

Your chance to have a say about the future of Stoke Newington

Question the candidates in the forthcoming
Stoke Newington by-election

Wednesday 21 January at 8pm, Abney Hall, Church Street

The councillor elected in the by-election on 29 January 2009 will represent YOU at Hackney Town Hall. Come along and question candidates at this community organised hustings

This is the community's chance to hold the candidates to account and ask what they will do to improve our local area and our local services and tackle local issues

In December a group of residents with views from across the political spectrum, met to discuss increasing the level of participation in local politics here in Hackney. The meeting had been called by Hackney TUC, but was also supported by community, campaign and faith groups. The group decided that we wanted the community to begin to hold politicians to account.

Putting the politicians 'on the spot'

We have called this meeting so that key issues raised by the community can be put to all the candidates in a public forum where residents can decide which, if any, of the candidates they think will make the best local councillor. While there will be an open question session, not everyone will be able to ask a question on the evening, so we are asking you to give us your views in advance, so that we can identify the key issues to put to the candidates.

Community not party politics

The aim of this initiative is not to convince people to vote for one or other candidate (the candidates will each have their own campaign teams seeking to do that) The initiative is not about party politics, but *community politics*. The stronger our communities the more politicians, of whatever party, will need to listen to our concerns.

By bringing the community together on 21 January, we are seeking to remind those who ask for our votes that we demand and expect something in return.

How you can help

- We are asking people to send us, in advance, a question to be put to the politicians. Please complete and return the questionnaire overleaf.
- Please attend on the evening of the 21 January, and please bring friends and neighbours with you.
- Please share it with friends, colleagues and neighbours who may be interested in its contents.
- To join our e-mail list or for any other enquiries please send an email to john.page45@btinternet.com.

Survey of residents in Stoke Newington Ward

What are the key concerns that you have as a resident (please limit this to a maximum of three subject areas)?

What, if anything, would you like to say to the candidates in this election?

What one question would you like put to the candidates?

Your name

email

Not everyone will be able to ask their question at the meeting, however, we plan to circulate all questions received to the candidates in advance. We also plan to put copies of the questions, comments and priorities around the wall at the Abney Hall on the 21 January, so that we can all see what each other think.

Please post or email this form to John Page: PO Box 44656, London N16 5YX for additional copies or to have your name added to our email list, please send a message to john.page45@btinternet.com