

Working hard for Lewisham North and Deptford

Benedict Maguire would like your support to be the next Lib Dem PPC for Lewisham North and Deptford constituency.

As a hardworking local campaigner from Blackheath Benedict has been urging the all Labour council to change course for years. These are some of Benedict's priorities if chosen as the Lib Dem PPC and elected MP for our area:

1. REDUCE AIR POLLUTION

Problem: Children have tragically already died from toxic air in our area and we cannot delay action any longer. It is shameful that Lewisham Council did not mandate more trees, solar panels and EV chargers for the Lewisham development.

Proposal: We need air polluting monitors across the constituency alongside a massive tree planting program. In parliament I would push for mandatory tree planting in all medium and large developments along with minimum quotas for EV charging points and solar panels.

Record: Benedict has been urging Lewisham Council to plant trees along Blackheath Hill and joined residents in Lee Rd campaigning for air quality monitors there and across the borough.

2. INCREASE AFFORDABLE & SOCIAL HOUSING

Problem: Lewisham Labour are presiding over an appalling housing crisis in our area which has left residents in dangerously damp and mouldy homes as highlighted by BBC Panorama.

Proposal: I will call for a massive increase to our social housing stock to meet the desperate need of residents while also pushing for a larger portion of new homes to be designated as social housing and genuinely affordable housing.

Record: Benedict recently put pressure on Lewisham Homes to refurbish a flat which had severe mould and damp problems. The family's youngest daughter had developed asthma due to the shocking living conditions.

4. PROTECT WOMEN, GIRLS AND THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

Problem: Violence against women and girls is endemic in our city. The murders of Sabina Nessa and Sarah Everard shocked us to our core and highlights the urgent action needed. Similarly a recent spate of violent attacks against LGBTQ+ people in Clapham and Brixton must not become the norm.

Proposal: A huge awareness campaign backed by all of our elected officials could shine a light on this issue and make perpetrators stop and think about their actions. Education is also crucial and I would push for dignity and respect for all to be a core part of the school curriculum as we seek to avoid this cycle of violence.

Record: Benedict has been discussing this important issue with Lambeth councillors who have shared their experiences and best practices in tackling this issue.



Record of action: Damp and mouldy home in Lewisham before and after Benedict pressured Lewisham Homes to finally undertake repairs

3. REDUCE HOSPITAL AND GP WAIT TIMES

Problem: The Tory government have ideologically driven our treasured NHS into the ground so that private healthcare companies from California can pick up the pieces. Most people now wait weeks to see a GP and months or years for a hospital appointment which is totally unacceptable.

Proposal: The NHS can no longer be a political football kicked around by Labour and the Tories. Instead we must look at how the NHS is funded and consider an independent review body which sets the appropriate level of funding each year.

Record: Benedict has been campaigning for more GP and hospital appointments through significant increase in government funding.

