

Press release

**Conservative Candidate calls on Lynne Featherstone to publicly back Leaseholders' Rights Bill**

*Richard Merrin launches campaign for leaseholders' rights*

Richard Merrin, Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Hornsey & Wood Green, has called on Lib Dem MP Lynne Featherstone to back the Private Members' Bill on extending leaseholders' rights.

The Bill, introduced by Conservative MP for Beckenham Jacqui Lait, aims to confer more rights on leaseholders in relation to management and maintenance of their properties.

The Bill was introduced in January 2009, and will have its Second Reading on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

Richard stated: "Leaseholders here in Haringey have been losing out financially for years, too often the victims of shoddy and overpriced repairs and maintenance. Regrettably, Haringey Lib Dem councillors have been completely ineffective in standing up for hard-pressed leaseholders locally. So it's clear that what is needed is legislative change at a national level to offer leaseholders the protection they need.

"Over the past month I have been talking to leaseholders across the Borough about their experiences and time and again I hear the claim that they are being treated unfairly, "fleeced" by the council and seen as nothing more than a 'cash cow'.

"That is why today I am launching a campaign to support leaseholders here in Haringey and would urge anyone with experience to contact me so that I can in turn advise Jacqui Lait, the bill's sponsor in parliament.

"Despite political differences, I sincerely hope Hornsey & Wood Green's MP backs this Private Members Bill which aims to bring real change and fairness to the way leaseholders are treated in future."

Details of the Bill itself are still be formulated but it is hoped that this Bill will succeed where previous Private Members' Bills have failed, including one from Lib Dem MP Simon Hughes.

Richard Merrin  
07770 351 493