

# ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº. 13 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

OCT 2019

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Interfaith bike rides took place in Enfield last month to celebrate the borough's cultural diversity and unite people against prejudice and hatred. More than 100 cyclists set off from Palmers Green Mosque and Southgate Progressive Synagogue in "a symbolic gesture of solidarity".

## Move to help keep homeless families in borough

Council says it wants to stop sending vulnerable people out of Enfield

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Efforts by Enfield Council to begin "phasing out" the use of temporary accommodation outside of the borough have been welcomed by campaigners.

The pledge was made last month by council leader Nesil Caliskan as she looks to drastically cut the £7million cost per year to the local authority of providing emergency housing.

Enfield has the second highest number of homeless families in the country, with just under 3,500

households living in temporary accommodation, according to the latest government figures. Of these, 755 families are being forced to live outside of the borough.

But now Enfield has become one of the first London local authorities to make such a bold promise on reducing out-of-borough temporary accommodation placements. Work is beginning at Redstone House in Harlow, Essex, to return homeless families living there to Enfield within six months.

Cllr Caliskan said: "We are committed to supporting people who want to stay in Enfield. This in turn

will help create and support more stable and cohesive communities.

"It is not news to anyone that we are in a housing crisis. While the cost of living continues to rise we are hampered by extensive cuts to our funding and reductions to local housing allowance rates.

"However, we are determined to use all the tools at our disposal to tackle the issue of temporary accommodation head on and eradicate homelessness from Enfield altogether, while supporting those in housing need."

Across London the number of households living in temporary

accommodation has risen by 50% in just five years. Earlier this year the London Assembly produced a report examining potential solutions to the problem, but concluded that more government money would be needed both to help prevent families from being made homeless and to help councils cope with the demand for temporary housing. It said many vulnerable people were being "left in temporary accommodation indefinitely, with no hope of acquiring secure affordable housing" and were

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“having to choose between leaving the area they call home or losing their temporary accommodation”.

A big factor in Enfield is that potential accommodation for local households is instead being used by other councils to house their own homeless families. Efforts will therefore be made to engage with neighbouring local authorities on ways to reduce this.

Gina Needs, cabinet member for social housing, added: “Nearly 60% of temporary housing is used by other boroughs. On top of this, there are too many households in temporary accommodation in Enfield. We need to take a transformational approach to prevent homelessness, develop relationships between residents and landlords to make tenancies successful,

and make sure temporary accommodation really is temporary.”

The move has been welcomed by local campaign Better Homes for Enfield – who said it was a “relief” to see something being done.

The council has recently announced a number of other policies aimed at tackling the housing crisis and improving the lives of people renting privately. One is a proposal to force landlords to apply for licences in a bid to boost housing standards. The plan is currently out for consultation but if it goes ahead would mean landlords have to meet conditions such as carrying out safety checks and ensuring properties are not overcrowded or dangerous.

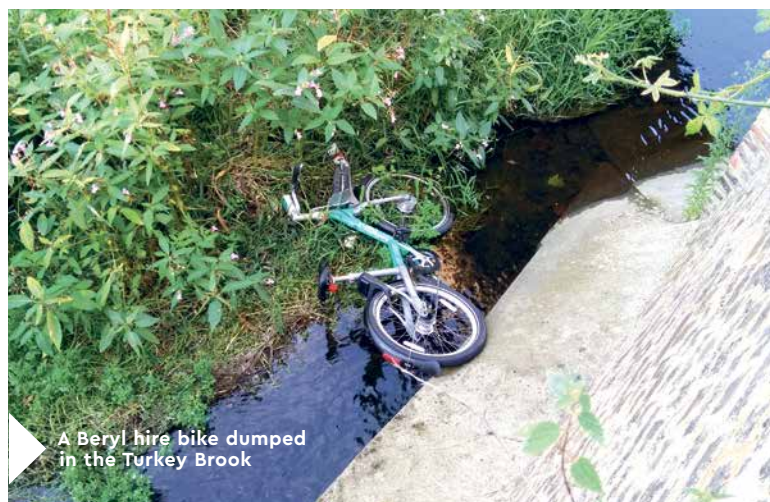
In addition, at a council meeting last month Cllr Caliskan criticised ‘permitted development rights’ which allow offices to be con-

verted into homes without planning permission or adhering to usual quality standards, saying she wanted to restrict them by implementing an ‘Article 4’ direction.

Al Sims, from Better Homes for Enfield, said: “Having an Article 4 direction will help to protect local employment and ensure that flats developed from converted offices are built to a decent standard. It’s a pity that it’s taken so long – there have been repeated warnings about this issue – but thank you to everyone who signed our petition.”

**“We are determined to tackle the issue of temporary accommodation”**

## Bike scheme axed



A Beryl hire bike dumped in the Turkey Brook

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Vandalism has led a bike hire company to suspend its scheme in Enfield – the second such firm to do so in less than two years.

The decision by Beryl Bikes to withdraw its distinctive emerald green bicycles from the borough comes just three months after it launched. In an email to its customers, the company said the scheme would be suspended “as we investigate issues with vandalism and availability of bikes”.

On the very first weekend after the scheme was launched in June, a Beryl bike was found upside down on top of a bus shelter in Edmonton. Later, another bike was found dumped in the Turkey Brook (pictured). The 50 green parking bays where bikes were supposed

to be hired from were also often empty, with users finding it difficult to locate their nearest bike.

Beryl’s withdrawal from the borough is a blow to Enfield Council, which had championed the scheme as a way to make cycling more accessible and help reduce local car journeys. A council spokesperson said: “Beryl made the commercial decision to suspend its bike share scheme in Enfield from Monday 23rd September.

“Talks are ongoing between Enfield Council and Beryl on potential next steps. Those users with accounts for the bike share scheme should contact Beryl directly for information on refunds.”

A previous bike hire scheme in Enfield run by Urbo was not extended beyond an initial trial in early 2018. On the day of Beryl’s

launch, the firm’s co-founder and chief executive Phil Ellis told the *Dispatch*: “This is not a trial – we are going to be here for years.”

A council spokesperson said the authority had not lost any money from Beryl’s suspension and that it was hoped a solution could be found that allowed it to return.

Beryl continues to operate in the City of London and anyone with pre-bought cycling minutes on their Beryl account can use them to hire bikes there instead.

In better news for local cycling, the council has pledged to create several “low traffic neighbourhoods” in the borough to help make streets quieter and safer. Deputy leader Ian Barnes said: “Enfield Council is committed to introducing low traffic neighbourhoods – we have a clear vision for the future where residential streets are rescued from high levels of speeding traffic cutting through to shave a few seconds off their journeys.

“We will be working with residents to help return these streets to the people who live there, creating places where people of all ages can walk, cycle and play without fear of speeding rat-runners.”

In most areas the council will conduct trials so that residents can experience the changes before final decisions are made. Read more at [cycleenfield.co.uk/quieter-neighbourhoods](http://cycleenfield.co.uk/quieter-neighbourhoods)

## Rail boost



Rail bosses celebrate launch of half-hourly trains

More trains are now running from Meridian Water Station after a new shuttle service to Stratford was launched.

The station in Edmonton was opened in June as a replacement for Angel Road, which was the second-least used station in London. With services now leaving Meridian Water every half-an-hour it’s hoped more people will start to use the station – although none of the 10,000 homes planned for the area have yet been built.

The third track at Meridian Water which enables more regular services is part of a £170million upgrade to the Lea Valley Line by Network Rail. It also includes new track and platforms at Tottenham Hale and Northumberland Park stations.

A fourth track to boost services further could also soon be built, after Enfield Council was awarded £156m by the government to spend on infrastructure improvements at Meridian Water.

However, at the launch of half-hourly services on Monday 9th September, Greater Anglia’s head of corporate affairs, Jonathan Denby, told the *Dispatch*: “We need to build the business case – it depends how many new residents use the train. In three or four years we will have a sense of how the patronage is growing and how to make the case for extra frequency.”

## Good value

A study has found Enfield to be the “best value for money borough in London”.

The LiFE Residential London Boroughs Study quizzed 700 Londoners on a range of issues, to help establish which was the best neighbourhood to live in.

On the question of how much local goods and services cost, Enfield was rated best with 77% of residents saying their borough represented good value for money. Enfield’s commuters were also voted the second-most friendly with an approval rating of 65%.

# Joan Ryan to stand down as MP

Enfield North MP says she won't fight next election

Joan Ryan won five elections for Labour over a 20-year period, but quit the party this year



BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Joan Ryan has announced she will stand down from parliament at the next general election.

The Change UK MP said it had been “a huge privilege and honour” to represent Enfield North over two separate spells as the area's representative but that it had always been her plan to leave at the end of her current term in office. An election looks likely to take place by the end of the year. Joan said: “It has been a huge privilege and honour to serve as the Member of Parliament for Enfield North. I appreciate enormously the faith and confidence the people of Enfield have shown by returning me on five occasions to speak for and represent them in the House of Commons.

“When I stood in 2017 I always intended to serve only one more term in parliament. We do not yet know when the general election will come, but I will continue to work hard for Enfield until a new MP has been elected and my office will remain open to constituents five days a week.

“Over the coming weeks I will also continue to do all I can to protect the jobs, businesses and livelihoods of the people of Enfield North, by working and voting to prevent a destructive and damaging no-deal Brexit which nobody voted for in 2016.”

Joan was elected as the Labour candidate in 2015 after regaining the seat she lost to the Conservatives five years previously. But she quit the party earlier this year, citing concerns about anti-Semitism and the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn.

The 64-year-old was first elected in 1997. She was a party whip in Tony Blair's government between 2002 and 2006 and a junior minister in the Home Office from 2006 to 2007, when she was responsible for the ID cards policy that was later scrapped after widespread criticism.

A controversial figure within the Labour Party, Joan Ryan's initial 13-year spell as Enfield North MP came to an ignominious end in 2010 when she lost to Tory candidate Nick de Bois in the wake of the expenses scandal – after being ordered to repay more

than £5,000 in mortgage interest claims.

Joan came bouncing back in 2015, but again attracted controversy in 2017 when she wrote to constituents saying they could vote for her knowing that “realistically” Labour leader Corbyn would not become prime minister. A year later, Enfield North Constituency Labour Party passed a vote of ‘no confidence’ in the MP.

She added: “The people of Enfield have been a joy to work with and for. I am proud of all we have achieved together; fighting hard for our hospitals and for more doctors and nurses; working with the Metropolitan Police, the mayor and ministers to get more police on our streets to tackle the scourge of knife crime; supporting our schools and the wonderful teachers and support staff who work in them; and working with all our communities to make Enfield a great place to live.”

*“The people of Enfield have been a joy to work with and for”*

## Leader loses bullying case



Council leader Nesil Caliskan has lost her appeal against a ruling that she broke Enfield Council's code of conduct.

Cllr Caliskan was ordered to apologise to Labour colleague Yasemin Brett following the ruling by the councillor conduct committee, which upheld the original ruling by the authority's monitoring officer that her handling of a decision to temporarily remove Cllr Brett from her cabinet post broke the council's code of conduct and “amounted to bullying”.

At a subsequent council meeting last month, Cllr Caliskan read a statement saying she accepted the decision of the committee – but also used the opportunity to highlight that the independent investigation into her own misconduct had cost taxpayers £11,000. The deputy leader of the council, Ian Barnes, said external legal spending was being reviewed in light of the case.

Cllr Caliskan said: “As I have already publicly recorded, I did not agree with the original decision and I appealed it.

“The committee, however, upheld the original decision, and while I do not agree with them, I accept the decision of the committee.”

Cllr Brett responded at the meeting to say she had been the victim of “mob bullying”. She said: “I am by no means been the only person experiencing difficulties. Bullying is a very serious matter and mob bullying even more so.

“As a victim, I am accused of wasting taxpayers' money – this public victimisation is an epitaph to 25 years of service.”

Cllr Caliskan's appeal claimed that the investigation into her conduct had been “biased” and part of a “smear campaign” and “witch hunt”. But after hearing evidence both from the council's monitoring officer and the independent solicitor hired to investigate the incident, the conduct committee ruled against Cllr Caliskan.

The council leader was instructed to write an apology to Cllr Brett and attend a meeting to help understand “respectful communication” as well as make the statement to full council. The committee had heard a fierce defence of the council's handling of the incident from its director of law and governance and monitoring officer, Jeremy Chambers, who said: “I strongly rebut allegations the investigation was biased.

“These are serious allegations, without foundation, which calls into question my professionalism. I am deeply offended by these allegations and have asked for an apology – no such apology has been received.”

## Bins petition debated

Council refuses to back down on fortnightly collections

BY SIMON ALLIN,  
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Cuts to bin rounds will go ahead despite thousands of people calling on Enfield Council to re-think the plans.

Labour councillors vowed to press on with waste collection changes that will see both black refuse and blue recycling bins collected every two weeks, from spring next year.

Both bins are still collected once a week in Enfield – and two-thirds of people who responded to a consultation on waste collections said they wanted it to stay that way.

The plans were debated again at a full council meeting last month after nearly 4,000 people signed a petition against the cuts. Palmers Green resident Seraphim Leonidas, who organised the petition, told the meeting most households already filled

up their black refuse bins in one week.

He said: “With the new proposals for fortnightly collections, how is it not conceivable that problems will arise?

“Domestic waste will spill on to the streets, encourage wildlife, and cause an unsightly and unhygienic mess.”

Seraphim branded the introduction of a £65-a-year charge for garden waste a “stealth tax” and said many people would prefer to burn their waste rather than pay the fee. But cabinet member for environment Guney Dogan blamed government cuts, pointing out the council had been forced to slash its budget by £178million since 2010.

Cllr Dogan said: “Our waste changes will help increase recycling from 35% to 50%. Encouraging recycling will create space in existing refuse bins.”

Several opposition Conservative councillors attacked the Labour administration. Tory leader Joanne Laban said: “We had one of the biggest responses to a consultation in a long time. They said they did not want waste collections changed.

“Enfield residents, time and again, have told this council ‘back off our bins’. Do the right thing and admit you have got it wrong – and keep weekly collections.”

But council leader Nesil Caliskan said the changes were “born out of necessity” and added: “I am proud to say we will be sticking by our original decision.”

Alongside the move to fortnightly bin rounds, a weekly food waste collection service will be introduced. The council has also earmarked an extra £500,000 per year to fund a street cleaning team to combat fly-tipping.

## What's the natter?

Toni Fielding from MHA Enfield on how a simple cuppa can go a long way



Natter Mornings take place at Enfield Market every Thursday from 10am

On a Thursday morning, come rain or shine, residents living in the borough of Enfield are invited to come and enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee between 10am and 11am at Enfield Market.

As you step off the high street, and bob and weave

your way through the variety of market stalls that are on offer, in the centre of the market you'll see a group of friendly faces that meet once a week to have a natter over tea and biscuits.

The weekly 'Natter Mornings' are held in conjunction with

Enfield Charter Market, MHA Enfield Live at Home, The Old Enfield Charitable Trust and West Lea Charity Shop. The project has been set up to help reduce loneliness and isolation among the older community of Enfield borough.

Recent research has shown

that loneliness can have the same impact on your health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, so the four organisations have joined forces to see what they can do to help the older generation.

The project has got off to a flying start so far, seeing lots of people pop by for a cup of tea and taking the opportunity to meet up with friends old and new, while putting the world to rights for an hour every Thursday morning.

It's lovely watching people from all walks of life come together. Loneliness is a big challenge for a lot of older people and we are working together to see how we can help reduce the problem and encourage healthy social relationships.

They say a cup of tea solves everything, so that's where we thought we'd start and we hope to meet more and more people over the span of the project.

Natter Mornings will continue to run on Thursday mornings, 10am–11am, in Market Square, Enfield Town. Come along and join us, and let's combat loneliness together!

## All being well

Cheryl-lya Broadfoot, founder of Wellbeing Showcase, encourages local people to get involved

Enfield's very popular and much-loved Wellbeing Showcase is back at the Dugdale Centre next month.

We are very proud and excited to be back in Enfield for our fourth year and this year is going to be bigger and better. Exhibitors and visitors will find the spa zone, with taster sessions for visitors to experience different therapies; the speaker zone, with mini-workshops and talks running throughout the day; plus the shopper zone, giving visitors the chance to shop and talk to experts, ranging from tarot readers to jewellery makers, therapists and chiropractors.

Enfield's Wellbeing Showcase is recognised for giving local businesses the opportunity to promote their wellbeing services and products to local shoppers. Research from *smallbusiness.co.uk* reveals that for every £10 spent with a local independent shop, up to an additional £50 goes back into the local economy, ultimately allowing your community to thrive. Incredibly, over the last three years the Wellbeing Showcase has attracted more than 650 visitors, raised £1,950 for charities, and crucially has boosted 120 local business communities through its wellbeing practitioners and women-in-business networking groups.

I want more wonderful local wellbeing businesses to get in touch and be part of this fabulous community event. We have big ambitions and by 2025, we want every London borough to have a wellbeing showcase. But remember that it all started here in Enfield! Zoe White, of Zinfinity, says of the event: "Wellbeing Showcase is wonderful and has given me the opportunity to showcase my sensory and inclusive jewellery. Importantly, I have made lots of sales, including one to the mayor!"

"I have also had people sign up to my workshops and there were lovely conversations with the public asking about my work. It was also a great way to meet other stallholders and make contacts.

"I love this event!"

Join us on Saturday 2nd November, 11am–5pm, and learn from the best wellbeing experts in Enfield, bliss out with local therapists, enhance your health and wellbeing knowledge, and discover new wellbeing services. Wellbeing Showcase has got everything from acupuncture to meditation; nurture your mind, body and soul! As always, the event supports a local charity; this year it is Noah's Ark Children's Hospice.

**For more information about Wellbeing Showcase:**

**Call** 07527 303 911

**Email** [hello@wellbeingshowcase.com](mailto:hello@wellbeingshowcase.com)

**Visit** [wellbeingshowcase.com](http://wellbeingshowcase.com)

## Fight for the aged

BY ANDREW GURR

Enfield's elderly community has remained healthy, active and engaged over the last 30 years through the integral support of Age UK Enfield.

The charity, part of the national Age UK network, supports older people through various means, such as through day or home care, advice and support, information and fitness sessions, and much more. Interim chief executive Gary Jones says Age UK Enfield will always be a crucial support service for elderly people in the borough. He said: "We aim to enable older people in the borough to lead active lives where possible, to maximise their income, and where needed we can provide day or home care.

"Our services are only possible with a dedicated small team of paid staff and about 80 volunteers, with our funding coming

from Enfield Council, the NHS, charitable trusts, National Lottery, charges for some of our services, donations and the occasional legacy."

Gary says the future aim of Age UK Enfield is to increase awareness around its services. "People may know us for one thing like advice, but not realise we also run day care, home care, nail cutting, fitness classes, and support people with dementia or at risk of falls.

"We want to raise more money, recruit more volunteers and reach out to more older people across Enfield."

Age UK Enfield is a key partner of Enfield Connections, a local information and advice service commissioned by Enfield Council. Through Enfield Connections, residents can access later life planning sessions, which deals with issues such as creating a will and coping with bereavement.



Age UK Enfield volunteer Sandra Kirwan

"We are all about partnership working – with older people, local community groups, the council and local businesses. We are proud to be linked to Enfield Connections."

**For more information about Age UK Enfield:**

**Call** 0208 375 4120

**Email** [customerservices@ageukenfield.org.uk](mailto:customerservices@ageukenfield.org.uk)

**Visit** [ageukenfield.org.uk](http://ageukenfield.org.uk)

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## Portrait of primary school

Pupils at an Enfield school have become the faces of a high-profile art exhibition



Year three pupils at Mayflower Primary School, Tower Hamlets Credit Tate

BY ZAC NTIM

Over the last nine months a band of photographers has descended on primary schools across London, instructed to take portraits of every year three class under the direction of award-winning artist and filmmaker, Steve McQueen. These portraits are being compiled and displayed at the historic Duveen Galleries in Tate Britain next month as part of *Tate Year 3*, an expansive and ambitious installation – the largest ever at Tate's galleries.

When a photographer first arrived at Bush Hill Park Primary School in Enfield, Suzette Rocca, the school's organiser for the project, said the children "felt privileged" to take part. All 2,410 primary schools in London were invited, with 63% of schools signing up, agreeing to allow class photographs of their seven and eight-year-old pupils. Bush Hill Park Primary is an ambassador school for the project. Suzette said: "In the last few years we have been passionate here at Bush Hill Park Primary about raising the profile

of expressive arts subjects.

"This is especially important for the cohort of children we have here. They often aren't presented with the opportunities to experience high-level art and culture as part of their home life. Boroughs on the outskirts of London, such as Enfield, can sometimes feel culturally barren."

The school photography sessions were paired with educational lessons aimed at engaging children in the themes of the project. Schools have also been provided with free resources by charity Into

Film, a partner of the project, to encourage further education in film and photography.

Students and staff at Bush Hill Park have been awarded an extra treat as their class portrait has been selected to appear on billboards across London to promote the exhibition. Suzette said: "This will surely be an important piece in the puzzle of our pupils' educational experience."

Artist Steve McQueen gained a reputation as one of the most important contemporary artists of our time, working mostly with moving image

and film, and won the prestigious Turner Prize in 1999. His film *12 Years a Slave* also won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 2016.

McQueen's inspiration for this vast new installation came much closer to home – his own class portraits from his time as a young student in Ealing, west London. The project aims to capture the excitement, anxiety and hope of students beginning a new year of studies, embodying the diversity of the city, and depicting the next generation who will shape London's future.

"There's an urgency to reflect on who we are and our future, to have a visual reflection on the people who make this city work," says McQueen. "I think it's important and, in some ways, urgent."

The decision to capture tens of thousands of schoolchildren in year three in particular was informed by the significance of this point in life, when children begin to be aware of complex societal issues such as gender, race and class. "When those things come into your psyche it can actually change your thoughts forever," McQueen told the BBC.

Back at Bush Hill Park Primary School, Suzette explained that she hopes the project will act as a source of inspiration for her pupils. She said: "When they see their image on the billboard and as part of the exhibition, we hope they'll get a sense of how important they are, as individuals and as a whole generation of Londoners, so needed by the world to overcome its challenges."

*Tate Year 3* opens in November and runs until May 2020.

## Hard at work

Norma Chapman encourages new students to sign up for autumn term

The leaves are turning, autumn is coming, and that means the start of a new term for Enfield and Southgate Workers' Educational Association (WEA). All our brochures and leaflets promoting our classes are now in borough libraries and other places, so why not have a browse through and choose a topic that you have always

meant to pursue but never got round to?

We have such a varied programme, ranging from music appreciation to Nordic film, English literature and geology. Enfield and Southgate WEA has three venues around the borough, so there should be one convenient for you. Course lengths vary and there are both morning and afternoon sessions. If you are

working in the day, there is an evening film studies course.

The first meeting of the daytime courses is free, you pay and enroll at the second session. All our tutors are professional lecturers but there is nothing stuffy about our courses, so come along and experience the friendly, sociable atmosphere. Coffee breaks are an important part of the session and it is here

that friendships are made!

Many of our courses also include an outing to somewhere relevant, and we also have an annual branch outing which brings us all together. This year we went to Eltham Palace on a perfect summer's day, next year we will be going somewhere just as lovely. WEA is Britain's major charitable voluntary adult education

organisation, existing to provide high-quality learning opportunities with professional lecturers for adults from all walks of life. We look forward to seeing you at one of our courses soon.

**For more information about Enfield and Southgate WEA:**  
Visit [wea.org.uk/london/branches/enfield-southgate-branch](http://wea.org.uk/london/branches/enfield-southgate-branch)

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Meridian Water is planned to provide 10,000 homes over the next 20 years



## We need homes for the many

*A new campaign has been launched to lobby for social housing at Meridian Water, writes Bob Mallick*

Everywhere you look, new housing is sprouting up in Enfield.

Old pubs are becoming gated communities, office blocks are becoming apartment buildings, and every scrap of spare land is being eyed up for private development. Even Green Belt land is being nibbled away.

Yet, there's been no significant new council housing development in the borough over the last decade or more – I struggle to recall even one. It's almost all been private housing.

By council housing I mean low-rent social housing that the poorest can afford. Private rented accommodation and temporary accommodation – often unsuitable for children and families – costs millions in public funds. There are more than 4,000 Enfield residents on the waiting list for council housing, who can expect to be waiting as long as 15 years!

The latest grand scheme proposed by Enfield Council is the £6billion Meridian Water development in Edmonton. But the 'three pillars'

in its slick publicity and website don't mention Enfield at all. How many low-rent council homes will Meridian Water provide in 'Phase One'? None. Exactly zero. The tiny proportion of homes set aside for 'affordable' renting will be at a higher rate than the standard council rent.

So-called 'affordable' housing, at up to 80% of the average market

will be spent on the development. But most of the new housing will be at prices beyond the reach of most Enfield people on average local incomes.

More people than ever need housing they can afford, but Meridian Water serves only private profit – it's for the few, not the many.

Meridian for Council Homes (M4CH) is a new campaign that aims to persuade the council that Meridian Water must comprise 100% council housing. Rental income and savings to

the council in payment for temporary accommodation will mean it makes sound financial sense – and who can put a price on the difference it will make to the lives of Enfield people in need?

Please help support the campaign by calling, writing or emailing your local councillors to speak up for the poor and homeless.

**Find out more about the Meridian for Council Homes campaign:**

**Tweet** @4Meridian

***“Most of the new housing will be at prices beyond the reach of most Enfield people on average local incomes”***

price, sounds great until you learn that the median price at Meridian Water is likely to be higher than £400,000, the current average in the borough. How many Enfield people, without a property already, could raise the deposit and mortgage to buy a property at this sort of price?

Meridian Water is great – but only for private landlords and developers. It does almost nothing for Enfield people needing council homes. This is public land and millions of pounds of public money

## My way or Enfield Highway

*In our latest councillor's column, Christine Hamilton champions Enfield Highway's parks*

I have been an Enfield ward councillor for nearly a decade; four years in Enfield Lock and now five in Enfield Highway.

In Highway there are nine tower blocks – the highest number in Enfield. We also have two large parks, Albany and Durants, which I regard as the gardens for our tower block residents. The adventure playgrounds are full of children and family picnics on sunny days after school time. We work with council officers to ensure that our parks in eastern Enfield have the same level of care as parks on the western side.

We held the first 'Albany Park Funday' this summer, with an inflatable playground alongside music and games. There was a great turnout and we will ensure that more of these community events take place in the ward's parks in future.

We hold regular Highway ward forums at Enfield Business Centre in Hertford Road. Alongside our three local police officers we update, inform and listen to local residents. The main

concerns raised are around housing, fly-tipping, the environment, youth offending, gangs and bullying. A big concern I am currently working on with residents is around dangerous speeding in Alma Road. Residents have asked for a reduced speed limit, cameras and police on the road to catch these dangerous drivers.

Not having enough police visible in our local commu-

nity is down to the Conservative government's cuts over the last nine years. As Labour councillors we will continue to campaign for the necessary funding.

I sit on a number of committees and boards, including as governor of the Royal Free NHS Development Trust board, which covers Chase Farm Hospital. Because of the shocking cuts to public health spending I have put forward a council motion raising the concerns of many residents following the passionate campaign led by Enfield Over 50s Forum. The borough's allocation is £47 per head compared with the London average of £73 per head and we will continue to campaign and lobby this government to change this.

**Christine Hamilton represents Enfield Highway along with Ahmet Hasan and Ergun Eren (all Labour). Ward surgeries are held every Saturday, 10.30am–11.30am, at Enfield Business Centre, 201 Hertford Road EN3 5JH.**

**Call** 07949 071 587

**Email** [cllr.christine.hamilton@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.christine.hamilton@enfield.gov.uk)

Cllr Hamilton was elected to represent Enfield Highway in 2014



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# LETTERS

## Send us your letters

Got an opinion on something in Enfield? We accept letters of up to 200 words from people and organisations in the borough. Email [EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com](mailto:EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com) before the next deadline on Tuesday 22nd October.

## Tower fears

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

**Y**es, there is a housing crisis, but this doesn't give a blank cheque for developers to concrete over our town centres.

I have received hundreds of objections to the development of a 16-storey development in Southgate and the concerns are consistent; height, parking, pressure on local services, and conflict with the character of the existing area.

It's clear to me that existing residents aren't happy with the proposals laid out here. I agree. This development sits next to a major conservation area in our borough and these towers would forever overshadow the Grade 2-listed tube station that sits proudly in Southgate Circus.

I have made objections to this development. It sets a dangerous precedent for the future of planning here in Enfield. I am also wary of future applications, as developers may use this case as a blueprint to advance other developments in our area. This application for Southgate is make or break.

**Stephanos Ioannou**

*Southgate councillor (Conservative)*

## Gene screen

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

**T**halassaemia is a hereditary condition affecting the genes responsible for production of red blood cells. It mainly affects those coming from regions such as South America, the Caribbean, northern and central Africa, the Mediterranean, Middle East and Asia. However, because of migration over centuries, anyone can be at risk.

In this country women are typically offered screening after they become pregnant, but every year 30 babies are born with thalassaemia. All it takes is a blood test to find out if you carry the gene so it is better to be informed now rather than find out later.

UK Thalassaemia Society (UKTS) is holding a screening day on Saturday 19th October at our head office in The Broadway, Southgate. All are welcome, so please come along and 'screen your genes'.

It is so important for us all to know about thalassaemia so we can prevent the spread of this serious blood disorder to future generations.

**Romaine Maharaj**

*Executive director of UKTS*

## Worry over Whitewebbs

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

**M**any users of Whitewebbs Park are worried by the little-publicised Enfield Council proposals to lease the golf course and 100+ acres of woodland to commercial developers over 25 years.

Even with heavy investment and massive landscaping, it is unlikely Whitewebbs Golf Course will be profitable, but it meets a niche in the golfing market and even without normal club facilities it comes close to covering its costs. The development needed is a good café with community facilities in Beggars Hollow. Planning restrictions have kept this service to a small mobile unit on the golf course. With good facilities for all park users – walkers, golfers, runners, riders – this would be an attractive business paying enough rent to cover golf course deficits and park maintenance.

Commercialisation brings real threats to the quality and integrity of the Green Belt. The golf course blends in well; it has a fine collection of trees and much wildlife. The mature woodland is a precious, unique piece of Enfield which brings joy and health to those using it. Is this form of privatisation the future for all Enfield parks?

**Sean Wilkinson**

*Chase Side*

## Big thanks

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

**W**e held a fabulous 'Enfield Volunteers Celebration' in September at Millfield Theatre. More than 100 local residents attended this event, made possible by funding granted by the Mayor of London to Volunteer Centre Enfield, through the London-wide voluntary sector support organisation London Plus.

Volunteer Centre Enfield, which is a service delivered through Enfield Voluntary Action, helps local people find volunteering opportunities that suit them within the hundreds of local volunteer-involving organisations. A delicious spread of food was put on and everyone who registered to attend received a 'thank you' certificate. The event was supported by Enfield Council and Felix Project.

**Helen Price**

*Manager, Enfield Voluntary Action*

## Walk-in services withdrawn

Emma Friddin from Healthwatch Enfield on how changes to out-of-hours GP access will affect residents



Walk-in services are no longer available at three borough surgeries

From the start of this month it will no longer be possible to use GP surgeries in the borough without having a previously booked appointment.

Evergreen Primary Care Centre in Edmonton Green, Eagle House Surgery in Baker Street and Carlton House Surgery in Ponders End will no longer offer walk-in appointments during weekends and public holidays. Evening and weekend GP services will continue to operate but access to the service will be via appointment only. You can get an appointment during evenings, weekends and public holidays by calling NHS 111.

This change has been implemented in line with other neighbouring boroughs, to ensure that everyone in north London has equal access to out-of-hours GP services. The move also means that usage of out-of-hours appointments will be monitored to ensure that people are using appointments appropriately.

Some people who currently access evening and weekend services would be better served by seeing their own GP – a doctor that knows their medical history. Examples include medication reviews, repeat prescriptions and fitness-to-work certificates.

At Healthwatch Enfield it is our job to represent local people's views

and we are asking Enfield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) – responsible for delivering primary care services in the borough – about the impact of the withdrawal of walk-in appointments. We want to ensure that Enfield residents are getting the best possible access to out-of-hours health services.

That's why we are keen to hear what you think about this change. Do you think it is a good or bad idea to close walk-in services? Let us know what you think by getting in touch with us using our contact details, below.

Finally, with winter getting closer, remember there are things you can do to protect yourself and those around you. Start keeping an eye out for information about flu jabs and, if you are eligible for a free flu jab, make sure you get yours booked in as soon as possible.

**healthwatch**  
Enfield

For more information about Healthwatch Enfield and to get in touch:

Call 020 8373 6283

Email [info@healthwatchenfield.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchenfield.co.uk)

Tweet [@HealthwatchEnf](https://twitter.com/HealthwatchEnf)

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# Top of the cops

Meet the new head of Enfield and Haringey's police team



Detective Chief Superintendent Treena Fleming began work this summer as commander of the Met Police's North Area Borough Command Unit, covering Enfield

BY CHRISTINA DAVIS

**T**he newly-appointed head of Enfield and Haringey police is Detective Chief Superintendent Treena Fleming, who took over as commander of the Metropolitan Police's Basic Command Unit (BCU) for the two boroughs this summer.

I began my interview with Det Chief Supt Fleming by asking about one of the most pressing issues facing police in London today and one which has certainly affected Enfield borough – knife crime.

“A knife used in the wrong place is as dangerous as a firearm,” she tells me, noting that intelligence-led stop-and-search, carried out ethically, has had a lot of success in removing ‘zombie’ knives and other similar weapons. Likewise, she is full of praise for the work of the Violent Crime Taskforce, which is a roving police unit whose help

she often requests.

In addition, she points to the work schools officers do to inform children of the dangers, while neighbourhood officers lead weapon sweeps in known hotspots. Police cadets also do regular test purchase operations, in conjunction with Enfield Council, to target shopkeepers who sell to underage children. The ease with which youngsters can buy knives online is still a problem, however.

How should those found carrying knives be dealt with? “If a 25-year old gets caught with a knife for the second or third time or someone is carrying out knife-enabled robberies, then absolutely the courts must come down hard, but if it’s a 16-year old worried about their own personal safety, we need to

enforce the law but we also need to look at why they are not telling the police or a teacher about their fears. We need to adopt a trauma-informed approach as a longer-term strategy.”

As the recent merger of Enfield’s police team with Haringey is

***“A knife used in the wrong place is as dangerous as a firearm”***

nearing the end of its first full year of operation, I asked Det Chief Supt Fleming if she was happy with the way it was going so far. “It’s still a work in progress but I have a very strong senior team,” she says. “We were given a blueprint and we can tweak it slightly whenever we find it could work better.”

The operations room which was

being overseen by a sergeant at the start of the merger will soon be led by an inspector “to release more sergeants back to the teams and facilitate that early decision making”.

A ‘safeguarding car’ is another crucial development to arise from the merger. It ensures that when

an emergency response team is deployed to any kind of complex safeguarding incident, a police car with experienced officers goes with it.

“Once response officers have made arrests and protected the victims they then hand straight over to the CID [criminal investigation department] leaving the response team to go to their next call.”

One of the big issues in Enfield at the moment is frequent speeding on the A10; the police recently launched ‘Vision Zero’ to tackle

this. Det Chief Supt Fleming says getting into chases with speeding drivers is not the answer and that working with partners such as Enfield Council is instead helping to dissuade drivers from congregating at retail parks at weekends.

“Our colleagues in road traffic also continue to carry out enforcement activity. [In one day] this resulted in 96 speeding offences being detected, with the highest recorded speed being 72mph in a 40mph zone. We will continue to work towards a permanent and sustainable solution with partners to keep local residents safe.”

Finally, I ask about the expected increase in police officer numbers. Det Chief Supt Fleming says the Met Police commissioner and her team will decide where extra officers are deployed. “It’s about visibility,” she says. “Knowing where the hotspots are and making sure our officers are out there patrolling.”



Enfield Choral Society performing last year

**Credit**  
Waldek Godel

# Chamber of symphonies

*Two of the borough's most popular classical groups are teaming up for an autumn spectacular*

BY IAN MACKENZIE

**E**nfield Choral Society and Enfield Chamber Orchestra will be joining forces to present a major concert at which we will perform two of the most famous and stunning choral works ever written – Giacomo Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* and Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*.

When Puccini was 17 he walked from his home town of Lucca to Pisa, some 25 miles there and back, to watch a performance of Verdi's *Aida*. It probably had a major influence on his decision to pursue a career in theatre rather than in church music.

Nevertheless, as a graduation exercise when he was 18, Puccini composed his exciting and lyrical *Messa di Gloria*. It is unapologetically majestic and operatic in style and was performed with great success in Lucca in 1880. Puccini then laid it aside as he concentrated on composing his big opera successes.

Fortunately, in 1951 an Italian priest from New York bought a copy of *Messa*

*di Gloria* while collecting biographical material on Puccini and he arranged for it to be performed in Chicago in 1952 – some 72 years after its premiere. From then on, it was recognised as a major, popular work and is widely performed throughout the world.

Fauré's *Requiem* is a total con-

trast to *Messa di Gloria* and also to some traditional versions of the requiem, in that it removes dramatic fiery judgement images and instead presents a poignant and serene mood throughout.

Fauré himself commented on his desire to break away from convention: "As to my *Requiem*, perhaps I have also instinctively sought to escape from what is thought right and proper, after all the years of accompanying burial services on the organ. I know it all by heart. I wanted

to write something different."

In this, Fauré was entirely successful, and his ethereally beautiful masterpiece is one of the most frequently performed choral works.

Our November concert will be conducted by Enfield Chamber Orchestra's musical director Mark Sproson and apprentice musical director

Penelope Jane Homer, for whom it will be a farewell performance. The professional soloists joining us will be Paul Norcross-King (tenor) and James Cleverton (baritone).

So please come along and enjoy these two stunning

works at St Thomas's Church in Oakwood. I look forward to seeing you there!

**Enfield Choral Society and Enfield Chamber Orchestra's joint concert takes place on Saturday 2nd November, from 7.30pm, at St Thomas's Church, 2 Sheringham Avenue, Oakwood. Tickets cost £12 in advance or £15 on the door (£5 for students aged under 25). For more information and to book:**

**Call** 07793 082 991  
**Visit** [enfieldchoralsociety.org.uk](http://enfieldchoralsociety.org.uk)

***"We will perform two of the most famous and stunning choral works ever written"***

## Community networking

*Jo Johnson on an eventful few months for Love Your Doorstep*

**W**e had a busy summer at Love Your Doorstep (LYDS).

Firstly there was our large business networking event at the newly-opened and shiny Metrobank in Enfield Town. We love these events because they're a great opportunity for our members to come together and put faces to names – it adds a new level to the relationship when you meet in person.

Our networking events are open to non-members too so if you're thinking of joining LYDS it's a great opportunity to meet the team and hear from other businesses about how they have benefited from joining us. Don't be put off by the word 'networking', it's all very relaxed and informal!

Secondly, we enjoyed a very special day for the driving force behind Love Your Doorstep. Emma Rigby was invited to the Palace of Westminster to receive a British Citizens Award in recognition of her extraordinary work in the Enfield community – she is the first ever New Zealander to receive this honour!

August was the eighth anniversary of the riots that broke out in Enfield and across London. This tragic event was the catalyst for the creation of the LYDS Facebook group, originally fondly known as 'what's there to do and where to find stuff'. At our networking event it was amazing to look back at the timeline of some of the key moments in the organisation's history.

Sometimes we are so busy with the day-to-day running of things that it's nice to take the time to reflect on all of those achievements, awards and initiatives from the last eight years. The most recent project we launched was our community patrol combating crime outside school. We are proud with how our team and volunteers have grown and are now pleased to launch a new patrol for Highlands School. Please get in touch if you'd like to get involved.

We support more than 700 local businesses and without their support we would not be able to carry out the work we do in the community. It means we can run our community patrol and our school reward scheme where participating schools give out loyalty cards to their staff, offering local discounts.

**For more information about becoming a member of Love Your Doorstep:**

**Email** [hello@loveyourdoorstep.co.uk](mailto:hello@loveyourdoorstep.co.uk)

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**Monday 7 October, 7 - 9pm** Dugdale Centre, 39 London Rd, Enfield, EN2 6DS

**Wednesday 30 October, 9.30 - 11.30am** Green Towers, Edmonton Green, London, N9 0TE

#### Landlords and letting agents:

**Wednesday 30 October, 7 - 9pm** Green Towers, Edmonton Green, London, N9 0TE

To book your place on one of the meetings or to complete the online questionnaire, please visit: [www.enfield.gov.uk/prsl](http://www.enfield.gov.uk/prsl)

For more information email: [enfieldprs@melresearch.co.uk](mailto:enfieldprs@melresearch.co.uk)  
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Find out more:  
[www.nhs.uk/staywell](http://www.nhs.uk/staywell)

**HELP US  
HELP YOU**

STAY WELL THIS WINTER



# LISTINGS

## Submit your listing

We can include low-cost community events taking place in Enfield. For next month's listings, email the details of your event to [enfielddispatch@socialspider.com](mailto:enfielddispatch@socialspider.com) by Tuesday 22nd October.

## CONCERT

### All Saints Sessions:

#### Fusion of Poetry and Sound

Thursday 3rd October, 7.30pm  
All Saints Church Edmonton,  
Church Street, Edmonton N9 9PB

Our regular bi-monthly performance in a candlelit 15th Century church features special guests; poet Richard Price and cellist Ian Burdge.

**Free entry to residents of N9 and N18, £5 entry to others**

**Visit** [allsaintssessions.uk](http://allsaintssessions.uk)

## POETRY

### Enfield Poets

Saturday 5th October, 7.30pm  
Dugdale Centre (Room 4),  
London Road, Enfield EN2 6DS

Ruth Hanchett is launching her new pamphlet 'Some Effects of Brilliance' and Jocelyn Simms is launching her new collection 'Tickling the Dragon'.

**£3.50 entry, concessions £2.50**

**Visit** [enfieldpoets.com](http://enfieldpoets.com)

## HARVEST

### Apple Day at Forty Hall Farm

Sunday 13th October, 10am-4pm  
Forty Hall Farm, Forty Hill,  
Enfield EN2 9HA

Celebrate apples, orchards and the arrival of autumn. There'll be apple tasting, apple bobbing, craft activities and much more for the whole family to enjoy and have a great day out.

### Free entry

**Visit** [fortyhallfarm.org.uk](http://fortyhallfarm.org.uk)

## MUSIC

### Ziggy's World Jazz:

#### Fiesta Flamenco

Friday 18th October, 8pm-10pm  
Chickenshed Theatre, Chase Side,  
Cockfosters N14 4PE

Europe's finest flamenco artists bring thrilling virtuoso musicianship and authentic flamenco to Ziggy's World Jazz.

**£17 tickets**

**Visit** [chickenshed.org.uk](http://chickenshed.org.uk)

## CINEMA

### Talkies Cinema

#### presents 'Nosferatu'

Saturday 19th October, 7pm  
Christ Church, The Green,  
Southgate N14 7EG

In this highly influential silent horror film, based on Bram Stoker's novel 'Dracula', the mysterious Count Orlok summons Thomas Hutter to his remote Transylvanian castle in the mountains.

**£8 tickets**

**Visit** [talkies.org.uk/event/nosferatu](http://talkies.org.uk/event/nosferatu)

## KIDS

### Not So Spooky Halloween

Mon 21st and Sun 27th Oct (Dugdale),  
Fri 25th and Sat 26th Oct (Oasis  
Academy Hadley), 11am & 1.30pm  
Dugdale Centre, London Road  
EN2 6DS and Oasis Academy Hadley,  
South Street EN3 4PX

Join the UK's number one children's entertainment firm Captain Fantastic for this child-friendly show and fill your Halloween with fun, frolics, tricks and treats.

**£10 tickets**

**Visit** [ticketsource.co.uk/cfhs](http://ticketsource.co.uk/cfhs)

## PARTY

### Gospel Temple Anniversary Event

Saturday 26th October, 5pm-8pm  
Ponders End URC, College Court  
EN3 4EY

Gospel Temple Apostolic Church will be celebrating its 29th anniversary where there will be music, talks and food.

**Visit** [gospeltemple.org.uk](http://gospeltemple.org.uk)

## HEALTH

### Wellbeing Showcase

Saturday 2nd November, 11am-5pm  
Dugdale Centre, London Road,  
Enfield EN2 6DS

Learn from cutting edge wellbeing providers, sample helpful therapies and indulge in a bit of retail therapy.

**£5 entry, donated to charity**

**Visit** [wellbeingshowcase.com](http://wellbeingshowcase.com)

## AROUND THE BOROUGH

### BOWES PARK

## Doctors shortage

BY SIMON ALLIN,  
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE could worsen as the area's population increases, residents have warned.

At a Bowes ward forum last month one local man said: "There are fewer surgeries than we had before the flats were built. There are more flats being built round this part of the borough, and we don't have the facilities to cover it."

Fazilla Ahmed from Healthwatch Enfield was quizzed about the

doctors shortage. She said the NHS was trying to recruit GPs from other countries and added: "More GPs are retiring and seem to be leaving at the same time. What is happening is there are no GPs to replace them."

Bowes councillor Yasemin Brett said a planning application had been submitted for a doctors' surgery on land owned by Notting Hill Genesis – but it was currently being held up because Enfield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) "had not done their side of the deal".

### GORDON HILL

## Temporary school

PLANS FOR A TEMPORARY school on the former site of Chase Farm Hospital have won permission from Enfield Council.

The school with space for 184 pupils will be built in time for the start of the 2020 autumn term, in anticipation of a permanent primary and secondary school being built on

the site for the 2021 academic year. The government, which submitted the plans, purchased 6.8 hectares of land in 2017 from the council and Royal Free Charity and will still need to win permission for the proposed permanent school buildings. If approved, around 1,500 pupils are expected to be educated on the site.

### COCKFOSTERS

## Anger over Trent Park festival damage

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

A LONG LIST OF DAMAGE DONE to Trent Park during two major events this summer has been sent to Enfield Council.

The Friends of Trent Country Park community group claim significant harm was caused after tens of thousands of people attended the 51st State and Elrow festivals there in August.

The main entrance to the park in Cockfosters Road suffered the most obvious damage, with a large lorry carrying equipment having collided with one of the Grade 2-listed brick gate pillars – since surrounded with scaffolding – while a stone bollard was also smashed.

On the exhibition table in the park, where the two events were staged, large patches of grass have died off after being covered and trampled, with tread marks and deep ruts visible. When the *Dispatch* visited the park one month after Elrow Festival took place, confetti could still be found littering the area.



The main entrance to Trent Park suffered considerable damage from large lorries delivering equipment

Trent Park's famous lime tree avenue is also now showing significant signs of disrepair to its road surface and the friends group says money received from this year's festivals should be used to restore it, as well as replace some of the ageing trees – the council has since pledged to plant five new trees.

In a letter to the council, Friends of Trent Country Park chairperson Peter Gibbs said: "It would be reassuring to the many thousands of visitors to our park to know that Enfield Council is stepping up to the plate and heading off a situation which

is becoming steadily more toxic."

A council spokesperson said: "Event organisers will be paying Enfield Council for the repairs. While we welcome large-scale events in Enfield, we have made it abundantly clear to organisers that our heritage and natural environment need to be respected and we must be compensated for any damage. Our partners have so far been very co-operative."

"We have been liaising with Friends of Trent Country Park on our work to deal with the damage in a timely and efficient manner."

### MERIDIAN WATER

## Workspace

PLANS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED for a major manufacturing hub.

Building BloQs, a key partner of Enfield Council's Meridian Water redevelopment project, wants to convert a vehicle testing building into a manufacturing workshop space. It would have capacity for more than 1,000 workers in engineering, computing, woodwork, metalwork and fashion.

If built, workers would have access to more than £1million-worth of light industrial equipment as well as new skills training facilities, waterside café, gardens, shop and events space. Al Parra from Building BloQs said: "Our project will make affordable manufacturing workspace available in Enfield – in a truly remarkable facility."

### EDMONTON GREEN

## Unsolved killing

A £20,000 REWARD HAS been offered for information that helps catch a killer.

Detectives are investigating the fatal shooting of 54-year-old café owner Cafer Aslan, found collapsed in Westminster Road, near Bounces Road, at 9.10pm on Wednesday 23rd August 2017.

Two men in their twenties arrested on suspicion of murder were released without charge. Images have been released of an unidentified person seen at the time of the shooting and a vehicle used by the suspect, a Grey Audi Q5 registered in 2015. The car, thought to be stolen from Sussex, was found burnt out in Forty Hill 40 minutes after the murder.

Detective Tony Kirk said: "If you

have information or can assist in identifying the person in the image please make the call – help remove a dangerous, violent individual from the community."

Call police on 020 8345 3985 or 101. Alternatively, give information anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or [crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org).



PICKETT'S LOCK  
Top sewage

DEEPHAMS SEWAGE TREATMENT Works has been nominated for a national award.

The Thames Water plant in Pickett's Lock Lane has been shortlisted for a People's Choice Award, a global competition recognising the best civil engineering upgrades.

Deephams is the UK's fourth-largest sewage works and treats waste from one million people. Its

recent upgrade boosted capacity, improved water quality, and reduced odour emissions. Martin Hoff from Thames Water said: "We're delighted our engineering work has been recognised. Rebuilding and upgrading a live works couldn't have been achieved without the teamwork and collaboration developed and honed with our partners AECOM, Murphy and Kier."

# Youthful foundation

Enfield Borough FC were only formed three years ago

*“Football scouts were watching our matches from day one”*

## Graham Frost on how a local football club is helping young players achieve their goal

A local non-league football club formed just three years ago is providing talented young footballers with the chance to realise their dreams of turning professional.

Enfield Borough was founded in 2016 by Marvin Walker and Aaron Archer. The pair had worked together at Brimsdown Football Club, but when that club was taken over they decided to form their own.

Marvin explained the idea behind launching a new club. He said: “We knew there was plenty of untapped talent locally, but also that the support network necessary to make football a full-time career was not always available. “Young players are released by clubs at an early age and become disillusioned and turn their back on the sport. Others never get the opportunity.

“Many professional clubs prefer to buy the ready-made article rather than develop their own youngsters. We wanted to provide those who slipped through the net with an environment where they could flourish.”

But football is only part of the story, Marvin says. “Sport has always given people from disadvantaged backgrounds the chance to improve their lives. Youngsters get involved in anti-social behaviour because they have no positive outlet for their energies.

“Being part of a team or club in safe, positive surroundings, can give the structure and consistency that may be missing from their lives. That is what we aim provide.

“Through achieving something constructive, they increase their self-esteem and dispel some of the negativity that may surround them. It is about developing both the player and the person.”

Nicknamed ‘The Panthers’, Enfield Borough began life ground-sharing with Enfield Town FC in Donkey Lane, but last year they moved to share instead with Wingate & Finchley FC, just over the border in Barnet.

In three seasons Enfield Borough have gained one promotion, had two lengthy runs in the FA Vase and reached two local cup semi-finals. The club now encompasses four youth teams and a veterans’ team. But the most impressive achievement is that three Enfield Borough players are now professional.

In their first season Romoney Crichlow-Noble was signed by Huddersfield Town and in the last year Franklin Domi and Percy Kiangbeni have joined Queens Park Rangers and Colchester United respectively. It is something that club co-founder Marvin takes great pride in. “Football scouts were watching our matches from day one,” he says. “The club is ostensibly a youth team playing in men’s football. “Our level of football enables young players to make the transition from playing within their own age group to playing against experienced players. It also gives the scouts a good insight as to how the players are likely to progress as they mature.”

## Magic of the cup

BY ANDREW WARSHAW

The FA Cup, as we are told by ‘experts’, no longer has the lustre and glamour it once did. Nonsense; it’s still the greatest domestic cup competition in world football and, at non-league level, it arguably means more than it ever has.

Not only can the prize money on offer shape a team’s entire season, but the chance of a giant-killing or two is as exciting as it gets for part-time and grassroots clubs, often bringing out the best in them.

Enfield Town manager Andy Leese has a special affinity with the tournament which made last month’s second qualifying round clash with National League South side Braintree Town – a division above Enfield – all the more mouth-watering. When he was boss of Chesham United in 2015/16, the Buckinghamshire outfit pulled off a historic first-round FA Cup victory at Bristol Rovers, making a mockery of the 75 places between the two teams at the time. The next season they were beaten by Peterborough United at the same stage.

Before the Braintree game, in which Enfield Town pulled off a significant upset with a thoroughly deserved 2-0 victory, Leese said: “I had two fantastic FA Cup years at Chesham and I guess that’s where I got the passion for

the competition.”

Things may not have gone according to plan last season with an ignominious first qualifying round defeat by lower-league Bedford, but this season Town’s fighting cup spirit has returned – first against Rushden and Diamonds, then Braintree. It was reminiscent of that fabulous run when, shortly after Leese joined Enfield, they came within a whisker of ousting Maidstone and taking on a Football League team. Conversely, Leese doesn’t need reminding that when at Chesham he dumped Enfield out of the tournament. Recalling that day he said of Town fans: “The noise they made was incredible even when they were losing.”

The Towners are now due to meet Chichester City in the third qualifying round on Saturday 5th October. Win that and only one more hurdle will stand between Leese’s team and a possible crack at a full-time league team. Chichester are one step below Enfield on the football pyramid and this time it will be they eyeing up a potential giant-killing. Leese knows it could be fraught with danger especially with £11,250 at stake for the winners. “We’ll pay them all due respect and will treat it as though it were a league game,” he told the Dispatch.

“Everyone wants to pit their wits against higher opposition... They are fantastic memories.”

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