

Labour News

Belle Vale Ward

Spring Newsletter - Delivered by Labour Party members

Cllr Ian Cooper

Real Experience

Hands
off

Halesowen's Green Belt!

● **Halesowen's green belt is under real threat from a planning strategy** which would see Birmingham's urban sprawl on our green fields. **Our local green belt is only safe with Labour** and I share our commitment to developing brown field sites and preventing urban sprawl.

That's why, along with Halesowen North councillor Hilary Bills, I successfully argued with Council planning officers that this strategy should be suspended until the results of the first round of consultations are reported back to Cabinet. It takes understanding of how the Council works and real experience to stand up to Dudley Council in order to get the result residents want.

I also think it proves that a councillor needs to live in Halesowen if you truly want to understand local issues and share Halesowen residents' concerns.



Cllr Ian Cooper and Donella Russell outside the derelict cottages

Affordable Homes Now

● The empty cottages on Attwood Street were an insult to those who desperately need their own homes and a dangerous eyesore for residents. That's why I approached both the owners and the Council to get something done. The eyesore has been removed when they cleared the site but they left the pavement in a dangerous state. I demanded that the Council repair it and send them the bill!

We need the landowners to provide homes for local people. **My message is build now and I will use my knowledge and experience to make this happen.**

Planning permission exists for the land in front of the button factory on the Stourbridge Road. It is another blight on Belle Vale: I am working with Council officers to use their powers to urgently tidy the site up before building work begins.

Proud of Halesowen

● Halesowen town centre shopkeepers and businesses recently voted to pay a small levy on their rates which will raise £120,000 per year for re-investment in the town. This can be spent on events, like bigger and better Christmas lights switch-on's or features to make the town centre more attractive to shoppers, such as Halesowen In Bloom.

I already sponsor a flower display every year in the town and a festive banner at Christmas. I'm also to be seen painting benches and other street furniture in the town centre over the summer.

A Litter Pick - Helping keep Halesowen tidy

Using my experience of the benefits of Business Improvement Districts I backed Halesowen Chamber of Commerce's BID application. Other councillors didn't get it at the time, but I knew what they were talking about and the benefits it would bring to our shopping centre.



Let's Fight Crime Epidemic Together

● No surprise that the government has cut our neighbourhood police to the bone and crime is going up. Our police station is under-staffed (four full time neighbourhood police officers) and living on borrowed time.

The reality of what this means was brought home to me when two cars were stolen in my street in one night. This was part of a spree of thefts targeting certain makes of car in Belle Vale.

It's time to pull together to combat crime: that's why I support Tenants and Residents Groups, such as the one in Highfields who are working together

with the remaining police and Council officers to get the message out about anti-social behaviour and to unite the community to fight it.

The Friends of Hawne Park group was formed to combat break-ins in the area surrounding the park. I was at the first meeting and have been a committee member ever since, bringing in over £30,000 of funding along the way.

It takes experience of how the Council works as a working councillor and how crime affects local people to confidently do this work.

Vote Ian on 3 May



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DID YOU KNOW?

- Ian Cooper has been a councillor for four years in Belle Vale: he has tackled hundreds of cases for local people.
- Ian served as a school governor at Caslon Primary.
- Ian is chair of Hasbury Community Centre and led the campaign to save it: a remembrance garden and possibly an orchard are planned.
- Ian was cabinet member for Children's Services in Dudley, making tough decisions to improve its service to vulnerable children.
- Ian works for a local authority using his skills to improve voluntary groups and improve neighbourhoods for local people.



Making Halesowen centre more attractive to shoppers

Over to you, please get in touch...

Labour councillors come from the local community and want the local community to be served well by the Council. That is why we make every effort to make ourselves available at surgeries, on the phone and by email. **Please use contact details above**

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