

Full Council – 13th July 2009

Motion selected for debate by Councillor Paul Lorber, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Sustainable Communities Act

That this council:

- (i) Notes that the aims of the Act have received cross-party support and believes that if the Government is serious about acting on the proposals it receives the Act will be of benefit to local communities.
- (ii) Supports the bottom up process in the Sustainable Communities Act designed to allow local authorities and their communities to drive local regeneration and promote thriving, sustainable communities;
- (iii) Notes that the Act gives local authorities the power to make proposals to government on the action and assistance government must take or give to promote sustainable communities, and argue for a transfer of public money and function from central to local control;
- (iv) Notes that the Act defines the sustainable communities broadly, defining them as improving of the local economy; protecting the environment; promoting social inclusion; and encouraging participation in civic and political activity;
- (v) Resolves to use the Act by preparing and submitting proposals to central government in the second round of proposals for the Act, if the Government makes real changes and grants actual “freedoms and flexibilities” from the first round of proposals.
- (vi) Notes the spirit of the Act suggests that local residents and organisations should be involved in deciding how the Act is best implemented in Brent.
- (vii) Notes the recent resolution from the Harlesden and Willesden Area Forums regarding the Act and betting shops. Resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to write, on behalf of the Council, to London Councils and ask that provisions be made in the next London Local Authorities Bill for London Authorities to be granted greater powers with regard to licensing to limit the number of betting shops in any area.
- (viii) Resolves to write to local MPs informing them of this decision; and to write to Local Works (at Local Works, c/o Unlock Democracy, 6 Cynthia St, London N1 9JF) informing them of the Council’s resolution to use the Act in the second round of the Act .