

# Council House Rents Up 40% and £26 a week Confiscated!

Labour are picking on Dacorum Council House Tenants with another Labour Stealth Tax. Last year Dacorum council house tenants suffered a rent increase of more than twice the rate of inflation. The rent for an average three bedroom council house was increased from £61.64 to £65.45 a week. In 1997, under the Conservatives, the rent was £46.85. Under Labour tenants have seen their rent increase by £18.60 a week, that's 40%.

Rents used to be set by the local council. From April 2002 onwards, under Labour's Government Rent Restructure Policy, this changed and rents were set by the government. In the five years prior to 2002 the average rent increase set by the council was under 3.8% per annum. The increase last year which was set by the government and not the council was a staggering 6.2%. The people of Dacorum have now lost the right to throw out their council if they feel that they have increased the rents too much and are completely at the mercy of the Labour government.

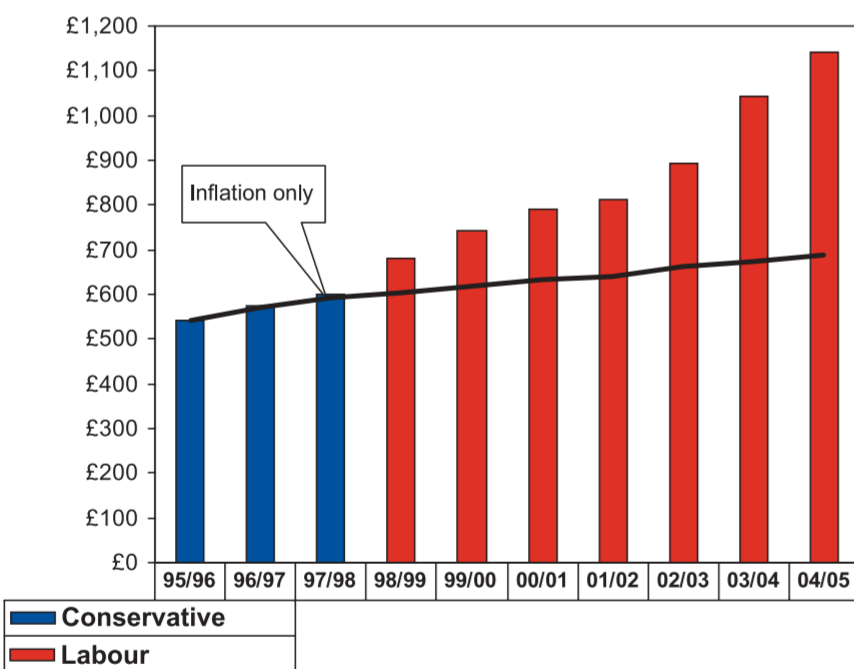
To add insult to injury Labour also decided to confiscate 41% of all council rents collected and redistribute it to other councils. This means that in the example above of a 3 bed semi council house, the Dacorum tenant is paying £26.83 a week to Labour for them to give away to other areas in the country.

# Council Tax up 92% under Labour

In 1997 when Labour came to power the Council Tax for a band D house was £599 a year. This year after seven years of Labour it has risen a staggering 92% to £1,140 a year.

Labour plan an increase next year of three times the rate on inflation which will mean a further increase of £77 for Band D tax payers

Dacorum Council Tax Band D - 2 adults



# What Conservatives will do

## Action on Tax

We will stop Labour's third term tax rises and give people value for money by slimming down government.

## Action on schools

We believe that teachers, not politicians, should run our schools. We will cut teachers' paperwork, restore discipline in schools and give parents the opportunity to choose the best school for their child.

## Action on hospitals

We believe that NHS professionals, not politicians, should run hospitals. We will get our hospitals clean, get money through to frontline services and give patients the opportunity to choose where and when they get their treatment.

## Action on crime

We believe our society needs more respect, discipline and decent values. We will cut political correctness and police paperwork, and put more police on the beat.

## Action on asylum & immigration

We believe we need a fair immigration system that helps genuine refugees and gives priority to those who want to come to Britain to work hard and make a positive contribution.

[www.penning4hemel.com](http://www.penning4hemel.com)

# PENNING'S MESSENGER

**LOOKING AFTER DACORUM FIGHTING FOR ENGLAND, PUTTING BRITAIN FIRST**

Delivered free to homes in Hemel Hempstead and the villages of Kings Langley, Markyate, Flamstead, Potten End, Little Gaddesden and Great Gaddesden

# LABOUR ARE DESTROYING YOUR HOSPITAL

Despite Labour's promises Hemel Hempstead's hospital is under more of a threat than ever before.

The Labour MP said when he was elected in 2001, "I've safeguarded our hospitals future." Well, the future is grim; a few weeks ago the Labour Minister signed the hospital's death warrant. Hemel residents deserve a hospital that has services based on the clinical needs of the local community. Hemel Hospital was built for the needs of local residents, now Labour are destroying it.



Mike Penning wants action not words

# LABOUR ARE ALL TALK OUR LABOUR MP IS ALL TALK AND NO ACTION

## The Talk

- "I've worked with the police to cut crime"
- "I'm working to get a new hospital access road"
- "I'm working to get a new ambulance station"
- "I've safeguarded our hospital's future"
- "I've fought to save our green fields"

## The Action

- Violent Crime increased by 85% last year
- No new road
- No new ambulance station
- Labour to move A&E and Maternity to Watford
- Labour dictate over 80,000 houses to be built in Hertfordshire

A £5 billion a year raid on pensions      Taxes up 50% since 1997

Business tax up £47 billion      National Insurance up £8 billion

**"WE HAVE NO PLANS TO INCREASE TAX AT ALL"**

*Tony Blair, Financial Times*

[conservatives.com](http://conservatives.com)

# LABOUR HAVE ALWAYS LET HEMEL'S HOSPITAL DOWN

The Labour appointed Strategic Health Authority has engineered things so that we are to lose our General Hospital. No proper casualty department, no maternity, no children's ward, in fact all we will have is a production line surgical factory and an A&E staffed by nurses. At the birth of the NHS in 1948 we were better off. At that time we had six local hospitals, providing some 583 beds to the community. How can it be right that Hemel under Labour's plans is to have significantly fewer hospital beds than it had before the NHS was born? How is it that Hemel's expectant mothers will have to travel all the way to Watford for proper maternity facilities?

**“We must not let Labour destroy our hospital. There are 138,000 people in the Dacorum area who rely on it for their safety and for the safety of their children.”**

Labour governments seem to have a down on Hemel's hospital. Jim Callaghan's government decided in June 1978 to build a new hospital in St. Albans and to down grade the hospital in Hemel Hempstead. 10,000 locals marched in a demonstration in the streets.

A protest strike took place throughout the town and was enthusiastically supported. The protests continued but it was not until 1984 and under Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Government that a new hospital for Hemel was approved. In 2000 a Labour Government struck again. They merged the Hemel Hempstead and St. Albans Health Authority with nearby Watford and Mount Vernon. Since this time the process of denuding facilities at Hemel by moving them to Watford has been relentless.

We must not let Labour destroy our hospital. There are 138,000 people in the Dacorum area who rely on it for their safety and for the safety of their children. Only the Conservatives can save the hospital. The next Conservative government will offer Hemel's Hospital foundation status by 2007. This will enable the Hemel management of the Hemel hospital to organise things in the best interests of Hemel people.

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE

**Bureaucrats want you to believe that the battle to keep our hospital has been lost. NOT TRUE!**

Labour and their faceless bureaucrats want the residents of Dacorum to give up their fight to keep Hemel's hospital. They want you all to believe that the game is up and to stop fighting to keep our General Hospital with all its acute services including its excellent Accident and Emergency. They want you to stop fighting to bring back the full maternity unit that was promised when services transferred to Watford.

## SAVE HEMEL HOSPITAL

[www.savehemelhospital.co.uk](http://www.savehemelhospital.co.uk)



Mike Penning met in private with Michael Howard to discuss Hemel's hospital

But it's not too late to save the hospital that was built for the people of Hemel. Even though the Labour Minister has agreed to the running down of the hospital the final decision by the Health Secretary won't be made until the middle of 2006, long after the next election. So it's up to all of us to fight on. To fight for a hospital that meets the needs of the patient. We have fantastically dedicated doctors, nurses and medical professionals, let's give them the hospital we all need in Hemel.



## SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

No matter what your views are on the war in Iraq, there are over 9,000 British service men and women fighting there and we should be proud of every one of them. They are the best troops in the world but the conditions that they have to work and fight in are very difficult.

As a former soldier having family that has served in Iraq, I understand how important contact with family and loved ones is to our troops, but we can help too. We can keep their morale up. That's why I started "Treats for our Troops". We will continue to send small parcels of goodies out to Iraq even though the government have stopped the free postage. If you would like to send a small goodie parcel to our troops contact me on [mike@penning4hemel.com](mailto:mike@penning4hemel.com) or drop the parcel into our offices at Davidson House, 168 Queensway and we will get it to the troops for you.

## PENSIONS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

Our country is facing a pension and saving crisis. The massive increase by the Labour government of means testing has left over 30% of pensioners not receiving the money that they deserve, whilst at the same time fewer and fewer people are saving for their retirement, and I can understand why. Why save in a pension fund if the government are going to raid your fund each year? Why save for your retirement if the government cut your state pension simply because you have saved too much? This is madness and has to stop.

I am proud that the Conservative Party has pledged to end means testing of the state pension and to restore the annual pension increase to a link with the rise in earnings. Never again should we see a government insulting pensioners with a 75p a week increase. What pensioners need is fairness, honesty and dignity.

Let's see the basic state pension moved away from means testing, incentives to save not deterrents and let's restore the link between pensions and earnings.

## ASYLUM

When Michael Howard was Home Secretary total immigration averaged 50,000 a year. Under Labour it has risen to 140,000. Tony Blair talks about the need to get a grip on immigration and asylum but he hasn't delivered – and he never will. Tony Blair is all talk and no action.

## CRIME

Crime is rising in Hemel Hempstead yet we see fewer and fewer police officers. We are in danger of losing control of our streets. Parents are afraid to let their children walk to school. Women fear intimidation from hooded youths as they walk home at night, and couples stay in rather than run the gauntlet of the binge drinkers who have taken over our town centre.

I believe we should give our police the powers they need to catch criminals; give the courts the powers they need to convict criminals; and give our prisons the space to take persistent, serious and dangerous offenders out of circulation altogether.

**“I believe we should give our police the powers they need to catch criminals; give the courts the powers they need to convict criminals; and give our prisons the space to take persistent, serious and dangerous offenders out of circulation altogether”**



## GREEN BELT

Labour are trying their best to concrete over our beautiful countryside. I am working with our Conservative Borough and County Councillors to help stop them.