

# MPreports

Constituency report by Anne Campbell MP

Your local Member of Parliament representing Cambridge

No 1 2005

# ON THE BUSES

**OVER THE SUMMER, Stagecoach announced massive cuts to local bus services, without consultation with local residents. At Anne Campbell's public meeting on the changes, Stagecoach and the County Council promised to review the services if there were problems.**

"It's outrageous. The County Council are paying for Stagecoach to provide the Citi 8, but the County Council won't listen to the problems at their bus users are having," said the frustrated MP, as they refused to accept her report on bus chaos in Cambridge. "Residents want value for money – and that is

not happening at the moment," said Anne.

"I asked local residents to write to me with evidence of all the problems they had been experiencing. I was overwhelmed by the response from both letters and petitions.

**"Residents want value for money – and that is not happening at the moment"**

In total, 900 people contacted me, telling me they had lost their jobs, had journey times doubled and taken a whole day to go to an appointment at

Addenbrooke's. They are facing considerable inconvenience at the hands of Stagecoach. Travelling to work, school or local shops is now far more difficult."

"Stagecoach have offered some small improvements, but I am still fighting for services to the Fen

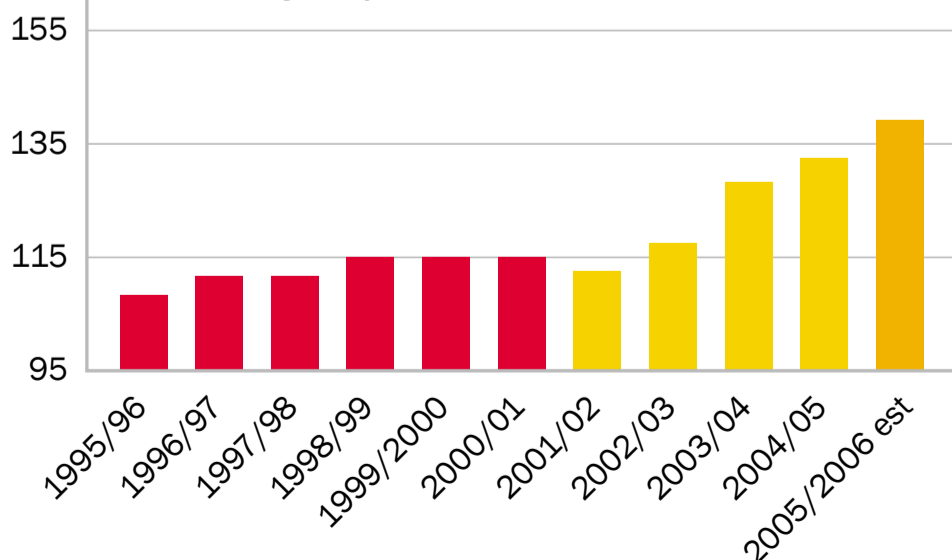
Estate, Asda, and Sainsbury's. And I am challenging the County Council to do something about their service."



Anne Campbell with bus campaigners, and Andy Campbell of Stagecoach, trying to get the County Council to listen to Cambridge bus users

## COUNCIL TAX: Lib Dems cost you more

Cambridge City Council Tax (£ at Band 'D') 95-06



### LABOUR IS GOOD FOR YOUR POCKET.

When Labour ran Cambridge City Council they kept your council tax low and they delivered services. Ideas which are popular in the city now were introduced by Labour, for example, the local ranger services, CCTV, green bin recycling and community facilities. At the same time, the average council tax increase between 1996 and 2000, under Labour, was 85p per month or 0.8% each year.

Since the Lib Dems came into office, the average increase has been over FOUR times that – 3.6% – £4.13 more per month from your purse or pocket. And in 2003/2004, when David Howarth was Leader of the City Council, the increase was a staggering 8.5%.

The Howarth increase in Council Tax

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# INVESTMENT AT MANOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**ANNE CAMPBELL MP visited Manor Community College in the autumn. She spent time in the classrooms where students were using new whiteboards purchased with money made available by the Government.**

“The availability of new classroom equipment plays an important role in assisting with both learning and teaching,” said Anne, “I enjoyed spending time with the pupils and hearing all about their positive experiences of school life.”

Since 1997 there has been remarkable progress in education. Thanks to investment by the Labour Government, there are now more teachers in schools than at any point

in the last 20 years – around 28,000 more than in 1997.

In Cambridgeshire Local Education Authority alone, the number of full-time teachers has increased by 350 between 1997 and 2003.

Throughout England, education standards are up, with real improvements at every stage. In primary schools, the Literacy and Numeracy strategies have helped to ensure that all children can fulfil their talents, with personalised support from the best teachers. Our secondary schools are better too: more pupils now achieve five or more GCSEs at Grade A\*–C than in 1997.



Anne sees the new whiteboards in use at Manor Community College

## SURGERIES & CASEWORK

### MP Advice Surgeries

■ **RING 506500 FOR AN APPOINTMENT**

■ **FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH:**

4pm–5:45pm, The Guildhall

6:15pm–7:15pm, Cherry Hinton Village Centre

■ **THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH:**

4pm–5pm, Holy Cross Church, East Barnwell

5:15pm–6:15pm, ECCHO House, Chesterton

6:30pm–7:30pm, St Luke’s Church, Victoria Rd

### 6 ways to contact Anne Campbell

■ **PHONE** 01223 506500

■ **FAX** 01223 311315

■ **WRITE** to Alex Wood Hall,  
Norfolk Street, Cambridge, CB1 2LD

■ **EMAIL** [campbella@parliament.uk](mailto:campbella@parliament.uk)

■ **WEBSITE** [www.annecampbell.org.uk](http://www.annecampbell.org.uk)

■ **VISIT** her at one of her regular surgeries.  
Ring 506500 for an appointment

## MORE FOR PENSIONERS

**“I AM DELIGHTED with my extra £20 per week – it was backdated so I got over £1000.”**

“It really helped to talk to someone about what I had to do – and it’s all been sorted out.”

“I am going to encourage friends to check they are getting all their money.”

These are some of the comments Anne Campbell has received after running her pensioners’ events.

Anne said, “Many pensioners are losing out on hundreds of pounds a year, simply because they are unaware of Government initiatives entitling them to more money. I am encouraging all pensioners in Cambridge to claim what they are entitled to.”

Different pensioner payments are now easier to claim because they have been brought under the umbrella of one user-friendly

service called The Pension Service (call **0845 6060265**). Payments pensioners in Cambridge might not be claiming include:

- Winter Fuel Payments **0845 9151515**
- Free passports for Second World War veterans **0870 521 0410**
- Council tax benefits **01223 457000**

## MP PRAISES E-COPS SCHEME



“Simon Watkins and Councillor Elizabeth Hughes signing up for e-cops, with Anne Campbell MP

**“THERE HAS BEEN lots of investment in the police, but small schemes can also make a real difference to the safety of the local community,”** says Anne Campbell, “The e-cops scheme, which started in East Chesterton, and has spread to other parts of North Cambridge, is a great way of sharing information and finding out what is going on.”

Local people, living in the north of the city can sign up at:  
**[www.cambs.police.uk/signup/ecops](http://www.cambs.police.uk/signup/ecops)**

Investment in policing has increased in Cambridge, with officer numbers in the Cambridgeshire Police Force area up by 98 since 1997 – making 1400 in total.

The Labour Government has provided more police, and more powers to be tough on crime to help transform local communities.

# MP chairs voting reform meetings

**ANNE CAMPBELL MP is known for her campaigns for electoral reform at Westminster. As Chair of the Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform (LCER) Anne plays a key role in discussions on voting reform and the role of**

**the House of Lords. At the Labour Party Conference, Anne again focussed her attention on these important issues.**

Sharing a platform with Robin Cook MP and Peter Hain MP at the 'Make Votes Count' meeting,

Anne spoke of the urgent need to reform voting systems in the UK so that they reflected the votes cast. The present 'first past the post' system results in bizarre anomalies where parties secure significant percentages of the vote, but only a tiny percentage of the seats, and most 'winners' have more votes cast against them than for them.

Anne said, "We need to engage the British people in the electoral process – we can't do this if they don't feel that their vote counts. The Make Votes Count campaign is a key part of the process to change the system – and it supports what I am doing with the LCER."

Anne also chaired a key meeting on Lords Reform at where she was joined by Billy Bragg, Robin Cook MP, Lord Dubs and Graham Allen MP.

**Anne shares platform with musician Billy Bragg debating electoral reform**



## IRAQ

**THE LIB DEMS' latest newsletter is deliberately trying to mislead you about my position on Iraq.**

My position has not changed. I opposed the war and resigned my Government position to vote against it. I tackled the Prime Minister about the troop deployment in Fallujah, as I believed it was linked to Bush's re-election. I was assured that this was not the case. This is what the newspapers reported.

I opposed military action and still do. But now that British troops are in Iraq, we do have a responsibility to stand by the Iraqi people and finish what has been started in terms of helping to rebuild and stabilise the country. The Lib Dems are opportunistic in demanding a Parliamentary vote on troop movements. Decisions about what happens in the field have to be left to the military commanders. However much we oppose the war, we cannot send our soldiers into battle with their arms tied behind their backs. This is what the Lib Dems want to do.

## EXTRA FUNDING FOR BUSINESS INNOVATION

**CAMBRIDGE MP Anne Campbell is working to secure extra funding for small businesses, which will help the city's scientific companies break into the worldwide market.**

Mrs Campbell wants to introduce legislation which guarantees that 2.5% of all research and development funding goes to small businesses. This follows Gordon Brown's announcement, in the Pre-Budget Report, of more support for research and development including tax breaks for university spin-off companies.

Anne Campbell said: "In Cambridge, we are very good at innovating, but the problem with spin-off businesses is that they get absorbed into larger companies and they don't become world-wide companies themselves."

"The Lib Dems' plans to slash Department of Trade and Industry funding would abolish the current support for innovation. This would have a direct and serious effect on Cambridge – not just in research but also on jobs."

## ANNE MONITORS PALESTINE ELECTIONS

**ANNE CAMPBELL MP has just returned from an official visit to Palestine as part of the British Government's Election Monitoring Team.**

Anne said, "On the whole we felt that the elections had gone well. I was monitoring the situation in East Jerusalem, Hebron and Bethlehem. Our impression was that apart from registration difficulties, all seemed to be in order. We reported our observations to the Central Elections Commission and they extended the polls by two hours so that everyone with a valid ID would be able to vote.

"I do believe that peace in the Middle East is vital for world security. This was my second visit to Palestine, and I welcomed the opportunity to talk to Palestinians and see the difficulties they face in their daily lives. I am very pleased that the Prime Minister has taken up the challenge and I will continue to lobby him about the importance of the peace process.

"After these elections in Palestine, I hope that the violence will stop and we will see further progress towards peace in the Middle East."



**Anne arranged for the Foreign Secretary to meet Hajira Qureshi, a Cambridge University student, to hear about her detention by the Israelis.**

# ANNE JOINS PAKISTANI CELEBRATIONS

**IN OCTOBER, an historic date – August 14, 1947 – was celebrated in an historic city. “Proud to be British and Pakistani” was the message from the Pakistan Independence Day celebrations, as Cambridge MP, Anne Campbell, congratulated the Pakistani community on 57 years of independence.**

Mrs Campbell also took the opportunity to praise the extraordinary achievement of Amir Khan, who gained a silver medal for Britain at the Olympic games in Athens.

The Pakistan Cultural Association of Cambridge did extremely well in, once again, bringing people together to celebrate not only the Independence Day, but also the very special relationship between Pakistan and Britain. “Many Pakistanis have made Britain their home,” Anne Campbell said, “The Pakistani community in Cambridge contribute significantly to the vibrancy of the city, and it is also important to remember the significant role Pakistan has to play in many global issues.”



Anne celebrates with members of the Pakistani community in Cambridge

## Labour’s Baby Bond Bonanza

**ANNE CAMPBELL MP has handed over the first of more than 1200 baby bond cheques to grateful parents.**

Anne said, “The Child Trust Fund will give hundreds of thousands of children born, today, the opportunity to get a decent start in adult life.

“Neither baby bonds nor the child/working tax credit would have happened if the Tories or the Lib Dems had had their way – they opposed both measures. If the Tories got back in to government they’d wreck Labour’s policies to help hardworking families make ends meet.”

Every child born after September 2002 will receive a voucher for £250 or more from the Labour Government to open a Child Trust Fund. Children and families receiving the full Child Tax Credit will receive an extra £250 payment. The fund will help families save and ensure that all children have a stake in the wealth of the nation.



Anne handing over the first baby bond in Cambridge to Hanna, aged 9 months, at SNAP 4 Kids nursery

## ANNE PRAISES FOODBANK SUCCESS

**ANNE CAMPBELL MP visited the Cambridge Foodbank as they prepared for their Christmas appeal.**

Anne Campbell said, “This is such a simple and successful idea. I enjoyed meeting the volunteers involved in the Christmas appeal.”

Following a very successful Harvest Festival appeal, which resulted in 10.2 tonnes of donated food and other groceries, the Cambridge Foodbank repeated the appeal at Christmas, a time of year when charities are very busy and have increased numbers of

vulnerable people to provide with food.

“Sharing food with families and friends is an important part of Christmas and so I was delighted to support this initiative,” said Anne. “The appeal meant that the voluntary organisations working with the most vulnerable people in Cambridge received an important contribution to help them carry out their work.

“Most of the food that is collected is surplus to the food industry and would otherwise have been buried in landfill sites, despite being perfectly wholesome and edible.”

# SAFER AND CLEANER STREETS

**PEOPLE WANT to live in communities that aren’t blighted by litter, graffiti and burnt-out cars. The Labour Government has introduced the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill that will provide extra powers for councils to tackle anti-social behaviour.**

Anne said, “I am very much in support of this Bill. I had a tremendous response to my recent recycling survey which identified many concerns that people have about the standard of street cleaning. This Bill will encour-

age the City Council to monitor standards and the frequency of street cleaning, as well as improving our local green spaces.

“We can all do our bit to help our environment. In the autumn I joined staff from Asda who give their time to voluntary projects. We were cleaning up some of the green space in Chesterton – and made a real difference at St Andrew’s school.”

**“We can all do our bit to help our environment”**

Anne with Asda volunteers clearing a site at St Andrew’s school

