



LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

MEMBERS' ROOM, WALTHAM FOREST TOWN HALL, FOREST ROAD, WALTHAMSTOW, LONDON E17 4JF
TELEPHONE: 020 8496 3000 – Ext: 4340/4718

04 August 2006

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Judges

I write regarding one of my local street wardens and ward constituents, Ebony Vincent, whom I understand has been nominated to receive an award as part of the National Wardens Awards. I unreservedly give Ebony my support in her application and would be prepared to submit even more testimony if required.

Perhaps it would assist you in your decision if I gave you some background on the kind of area Ebony works in. Leyton, situated in the East of London, is officially the borough's most deprived ward. The Beaumont Estate, where Ebony both resides and works as a warden, has been categorised the UK's fifth most deprived housing estate on official Government indices. As well as being home to the Beaumont Estate, Leyton has the highest rate of unemployment; the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Waltham Forest borough, the highest rates of infant mortality. It also has the highest levels of children receiving free school meals. In short, Ebony is working as a warden in an area with extremely challenging circumstances.

The reason I feel so passionately about supporting Ebony for this award is that if she didn't exist we would have to invent her. She is the ultimate example of what can be achieved by a good street warden with solid links in her community. Only a young woman, Ebony's list of achievements is long, varied and frankly phenomenal. She is well known, loved and respected by all the Leyton community from the kids she trained to be Junior Wardens, to the senior citizens who have enjoyed frequent days out that Ebony has arranged. Ebony is also able to connect with teenagers most people would pass in the street and really build their confidence. For me, as a "young" councillor, one of the goals I have is to help reduce Leyton's high teenage pregnancy rate. Ebony took it upon herself to set up a well used and popular weekly Condom Distribution Scheme on the Beaumont Estate after a previous service had been withdrawn. She has also facilitated many projects such as her "Community Cohesion" project, which did wonders to foster better relations between Leyton residents and reduce their fear of crime.

I have no hesitation whatsoever in giving Ebony my full support in these awards, such is the impact she has made as a warden in only two and a half years. It definitely assists me in my work as a local councillor to have a good support network in our street wardens.

I am so proud that Ebony is a Leyton Street Warden!

Yours sincerely

COUNCILLOR MIRANDA GRELL, LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST