



**Marina Yannakoudakis**  
**Conservative MEP for London**



**LATEST NEWS**

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

**May 2012**

# BORIS IS BACK!

On 3rd May Londoners re-elected Boris Johnson as mayor ushering in another four years of sensible, cost-effective administration for the capital. It was a tight election and the Conservatives unfortunately lost two London Assembly seats on the night. While no longer the largest group on the assembly, Conservatives still hold one-third of the seats meaning that other parties cannot block Mayor Boris Johnson's budget. Boris has appointed Victoria Borwick AM as his statutory deputy with Kit Malthouse AM taking on the new role of Deputy Mayor for Business, ensuring that jobs and



**BECKENHAM: Leafleting with Association Chairman Cllr Peter Dean, officers, volunteers & GLA top-up candidate Chris Hampsheir**

growth are at the top of the mayor's agenda. Cllr Stephen Greenhalgh, leader of Hammersmith and Fulham Council has been nominated to replace Kit as Deputy Mayor for Policing. Stephen will champion and increase neighbourhood policing. In the last week of campaigning Marina helped volunteers in Beckenham, Bromley, Richmond Park, Finchley & Golders Green, Cities of London & Westminster, Vauxhall, Harrow, Westminster North, Ilford North, Hornchurch & Upminster, Edmonton and Islington. On election day, Marina was getting out the vote in Finchley and her home constituency of Chipping Barnet to ensure that Londoners didn't wake up to Ken Livingstone back in charge of the capital. Marina would like to thank all those activists who gave up their time to back Boris. The election was a fight worth winning as London's future was at stake.

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**HARROW: Campaigning with Conservative Leader Cllr Susan Hall and Harrow West Chairman Cllr Lurline Champagnie OBE**



**HORNCHURCH: Backing Boris with Association Chairman Marcus Llewellyn-Rothschild, Cllr Gary Pain & Andrew Boff AM**



**RICHMOND: Supporting Stephen Speak**

## BY-ELECTION BREAKTHROUGH

London Conservatives bucked the national trend as we held 5 seats on councils across the capital in by-elections on 3rd May. Nicky Dykes won the Bromley Town by-election with 2% swing. In Wimbledon, Linda Taylor was elected a councillor in Wimbledon Park Ward and on Westminster Council, a third woman was elected with Antonia Cox winning a seat in Hyde Park ward. In south-west London Stephen Speak won in North Richmond and Gaj Wallooppillai's victory in Kingston council's Coombe Hill by-election made it five for five for the Tories on election night. Elsewhere, Conservatives pushed the Lib Dems into third place in the Camden Town and Primrose Hill by-election. Marina enjoyed meeting all the victorious candidates and wishes them all the best in supporting their local communities.



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# EU ROAMING CUTS BENEFIT CONSUMERS

Mobile phone bills can be painful, especially when you're abroad. However, thanks to new EU legislation on mobile roaming supported by Conservative MEPs, tourists and businessmen can benefit from even cheaper overseas mobile phone calls and internet downloads this summer. The rules introduce new price ceilings from July, reducing costs to €0.29 per minute for outgoing calls, €0.08 for incoming. Text messages will be capped at €0.09, and data roaming costs limited to €0.70 per megabyte. By 2014 these costs will be further reduced to €0.19 per minute to make a call and €0.05 to receive. Text messages will be pegged at €0.06 and data downloads at €0.20 per megabyte. Consumers will also be able to sign up for a second, alternative provider for their roaming services elsewhere within the EU (under the same number) if their domestic provider is charging too much. Marina said: "To promote jobs and growth, British businessmen need to take advantage of the Single Market by doing more business Abroad. It's outrageous that companies still charge exorbitant prices for people to use their phone abroad. Many consumers are still scared to use their phone to check websites or e-mails for fear of a massive bill when they return home. Unbundling should promote greater competition and it will encourage mobile phone operators to introduce more competitive roaming arrangements for consumers." UKIP MEPs voted against new rules aimed at helping consumers.



# BONFIRE OF THE EU QUANGOS

There are currently 52 EU quangos covering everything from drug addiction to maritime safety. In 2003 there were fewer than 20, but there has been a vast proliferation of EU agencies with the costs of running dozens of separate



## IT TAKES 52 TO QUANGO: EU agencies are ballooning in number and cost

bodies across the European Union ballooning to £2.1 billion. The EU is currently requesting inflation-busting budget increases. Marina is opposed to any rise in the EU budget and has called for savings to be sought in the operating budgets of the EU institutions. It is essential to reduce the budgets of the various EU agencies, especially those which duplicate the work of Member States, the commission and, worst of all, each other. Conservative MEPs voted against not signing off on the accounts of all the EU institutions this month, including the EU agencies. Conservatives will not approve accounts until the budget as a whole is signed off by the Court of Auditors. Conservative MEPs' support proved crucial in postponing the discharge for the Environment, Food Safety and Medicines agencies' budgets.

The European Environment Agency has been particularly discreditable in the way the director used EU funds to pay for research trips to the Caribbean and Mediterranean for an NGO of which she was a board member. The same director also paid almost £240,000 to cover the façade of the agency's headquarters with plants. In addition to corruption and waste, duplication is a major problem for the agencies. As Conservative spokesman for Women's Rights and Gender Equality, Marina sees no value-added in the Vilnius-based European Institute for Gender Equality. She believes we are wasting £6 million a year on a folly which duplicates the work of Member States, the commission's employment directorate-general, and another EU agency: the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, an agency which Marina also believes should be abolished.

## LONDON WOMEN IN STRASBOURG

Marina invited the chairmen of the Finchley and Golders Green, Harrow West and Ilford North Conservative Associations to Strasbourg to find out more about how the European Parliament works, especially the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee. The three women met with the committee's chairman, Swedish MEP Mikael Gustafsson as well as Conservative advisors in the parliament on equality and women's issues.



## HACKNEY POLISH CENTRE OPENS



Marina attended the opening of a Polish Centre in Hackney in April. Former Defence Secretary Liam Fox opened the ceremony with closing remarks from Marina. Hackney councillor Simche Steinberger, GLA candidate Naomi Newstead and a representative of the Polish Embassy were also present. This is a joint venture between the Polish Centre and Polish Friends of Conservatives. It will operate as a drop-in surgery with an accountant and a lawyer on hand to offer advice.

**If you would like Marina to speak at a London event email: [marina.yannakoudakis@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:marina.yannakoudakis@europarl.europa.eu)**