



## Ambitious for Stourbridge

## Working for Stourbridge

## Crime and anti-social behaviour

Most young people are doing well in work or at college but a minority are hanging around our streets and our parks drinking and taking drugs. Graffiti, abuse, arson even are the result of this lack of focus in their lives.

It is completely wrong that people in certain parts of Stourbridge should have had to put up with anti-social behaviour for so long. Many of these criminals can be dealt with in the community. But there are a hard core who need firm action. These ringleaders should be identified, punished and if necessary locked up. Not just 'moved on' to create havoc somewhere else.

The police and magistrates find themselves increasingly powerless in dealing with persistent thugs. Also making a simple arrest now takes hours out of a police officer's day thanks to endless red tape.

## What will the Conservatives do to reduce anti-social behaviour?

The Conservative Party are committed to the following measures to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour on our streets:

- More police on the streets.
- An end to the requirement that the police complete a form every time they stop someone in the street.

- An end to the 'Early Release' scheme, prisoners should serve their term.
- More Prison Capacity.
- A greater say over the licensing of bars and clubs for local people.
- The replacement of the Human Rights Act by a British Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.

## Crime Prevention in Norton

Margot has been working to reduce anti-social behaviour around the Stourbridge Centre for adults with learning disabilities. Margot brought together police, local residents, council officers and the management of the centre which has been targeted by vandals. The council have now approved security fencing which should reduce crime and lessen its impact on the surrounding area.

## Campaigning for cleaner streets and parks

Litter is always worse in the summer so Margot looked into penalties issued by police and council workers. Last year 64 fines were issued for litter across the Stourbridge Area. But only nine of these fines were for litter dropped in Pedmore, Ambicote, Norton, Willaston and Stourbridge Town. Margot urged officers to be more vigilant in these areas during the summer months.



Older people deserve better access to adult education



Campaigning on litter with Cllr. Les Jones



Campaigning for Post Offices with Cllr. Margaret Cowell



Meeting police about anti-social behaviour



Celebrating with King Edward's Young Enterprise team



Discussing security with police and staff at the Stourbridge Centre



Interviewed by Russell Eden for 'The Bridge'

## Bringing Students and Business Together

Margot uses her experience in business to help young people realise their dream of starting their own company. She is a past mentor and advisor for the Prince's Trust and Young Enterprise. This year Margot has facilitated action between local business and Stourbridge College to ensure more young people get the benefit of apprenticeships and decent training. She also attended the Black Country Young Enterprise finals and congratulated the team from King Edward's on winning two awards.

## More Learning opportunities for Older People

Last year the Government changed the rules for adult education. Higher fees are charged now and there are fewer courses open to older people as a result. Margot worked with Help the Aged nationally on their 'Adult learning consultation'. Margot organised more than sixty responses to the consultation, the largest response in the country for the Help the Aged survey.

## Campaigning to save our Post Offices

The Government's Post Office Closure programme is coming to the borough of Dudley this summer. There will be a

consultation on which of our Post Offices are to be closed in August. Margot has requested a meeting with local Post Office management to argue the case for our local post offices.

## Fundraising for Local Charities

Last year Margot walked the Dudley Trail for Age Concern and hosted a party in aid of the Mary Stevens Hospice. This year Margot is helping to organise a fundraising competition for the Black Country Talking Newspaper and Magazine. You can hear an interview with Margot on the Talking Magazine for blind and visually impaired people at [www.margotjames.com](http://www.margotjames.com).

## Protecting Stourbridge Library

Stourbridge Library has a wonderful archive of local history. Yet more government regulations mean that we won't be able to keep all of it in our local library in future. It has been well maintained for decades yet the maintenance doesn't meet 'new standards'. So much of our collection will have to go to the Black Country Living Museum. Margot has met with council officers to argue the case that as much of our local history as possible should remain at the Stourbridge Library.