

'Hung council' gives us a chance for a school *and* a pool!

WITH NO party having an overall majority on Lewisham council we now have a chance to save Ladywell Leisure Centre and get a new secondary school in the north of the borough, where it is most needed.

Before the local elections on May 4th all the opposition parties promised to oppose the demolition of Ladywell Leisure Centre - and to re-open New Labour's decision to put a new secondary school on the Ladywell pool site, rather than somewhere in north Lewisham. The Socialist Party councillors, who right from the start have backed the campaign for a school *and* a pool, wrote to the opposition parties immediately after the elections, to try and make this happen. Now it's likely that, at the next council meeting on June 14th, a majority of councillors will support this stand.

Unfortunately, however, this may not be the end of the matter. The New Labour mayor of Lewisham, Steve Bullock, is claiming that his 'executive powers' give him the ultimate say - and that 'the people of Lewisham' will support him in ignoring councillors' decisions!

But that's why even the new situation on the council will only lead to policies in the real interests of Lewisham people if we get involved and make our voices heard!

Pack out the public gallery!
Come to Lewisham's council meeting
Wednesday 14th June, 7-15pm
Lewisham Town Hall, Catford Rd, SE6

Your Socialist Party councillors' surgery times

Chris Flood Telephone 020-8694-3623 Email: chris.flood@mac.com	Ian Page Telephone 020-8692-0435 Email: ianpage_sp@hotmail.com
First Saturday of the month 11am to 12noon at Honor Oak Community Centre, Turnham Road, Honor Oak estate, SE4	Third Saturday of the month 10am to 11am, Telegraph Hill Centre, Kitto Road, New Cross, SE14
Third Monday of the month 6pm to 7pm, Sector J Clubroom, off Coston Walk, Honor Oak Estate, SE4	Third Monday of the month 6pm to 7pm, Sector J Clubroom, off Coston Walk, Honor Oak Estate, SE4

What will Lewisham Labour do now?

FOR THE first time since 1971 Labour does not have an overall majority on Lewisham council. With 27 Labour councillors (including the mayor), 17 Lib Dems, six Greens, three Tories and two Socialist Party councillors, all parties will be tested.

The Socialist Party are currently working with the opposition parties to overturn New Labour's plans to demolish Ladywell Leisure Centre and to get a new school in north Lewisham.

But we have also written to Lewisham's Labour councillors. They have a choice now. They can discuss with the Socialist Party on whether we can together defend and improve our public services. Or they can reach an agreement with the Tories to carry on with New Labour-style privatisation and 'market methods' policies - as the New Labour government has relied on Tory support to get its latest Education Bill through parliament.

Many Telegraph Hill voters were still not totally convinced when the Socialist Party said in the election that the main, establishment parties are, at bottom, all the same. Now we'll find out.

Work with the Socialists to defend public services? Or line up with the Tories for more privatisation? It's Labour's choice!

Stay informed!

Did you know that independent 'Save Our NHS' campaigners won council seats, against all the main parties, in the recent local elections? Do you get first-hand reports of debates in the unions? Of strikes? Of council tenants' protests? Of struggles in Europe and elsewhere? The anti-war movement or debates amongst Greens? No? Then that's why you need *The Socialist*, delivered to your door every week!



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Socialist News

The newsletter of
 Lewisham Socialist Party

Socialist councillors re-elected!

▶ Ian Page & Chris Flood win with increased votes
▶ Good result for Jess Leech in her first contest

Telegraph Hill ward Question Time!

What should Ian & Chris do in the new 'hung council'?... Is there new hope for the New School campaign?... What can we do about climate change?... What happens now to the council homes transfer plans?... Should the unions still fund Labour, or set up their own party?... Are socialist policies practical?... Why is there a funding crisis in the NHS?...

...an alternative 'Question Time' style panel of Socialist Party representatives and others, answer your questions!

At the Telegraph Hill Centre [junction of Kitto Road & Pepys Road, SE14]

Thursday 8th June 7-30pm

All welcome

THE SOCIALIST PARTY councillors, Ian Page and Chris Flood, were re-elected with increased votes in Lewisham's Telegraph Hill ward on May 4th.

Ian Page topped the poll. His 1,118 votes were only bettered by five New Labour candidates, out of 54, across the whole of Lewisham borough.

Chris Flood also increased his vote. Chris was first elected with 590 votes in a by-election in December 2003. This time he polled 929 votes to secure victory. After these results, it will be harder now for the (much reduced) Labour group on Lewisham council to dismiss the socialist councillors as 'unrepresentative'!

The third Socialist Party candidate, Jess Leech, also got a very good vote of 821, in her first contest in Telegraph Hill ward. This is a good base for the future but, on this occasion unfortunately, it wasn't enough to stop New Labour snatching the third seat.

Despite this however, for the first time since 1971, Labour does not have an overall majority on Lewisham council (see overleaf). A new situation has opened up in which, with the active support of Telegraph Hill residents, Ian and Chris can really make all our voices heard! If you can help in any way - or you want the socialist councillors' help in your campaign - get in touch.

Things will only change if we fight to change them!

How Telegraph Hill ward voted	Socialist	New Labour	Green	Lib Dem	Tory
	956*	894*	427*	251*	202*
	32%	29.9%	14.2%	8.4%	6.7%

* The average vote for the three candidates from each party
 The candidates votes: Robin Cross, 997; Kathleen Easton, 440; Chris Flood, 929; Daniel Hudson, 413; Julie Kitson, 235; Tom Lawrence, 303; Jess Leech, 821; Joan Millbank, 856; Paul Newing, 829; Ian Page, 1,118; Lucy Penwarden, 248; Catherine Polling, 202; Nicholas Stone, 427; Russell Wellard, 192; Judy Willson, 178.