



Moseley & Kings Heath Liberal Democrats

TORNADO SPECIAL

A Tornado devastated parts of north Moseley on the 28th July. Since then, local Liberal Democrat Councillor Martin Mullaney has been visiting the area on an almost daily basis. He has been able to see and hear at first hand the problems residents are having.

We hope this newsletter shows some of the efforts being made to help rebuild this shattered community.



Devastation on Alders Road and Birchwood Road. 140 families had to be evacuated and found alternative accommodation within hours of the tornado hitting. Many of these properties will not be fit for re-occupation for months.



An exposed manhole cover in Balsall Heath Park. A falling tree smashed this iron cover down the hole. This has now been fixed.

Balsall Heath Park and Summer Playschemes

Martin and fellow Lib Dem Councillor Emily Cox have used local Neighbourhood Renewal Funds (NRF) to get Balsall Heath Park tidied up. This park is at the corner of Ladypool Road and Taunton Road and is the only green open space available to children in north Moseley.

In the week leading up to 15th August the park was carefully cleared of dangerous debris, such as glass and small roof tiles. A Sports Camp will be in this park throughout the summer, organising sporting activities for local children. **Telephone 0845 124 9758 for more details.**

Local NRF funds are also being used to boost summer playschemes and childcare at The Calvary Church Hall, Oxford Road, Moseley. **Telephone 464 1888 for more details.**

Church Hall, Oxford Road, Moseley. **Telephone 464 1888 for more details.**

GOVERNMENT HELP FOR TORNADO AREA?

There will be NO money from the Government to help rebuild the tornado hit community in the coming years. There will also be NO money to help residents or businesses who did not insure their properties.

The Government is only providing financial assistance for the work that was done by the Council in the immediate aftermath of the tornado to safeguard life or property. The Government will cover 85% of costs that were incurred after the Council had spent £2.7million on emergency work. The cost to the Council is already estimated to be at least £10million.



A house with its roof completely ripped off. This tornado hit an area of high poverty. Without Government money, this area will be financially crippled for years to come.

The Council has asked the Government to treat this disaster as an exceptional case, since an area of high poverty was hit. The Government are insisting that it will be treated, using the same financial formulae, as other disasters.

The Council is putting together a package to assist residents in **extreme** financial hardship who did not insure their properties and cannot pay for emergency repairs. This is likely to take the form of interest free loans, with the house used as a guarantee of repayment.

WOODSTOCK ROAD GIRLS SCHOOL

Martin and Emily are helping to find alternative accommodation for the 135 girls who attend Woodstock Road Girls School. The building had its roof ripped off by the tornado and it is likely it will not be fit for re-use until February.

Council Officers are trying to find alternative premises before the start of term in September. Martin and Emily have suggested possible alternative premises to the Council and are requesting regular updates from the Council.

UPDATE ON MOSELEY ROAD BATHS

A new date has been set for the re-opening of Moseley Road baths – it's 7th October 2005. It was previously thought it would re-open on the 1st September, however there have been delays in the re-construction of the terracotta windows in Pool 2.

Much restoration work has taken place inside the building during the last 12 months. The main chimney has been effectively rebuilt. Stained glass based on the original Edwardian design will be re-instated in Pool 2—the original stained glass vanished over 30 years ago. New terracotta blocks have been moulded to replace corroded ones in Pool 2 windows.



The above photograph shows the rebuilding of the terracotta windows in Pool 2. New terracotta blocks have been made to replace any that have crumbled.

Only Pool 2 will re-open in October. Pool 1, the larger of the two pools will remain closed until the money can be found for its restoration.

Martin has already met with the Heritage Lottery Fund to discuss getting funding to re-open Pool 1. We are now putting together a package of work to get a Heritage Lottery Fund bid in place—we hope an announcement will be made in September.

CONTACTING YOUR LIBERAL DEMOCRAT COUNCILLORS

We are here to help you 7 days a week, 365 days a year. You can contact either of us on the following telephone numbers or e-mail addresses:

Councillor Martin Mullaney—689 4372—mullaney3@blueyonder.co.uk
Councillor Emily Cox—303 4204 (office hours) — emily.cox@jhc.co.uk

If you require a home visit, telephone 689 4372

You can also meet them at their Advice Bureaux. These are held **every Monday (except Bank Holidays)** at the following times and locations:

6.30 - 7.00pm Kings Heath Community Centre, 8 Heathfield Road, Kings Heath
7.15 - 7.45pm, Moseley Community Development Trust, The Post Office Building, 149-153 Alcester Road, Moseley

REMOVING FALLEN TREES

Run-A-Muck Composting service are now helping to remove fallen trees from residents back gardens in north Moseley. Run-A-Muck are funded from local Neighbourhood Renewal Funds (NRF) funds.

This new service will last until the end of September and is aimed at residents on low incomes who do not have any other means of removing trees blown over in the tornado. Run-A-Muck will cut up the trees and remove them.

The trees must be lying on the ground. Run-A-Muck will NOT cut down trees or remove dangerous branches from existing trees.

Telephone Run-A-Muck on 328 5330 for more information.

Please use the space below to tell us your concerns. **Return to: Moseley & Kings Heath Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST BM 4127, Birmingham B30 1BR.** This is **FREE**, but using a stamp helps the Liberal Democrats

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(To join or donate please send cheques made out to ' Liberal Democrats' - membership costs £5 minimum).

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