

WALWORTH

Meet the by-election candidates

With the fiercely contested by-election for the East Walworth ward, following the death of Labour councillor Helen Morrissey, due to take place next Thursday, November 29, the *News* quizzed each of the candidates about local issues.

Name: Stuart Millson
Party: Conservative

Age: 29

Occupation: Business and product development manager at Black Swan Partners.

Lives: Born in Sussex, lives in East Dulwich. Has lived in Southwark two years.

There is a big debate going on at the moment about levels of affordable housing in the plans for the regeneration of the Heygate. What is your position?
"The Heygate is obviously a very valuable piece of the borough. If the council can use this to produce better quality homes and more homes in other parts of the borough which can relieve the pressure on housing costs all over then that's the way forward."

Local parents have launched a campaign for improved road safety measures at Elephant and Castle following the death of five-year-old Hichame Bouadimline. What measures do you think should be introduced in your ward?
"Far and away the most important things are in



Elephant. There is a limit to what we can do at such a busy interchange. It's about the volume of traffic and making sure that there are safe places to cross rather than imposing speed limits.

Apart from these, what do you think the biggest issues in East Walworth are?

"I think one of the biggest issues in East Walworth is that the far end of the ward is more than a mile away from the nearest overground or tube. I think the council are being very neglectful of residents on the Aylesbury Estate. Until the council starts making the case to the Mayor and TfL that we need better transport links to this area, it's not going to happen. That's what Southwark Council need to do, and that is what I am campaigning for."

Name: Rebecca Lury
Party: Labour

Age: 25

Occupation: Works in communication for PR company Fleishman Hillard

Live: Originally from Harrow, has lived in Walworth for three years

There is a big debate going on at the moment about levels of affordable housing in the plans for the regeneration of the Heygate. What is your position?
"The Labour Party is committed to providing 25 per cent affordable housing as a minimum. I would agree that is the absolute minimum and we should do all that we can to increase levels above that. If we had left this to Lib Dems, it would be seven or eight per cent. I think that 25 per cent is a good deal, considering the position we are in with the recession."

Local parents have launched a campaign for improved road safety at Elephant & Castle following the death of five-year-old Hichame Bouadimline. What measures do you think should be introduced in your ward?

"I would look to work with



TfL and with Greater London services to ensure greater road safety measures. With the regeneration of the urban area around Elephant and Castle, that will be something that will be taken into consideration. I think we would have to consider a 20mph speed limit and have further discussions and a consultation around that."

Apart from these, what do you think the biggest issues in East Walworth are?

"I think the Heygate is one of the biggest issues, and the regeneration of the entire area is extremely important, and connected to that, housing and the council's Warm, Dry and Safe programme. I also think that the police cuts across the whole of Southwark are a very serious issue."

Name: Dr Ben Johnson
Party: Liberal Democrats

Age: 31

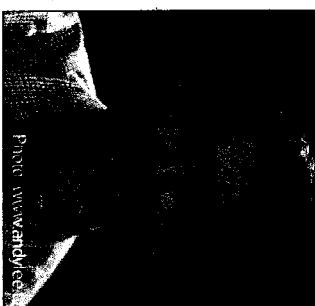
Occupation: Biologist working for scientific publisher Biomed Central.

Live: Originally from Manchester, lived in Walworth nearly six years.

There is a big debate going on at the moment about levels of affordable housing in the plans for the regeneration of the Heygate. What is your position?
"A deal was struck and people moved out on the understanding that as many council homes would be built on the new site as there were on the old site. The Lib Dems got 35 per cent affordable housing as an agreement in their planning documents. I think that's what we need. Labour has said 25 per cent is all we can get. But I don't think they've fought hard enough for more."

Local parents have launched a campaign for improved road safety at Elephant & Castle following the death of five-year-old Hichame Bouadimline. What measures do you think should be introduced in your ward?

"I think there are also issues around getting the basics right – services like street cleaning. The last thing you should see is piles of rubbish in the streets, but that's what we're seeing."



"There's not just the really tragic case in St George's Road, but also residents very concerned about crossing at Balfour Street off New Kent Road. There is also concern about removal of safety railings. We should consider 20mph zones and other measures."

Apart from these, what do you think the biggest issues in East Walworth are?

"There are a lot of larger council homes in East Walworth which are being sold off. It's not what I want or what local people want. We want a mixed community. I think there are also issues around getting the basics right – services like street cleaning. The last thing you should see is piles of rubbish in the streets, but that's what we're seeing."