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**Dear Northfield Voter,**

**There is an election for the City Council on 1 May.** I will be the Labour Party Candidate for Northfield Ward – and if I am to win I need your support and that of your family and friends.

Birmingham is being run by the Conservatives (propped up by uncritical Liberal Democrats) and for several years Northfield has had only Conservative councillors. **If things are not right in Northfield, they are responsible, not us! Do not allow them to blame others for their own failures.**

The Conservatives carried on with many Labour commitments, most paid for with money from the Labour government – including the Northfield Relief Road, more money for schools, and more money for Council housing. But the Conservatives are not continuing support for some local projects - cuts have started !

And when councillors represent a ward for a long time, they easily get complacent. They get other fish to fry, and stop answering letters, and many small things get neglected. I discovered this when I put round a leaflet – I was able, with help from the **Pride-in-Northfield** project, to get more than 30 little things dealt with in a few weeks. Some of these are summarised below.

### ***Andrew's Eight Commitments for Northfield***

But we do not elect councillors just to deal with casework – we need councillors who will take the lead and campaign for the area. At the end of this letter are my **EIGHT COMMITMENTS FOR NORTHFIELD**. If I am elected, I will do everything I can to make those eight commitments happen. **If you would like to know more, or you have any questions, then write to me.**

The most urgent is to get **a really big car park at Longbridge** before the plans there are set in stone (or concrete!). The former Rover land is about to become a huge development site – with up to 10,000 people working there, and Bournville College also. **There has to be enough parking. That is the way to deal with the parking problems around both Longbridge and Northfield stations.**

## **About Andrew**

I have lived in Northfield for more than 20 years – and delivered leaflets in nearly every street. I understand the local issues.

For 14 years, I was a councillor, for Selly Oak. I know how the Council works, and how to get things done by the Council, **for you**. My children went to local schools (St Laurence, Shenley Court, Cadbury College) and on to University. My wife works helping people to get back into education. If I am elected I will give up my full time job at Birmingham University – and that will free up the time to fight for Northfield people.

### **Postal Votes and Proxy Votes – and adding a name to the Electoral Roll**

Everyone should vote. But not everyone can get to the polling station between 7.00am and 10.00pm on 1 May. If you cannot get there yourself, you can **either** allow someone else to vote for you (a **proxy vote**), **or** you can vote by post.

The form for these is here. There are strict deadlines: the last day for proxy votes is **Wednesday 23 April**. The last day for postal votes is **Wednesday 16 April**.

**It is not too late to add a name to the electoral roll** (list of people who can vote). The deadline for that is also Wednesday 16 April. If you need to do this, give me a bell (number at top of letter) and we will get you a form.

**Don't Forget to Vote. Above all, come out and vote!** If we can get a Labour councillor in Northfield, you will see the difference. Things will get done, you will be listened to, you will have a councillor on your side, representing you, making sure your voice is heard.

So come out, and give me a chance to show what can be done!

Best regards,



## **ANDREW'S EIGHT COMMITMENTS FOR NORTHFIELD**

- 1. More money for the youth service** – reopen the youth club in Turves Green.
- 2. Real jobs** that will give long-term prospects for our young people – especially in modern forms of manufacturing.
- 3. Improve Northfield shopping centre** – with a town square.  
Modernise the former Grosvenor Centre - get rid of the green cladding – and open it up to Bristol Road.
- 4. A BIG car-park to serve Longbridge station** – using old factory land.
- 5. Build affordable homes** in Northfield – including some **council houses**, now that the Government allows councils to do so!
- 6. Support the eco-centre** in Northfield – which will show people how to save money on their energy bills – and reduce global warming too!
- 7. Keep the Pride-in-Northfield project** – so that problems of rubbish or vandalism are dealt with quickly.
- 8. Fair funding for single status** – council workers should not have to take pay cuts or lose their jobs

## Andrew Coulson at work in Northfield

***Here is a sample of Andrew's casework,  
all completed in the last few weeks:***

1. **Severn Acres Road** – sewage had been leaking from a manhole cover and running onto the road for about two months. **Problem solved within 48 hours.**
2. **Bunbury Road**, dangerous footpath. A slab had shifted, leaving a dangerous hole. **Dealt with the same day!**
3. **Edgehill Road** – drains needed cleaning out. **They were!**
4. **Worthen Grove** – armchair abandoned in back garden for more than a year – **removed**
5. Gulley – from **Redhill Road** to **Wakeford Road**. Following Andrew's intervention, the Council removed several bags of rubbish, one item with a sell-by date of 1998  
– **which just shows how parts of Northfield are neglected!**
6. **Alvechurch Road** – dog fouling signs erected
7. Emerald Restaurant, **Tessall Lane** – garden rubbish removed from pavement
8. **Hole Lane/St Laurence Road** – litter picking arranged after binmen failed to collect paper on a very windy day
9. Several housing issues, including one where a family of five are sleeping in a single room – taken up with help from Richard Burden, and not yet solved.
10. **Houldey Road** – St Johns Court added to round for recycling collections

In addition Andrew used the Ward Soapbox to raise the issue of the bus shelters removed from **Groveley Lane** and **Coombes Lane** after all three councillors supported this. How often do they use the buses?

**Do you have any issues of concern in Northfield?**

**And can you spare some time to help us?**

**If so, please use the form overleaf and return to the FREEPOST address**

Telephone 475-4615

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**GOT A PROBLEM?  
OR DO YOU KNOW OF SOMETHING WHICH  
NEEDS TO BE DONE IN NORTHFIELD ?  
USE THE SPACE BELOW TO TELL US,  
AND WE WILL GET ON THE CASE!**

- ▶ YES! I'm backing Andrew at the polls on Thursday 1 May
- ▶ I shall need a lift to the polling station – RING 475 4615
- ▶ I can help by delivering leaflets in my area
- ▶ I can help in other ways
- ▶ I would like to join the Labour Party

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Published by Judy Coulson on behalf of Andrew Coulson, both at 8 Innage Road, Northfield, B'ham B31 2DX.  
The Labour Party may contact you using the details you provide. Please tell us if you don't want us to.