

Gravesham Constituency Labour Party

Chair: Jean Christie: (01474) 361564
Secretary: Ray Parker: (01474) 327630
Parliamentary Spokesperson: Kathryn Smith.



NEWS RELEASE MONDAY, 28 APRIL 2008

LABOUR SAYS 'NO' TO THE TOWER BLOCK

Gravesham Labour Party hit the streets this weekend to warn residents about the threat to Gravesham's heritage.

Labour ran a street stall in the town centre and within a couple of hours had collected hundreds of signatures on their petition calling on the Council to reject the plans.

Kathryn Smith, Labour's Parliamentary candidate has spoken out against the planning proposal for a 32 storey Tower Block on Gravesend's historical waterfront.

While supporting the need for regeneration in this area of the town, Kathryn Smith has condemned the tower block and its impact on the local area. It is clearly a massive over-development of the site. When Gravesham was Labour controlled, the Council supported regeneration of the town centre along sympathetic lines. However, since last May the Tory Council appears to have been working with the developers on a planning application, which will seriously damage the ambitions for the heritage quarter.

Kathryn Smith (Labour's Parliamentary Candidate) said: *"Everywhere I go, people are talking of their fears that the Tory-led Council will give consent to this enormous 32-storey Sky Scrapper on the waterfront in Gravesend."*

In addition, the Council have released the developers from an undertaking to include affordable housing in the scheme. The Tower block will now consist of luxury flats, most of which will be beyond the financial means of local people.

Kathryn is urging local residents to have your say on the planning application by visiting Labour's on-line petition against the Tower Block go to: www.graveshamlabour.co.uk

Jean Christie (Chair of Gravesham Constituency Labour Party) said: *"Collecting signatures for the petition was a great opportunity to chat to visitors from out of town; they told us they came here because they enjoyed the proximity of the shops to the riverside amenity.*

Without exception they were amazed to hear about the 32 storey tower on the riverfront, and thought the Council were mad to put forward such a proposal".

*More Information: Kathryn Smith 07939 400361
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(Photograph Attached)*