

**Campaign  
Hotline  
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# RESPECT

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## Red Route planned for Moseley & Kings Heath

### Proper process needed to avoid chaos of scheme in Sparkhill

Birmingham city council are planning to introduce a Red Route through Kings Heath and Moseley.

Red Routes are designed to ensure free-flowing traffic on specific roads to keep the city moving. They can have many advantages including reducing pollution and road accidents.

#### Research

However before introducing a Red Route it is important that proper research is done to ensure that such a scheme will genuinely benefit the area. In Sparkhill, the scheme has been a mess.

- Independent Aston University research shows that **80%** of the businesses have been 'devastated' since its introduction.
- **£2 million** possibly lost in trade.
- Over **7,000** parking tickets have been issued in less than 10 months!
- Up to **200 jobs** have been put at risk.

Following intensive questioning by Respect councillor Salma Yaqoob it has come to light that the city council did not even conduct an economic impact assessment study before committing £6.5 million to pay for the scheme.

#### Consultation

Lib Dem councillor Martin Mullaney is a loud supporter of the Red Route. It is vital that there is proper local consultation in advance of any red route scheme for Kings Heath and Moseley if we are to avoid the complete mess that has been created in Sparkhill.



**Ray Gaston and Cllr Salma Yaqoob at the MAC**

### MAC Jobs Threat

When the MAC (Midlands Arts Centre) closes on 6th April 2008, all MAC staff are being made redundant. On re-opening in Autumn 2009, re-employment of current staff is not guaranteed.

Birmingham city council is a funder of the MAC. It has a responsibility to ensure MAC staff are fairly treated. The public can help too. Please sign the online petition:  
[http://petition.co.uk/save\\_mac\\_staff\\_jobs](http://petition.co.uk/save_mac_staff_jobs)

### Ray Gaston: your Respect candidate for this ward

Ray Gaston is a Christian priest who served for 8 years at All Hallows Church in Leeds. He was prominent in anti-war opposition, grass roots community activism, asylum seeker support and interfaith dialogue.



**Ray Gaston**

He is now engaged in full time research at the University of Birmingham. If you want to help with Ray's campaign please contact him on: **077511 55124**

## London to introduce public cycle scheme - why not Birmingham too?

Across Europe public bicycle rental programmes have been introduced to **encourage** people to take up an environmentally friendly and healthy form of transport.

Paris launched a public bicycle rental programme in 2007. **20,000** bicycles were introduced to the city with 1,450 hire points .



The bikes are **electronically tagged** and have a unique design to make less attractive to thieves than normal bikes.

**London** is set to follow other European cities by introducing its own version of a public cycle rental initiative. Birmingham should do likewise.

## Don't reward pro-war parties with your vote

Every vote cast this May for pro-war parties will be presented as the public having 'got over' their war concerns. Don't reward pro-war parties with your vote.



Photo: Ray at recent Stop the War demo.

## Moseley Road Baths

Why are the Lib Dem-Tory coalition dragging their feet over the future of the baths? This is a unique historic treasure. It must be



## Council equal pay fight

The city Council are trying to slash the wages of thousands of already low paid staff as part of a national pay deal. They say they don't have the cash to bridge the gap. They should be demanding that the government pay the shortfall. If Gordon Brown can pay **£24 billion** to bail out the bankers of Northern Rock, he can find the cash to compensate for fair pay in Birmingham.



## 'Journey to Justice'

In May 1998 70,000 people formed a human chain in Birmingham to demand that the G8 drop the debt. To mark the 10th anniversary Jubilee Debt have organised a special event:

**Journey to Justice:  
Break the chains  
of global debt**

**2.30pm  
Sunday 18 May**

**International  
Convention Centre  
Birmingham**

**www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk**

Photos top: Drop the debt protesters in the Bullring, Birmingham in 1998. Bottom: Birmingham jubilee debt campaigner Audrey Miller with Cllr Salma Yaqoob 2008.



## Our youth - Our future!

The council **should** be spending **£117** pounds per head of the 13-19 year old population. **Instead they spend only £61.** Our young people deserve better.



Photo: Cllr Salma Yaqoob presenting youth football awards

Dear **RESPECT** please take up the following issues:

My top 3 concerns are

1.

2.

3.

Name.....

Address.....

Post code.....

Tel.....

**Return to: Respect c/o 104 Willows Rd, Balsall Heath, B12 9QD.**

On May 1 vote

**Ray Gaston**

**RESPECT**

