

# Old Town & Lawns *Matters*

## News from **Swindon Labour Party**



Spring 2011

[www.swindon-labour.co.uk](http://www.swindon-labour.co.uk)

### Cindy Matthews | Labour's Local Candidate

I am very pleased to be standing as Labour's candidate for Old Town & Lawn in the local elections on Thursday May 5<sup>th</sup>

Having lived in Swindon for 30 years, and seen my children grow up and attend local schools, I feel more than ever that this community needs a Labour Councillor. We're seeing heartless cutting of local services, including buses, libraries, care service, schools budgets and care for the young and disadvantaged.

I am horrified at the way the Council has set about dismantling frontline service with their £21m. Cuts. The local elections in May will give the people a chance to send the Tories and Lib Dems a message.

The local elections are a referendum on the cuts.

**Cindy**

MATTHEWS,  
Cindy



### >>Cindy in Action | Campaigning to Save our Bus Services



Tory cuts to bus services of £120,000 meant that our area has lost the Number 23 bus route – a service vital for Okus Road residents.

The personal impact on residents that relied on the service for work and school – and for getting to other services such as the Health Centre – indicates the lack of proper consultation and concern for the people that depend on this service.

Cindy led our campaign and gathered a huge petition. 1,500 people supported our campaign showing that residents understand the importance of good, local transport services. However the Tories ignored the voice of the people and cut the service.

### << Coate Campaign | The Battle Continues

Tory councillors have failed to listen to the people over development at Coate, or the proposed new school at Croft, or over cuts to local services, including the Home Care Service and our local bus services.

- The views of over 50,000 people in Swindon who oppose development at Coate should be heard.
- The Coate development is likely to cause more gridlocked traffic up and down Marlborough Road.
- It is vital that we protect Swindon from further encroachment onto our green spaces.

We believe that it is time that those who said "No University: No Development" stand by that promise and protect Coate, one of the jewels in Swindon's crown, from being harmed by development.

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## **Labour – Your Voice in Difficult Times**

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# Labour – VOTE CINDY MATTHEWS ON MAY 5TH

## << Local Elections will be a Referendum on the Cuts

The local elections in May will give the people a chance to send the Tories and Lib Dems a message. The Tories are cutting services by £21m.

- ✗ The elderly: £1.5 million cut for care of adults and the elderly
- ✗ Our children: £494,000 cut from help for Schools
- ✗ Our young people: £860,000 cut for help back into work
- ✗ The vulnerable: £2.4 million cut from support for homeless
- ✗ Transport: £300,000 cut to bus funding
- ✗ Libraries: £100,000 cut in library services.
- ✗ Wealthier Councils are getting away with smaller cuts.



Swindon Advertiser  
22/10/10; 1/6/10; 30/7/10; 1/9/09;

## << Tories Broken Promises and Big Cuts Society

### Broken Promise 1 - Bankers Bonuses

Before the election the Tories said they would limit state owned bank employees to a bonus of £2,000. But now the bankers are set to receive bonuses totalling in excess of £7 billion and the Tory led government do nothing about it.

### Broken Promise 2 VAT Increase

David Cameron said before the election that he had "no plans" to increase VAT. Yet that's what he's done at a time when unemployment is rising, inflation is rising, and wages and benefits are being frozen.

### Broken Promise 3 – A Better Deal for Swindon

Under Labour Swindon got above inflation increases in it's funding for thirteen consecutive years. We now have two Tory MPs and what's happened? Swindon is having a cut of 8.9% in it's funding this year.

### Broken Promise 4 - Sure Start

The Tories said that there was no threat to Swindon's Sure Start schemes. Now we find they are to make a 20% cut in the funding. Cut backs in the service they provide will have an adverse affect on families already being hit by child benefit and wage freezes.

## >> Labour won't make promises we can't keep

Swindon Labour is not going to make promises it cannot keep. If elected to control the council, Labour would:



### >> Labour's First Steps

- Roll out free Swindon Caps to all 11-16 year olds
- Oppose cuts to the 14 Swindon Sure Start Centres
- Ensure expenditure items over £100,000 are democratically approved to prevent a repeat of the Wi-Fi fiasco.
- Increase housing stock with at least 100 new council houses built each year.
- Introduce 20 mph zones in all communities that want them.

### >> Labour's 2020 Vision

- Create a clear plan to regenerate our Town Centre
- Creating jobs for the future in the new green economy
- A plan for a University for Swindon
- Protect frontline services for the elderly and vulnerable
- Community Policing, run by the community