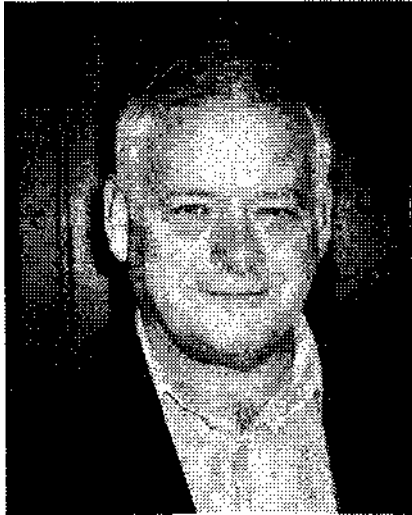


THANET MATTERS



Cllr. Richard Nicholson

(Thanet Labour Group Leader)

Tories Take from the Disabled

The Tories have sunk to a new low by taking money set aside for improving disabled access to Council owned properties and using it to double glaze the Council Offices!

There is an item buried in the Budget Monitoring report, presented by Cabinet in September, as a 'capital adjustment' which took the Disabled Discrimination Act (DDA) budget and spent it on double glazing for the Council Offices.

I know of plenty of work which needs to be done to assist the less mobile in our society. Despite frequent requests from many of my Labour colleagues and the public, nothing has been done to improve the access to Albion House or the Westgate Pavilion, with us all being told there is no money!

The hoist at Ramsgate Swimming Pool, which helps the disabled in and out of the water, has been broken for many months but again we are told there is no money to fix it.

I was also appalled to note that despite a forecast over spend of £544k the Tories have not produced any real solutions to the rapidly increasing budget problem other than the odd cut here or there.

The budget overspend is expected to grow to £3m if immediate steps are not taken to correct the growing problem. This is likely to lead to much higher Council Tax bills next year.

GOVERNMENT MATTERS



Stephen Ladyman MP

These are difficult times for the economy as we face up to an unprecedented international financial crisis. Of course, we will all be worrying about jobs and prices and the problems that lie ahead but I hope you have been reassured to see Gordon Brown, Alistair Darling and the Government reacting with such determination to protect savings, keep mortgages low and steer us through these stormy waters.

Every family and every business in Britain depends on the banking system which is why Gordon Brown took such bold action to secure our banks and financial system. We never want to repeat the economic disaster the Conservatives led us into with interest rates at 15% and thousands of people losing their homes!

When the Tories were in charge they described job losses and home repossessions as 'a price worth paying' whenever the economy slowed down but that is not the Labour way. Instead we will invest in British business and British workers and do everything we can to protect hard working families and pensioners from the storm ahead.

Telephone: 01843 852696

Email: StephenLadymanMP@SouthThanetLabour.org.uk Write:

28, Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent. CT12 6EE Website:

www.stephenladyman.info