester CLP is proud to host a meeting for all Party members with Liam Byrne MP, Minister for the West Midlands, on Saturday 12th January 2008.

Liam will be talking about the future of the West Midlands area, already seen as "a great place to invest, work, learn, visit and live". The discussion will include areas such as encouraging business development, plans for future housing across the region and across Worcestershire, new transport links, supporting quality of life for local people, and many other topics.

The event is at the Green Centre, Gresham Road, Dines Green, Worcester, WR2 5QS, from 9.30am on Saturday 12th January. Refreshments will be available, and members are invited from across the West Midlands.

This is a great opportunity to question a Government Minister, and to find out how government policies will affect all of our lives.

If you need a lift just get in touch

For more information on the West Midlands Economic Strategy, go to www.advantagewm.co.uk.

Worcester Labour Office - 01905 25676