

# ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº. 14 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

NOV 2019



Enfield-based charity The Felix Project rescues good food that cannot be sold and delivers it to charities and primary schools across London – enough to make 6.5 million meals in a year. The charity is now recruiting volunteers at its Enfield depot ahead of the busy Christmas season; anyone interested should visit [thefelixproject.org](http://thefelixproject.org)

## Row over affordability as major homes deal sealed

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

New data on the affordability of housing suggests Enfield residents on the lowest incomes are able to rent just one in 50 homes available on the open market.

Research by Bureau Local, a project supporting local investigative journalism, revealed that of 1,548 two-bed homes available to rent on a single day in Enfield and neighbouring areas, just 31 – or 2% – were deemed to be affordable to people claiming housing benefit in the borough. With many estate agents also refusing to let to benefit claimants, it shows the difficulty Enfield Council is facing in its

attempts to tackle the housing crisis.

The news comes as the council prepares to sign off on its first major deal for new homes at its Meridian Water redevelopment project in Edmonton, with more 'affordable' housing now being promised. Developer Galliford Try Partnerships has agreed to sell not more than half of the new homes on the open market at Meridian One – a key part of the first phase of the promised 10,000 homes due to be built over the next 20 years.

However, the deal is being called into question by some councillors concerned that even the cheapest housing won't be affordable to the poorest people in the borough.

Charith Gunawardena, a Labour councillor in Southgate, said it was unclear how Meridian One would help reduce the borough's housing waiting list and high numbers of people in temporary accommodation.

Cllr Gunawardena told the *Dispatch*: "More than half of households in the borough have a total income of less than £34,000 per year – this is very low when you consider the average house price is £400,000.

"There are a whole host of housing issues in Enfield – temporary accommodation, overcrowding, low-quality housing, rent-led debt – and Meridian Water is a fantastic opportunity to tackle these problems. But without a precise strategy,

showing how it will impact these issues, you are building housing that mostly benefits the few."

While Cllr Gunawardena blames the current government for exacerbating housing problems in Enfield, including a recent decision to increase the borrowing rate of the Public Works Loan Board, he says the council should be doing more with development schemes on its own property, such as at Meridian Water where the local authority has spent £157million purchasing land. "At Meridian One the level of 'affordable' housing has been increased, but it is not in context with local

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incomes. What is the point in building so many private homes on public land? The council could decide to build the homes itself and keep hold of its public assets, instead of giving them away.”

Another Labour councillor, Tolga Aramaz, has gone further in suggesting that all homes built at Meridian Water should be for social rent, the cheapest type of housing. Cllr Aramaz, who is part of new campaign group Meridian for Council Homes, points out that the lowest rents at Meridian One will still be 70% more expensive than social homes in Enfield.

Alan Sitkin, a former Labour councillor who was the lead cabinet member for Meridian Water prior to the 2018 local election, says it is crucial for the council to be “tough” when

negotiating with developers such as Galliford Try. “The devil is in the detail,” he told the *Dispatch*. “They should be trying to offer more affordable housing – but you can't do it if you're not an experienced negotiator.”

Council leader Nesil Caliskan defended the Meridian One deal, which includes a number of additional spending pledges for Edmonton. She said: “Builders will be on site before Christmas, which demonstrates that delivery is being accelerated.

“Enfield Council's priority since taking back control of Meridian Water has been to ensure it benefits local people and helps tackle the housing crisis. While always ensuring council finances are safeguarded, we make no apologies for putting local people before profit. “We want Meridian Water to be an extension of the community

and we are confident that phase one will benefit local people first and foremost – £200,000 will be spent in the upper Edmonton area on safety and cleaning and I am also pleased that the development agreement includes provision of a skills academy, to amplify opportunities for residents on the doorstep of Meridian Water.”

Conservative councillors, meanwhile, say that the level of affordable housing at Meridian Water is too high and risks putting the council deeper into debt.

### The 'Meridian One' scheme, for up to 910 homes, includes:

- 50% available on the open market, with a three-bed home likely to cost at least £340 per week to rent;
- 25% available at 'London Affordable Rent' levels, with a three-bed home costing £173.37 per week;
- 25% available to buy as 'shared ownership' homes, discounted from the market rate but subject to minimum income requirements.

# Care workers strike over pay

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Staff at a care home for people with learning disabilities have been going on strike in a dispute over low pay.

Members of the Blue Chip Staff Association (BCSA) decided to walk out for one day per week in October after employer Care Management Group (CMG) refused to raise their wages.

The staff work at a care home in Pembroke Avenue that offers a specialist supported living service for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities. They had been demanding an increase in pay from the national minimum wage of £8.21 per hour to the London Living Wage of £10.55 per hour, which is a rate tied to the cost of living in the capital.

But pay negotiations broke down after CMG, an Enfield Council contractor, argued their budget from the local authority was not enough to cover the cost of higher wages. Nesil Caliskan, the council leader, has in turn claimed that CMG makes increasing profits that are enough to fund a wage rise.

BCSA national organiser Ted Purcell told the *Dispatch*: “I met with the council leader and she was absolutely horrified, she had no idea [about the low pay] and said she supports the London Living Wage. The council was under the impression that the workers were



getting £10 per hour. It is appalling that they only get £8.21.

“The last thing I want to do is take people out on strike, it is a last resort. Our members work hard to deliver care and without them these patients would not receive the quality of life that they deserve. They are frustrated and fed up with receiving the minimum wage to carry out this job – their hard work is not being recognised.”

Cllr Caliskan met with some of the striking care workers last month. She said: “They are working with some of the most vulnerable people in our community and they deserve to receive a decent wage. The council appreciates the financial constraints that we are all working under and has always been very clear about these challenges. We

would also want the same level of transparency from service providers with their staff, so when an organisation continues to increase their profits, I don't believe it is unreasonable that staff should also benefit.”

A CMG spokesperson said: “Our staff are incredibly hard-working, caring and compassionate individuals and we value them greatly. Ensuring that our staff receive a decent wage is incredibly important to us, but we are constrained by the fees that we receive from commissioners.

“We do however appreciate and understand the funding pressures that are faced by local authorities, and as an organisation we do aim to increase salaries year on year. We are always looking into ways in which we can reward our staff and this will only continue.”

## Bike lessons

Schoolchildren will receive free cycling lessons, paid for by Enfield Council.

The lessons will see all children in specific year groups in primary and secondary school receiving coaching sessions. As part of efforts to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030, the policy will encourage young people to use sustainable forms of transport and give them the skills and confidence to ride safely.

It is the first major announcement to emanate from the council's new 'Climate Change Task Force', whose chair Ian Barnes, the deputy council leader, said: “The roll-out of free cycle training across schools will play an important role in reducing reliance on cars.”

## New ward boundaries

The Boundary Commission has revised its proposals for new ward boundaries in Enfield and given local people until Monday 25th November to have their say.

Following negative feedback on previous plans announced in May, new wards called Bush Hill Park North and Bush Hill Park South have been drawn up, with previous ideas for wards called 'Raglan' and 'Kingsmead' now ditched. Final recommendations for the borough will be published in February 2020. To view the plans visit [lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/enfield](http://lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/enfield) and to have your say email [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk).

## Top leader

Nesil Caliskan has been nominated for 'Council Leader of the Year' in the LGiU Councillor Achievement Awards.

Enfield Council's first female and first ethnic minority leader is up against five other local authority bosses from across the country and will need to show judges how she has “successfully united the council” in order to win top prize at an awards ceremony on Tuesday 5th November. Cllr Caliskan became leader in May 2018, after ousting Doug Taylor in a Labour leadership ballot two weeks after he led the party to election victory.

Jonathan Carr-West, LGiU chief executive, said: “This year's shortlist is one of the most impressive we have seen.”





# Enfield prepares for snap general election

## Brexit likely to be key issue as voters head to the polls once more



The upcoming general election will be the first to be held in December since 1923

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Voters in three Enfield constituencies will head to the polls next month for a third general election in less than five years.

MPs agreed to hold an election on Thursday 12th December as they faced another stalemate on Brexit and decided a fresh poll was the best way to break the impasse. It will be the first December general election in nearly a century.

Enfield Southgate could once again become a key battleground. The Conservative Party will be eyeing up the Labour-held seat, with a win there likely to indicate they are on course for a majority. It has switched three times between the two major parties over the last three decades, providing the infamous 'Portillo moment' in 1997 when New Labour swept to power, then being regained by the Tories in 2005, before swinging back to Labour at the snap election of 2017.

Former Enfield Southgate MP David Burrowes is aiming to make a comeback in the constituency he represented in parliament for 12 years as a Conservative. His defeat to Bambos Charalambous

was one of the big upsets at the last election, helping Jeremy Corbyn's Labour gain 30 seats across the country. Since his election to Westminster, Bambos has become a whip for the opposition in the House of Commons and is seen as a key ally of the party leader.

Local issues in Enfield Southgate that could influence voters include a highly controversial 18-storey redevelopment scheme on the edge of the Southgate Circus conservation area, with David Burrowes coming out firmly against the plans. If Brexit becomes the key issue for voters at this election, however, it could be bad news for the Tory candidate, with the constituency having voted strongly to remain in the EU at the 2016 referendum.

Over the last year Enfield North has attracted many national headlines, firstly after Joan Ryan lost a vote of no confidence among Labour members in the constituency, then again a few months later when she sensationally quit the party to join the newly-formed Change UK group of MPs. In September Joan announced she was standing down from parliament completely, although it was

always unlikely she would have been able to win re-election as an MP without wearing a red rosette.

The battle to replace Joan Ryan as Labour's candidate for Enfield North has been bitterly fought. A local selection process that had been going on for several weeks



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was suspended in October by Labour Party bosses, who decided to draw up their own preferred list of candidates – at the expense of several local members who had been hoping to stand. One person denied the chance to win the selection race was an Enfield councillor, Tolga Aramaz, who later hit out at Labour's National Executive Committee on Twitter, saying: "The party is deciding to parachute people in as it has shown

that it cares not for grassroots."

In the end the race to replace Joan Ryan was won by a councillor from Shoreditch, Feryal Clark. Feryal is currently Hackney Council's cabinet member for health, social care, leisure and parks but said she was "honoured" to be selected as the Labour candidate for Enfield North. Whether Feryal can successfully defend the 10,000-vote majority won by Joan Ryan in 2017 may depend on how quickly she is able to get to know the local area and ingratiate herself with voters on the doorstep.

Enfield North has recent history of being a Tory-held seat, having been narrowly won by Nick de Bois in 2010 before he was defeated five years later. This time out the Conservative candidate is local councillor Joanne Laban, the leader of the opposition on Enfield Council, who will likely benefit from being a more familiar face with local voters. Enfield North is also the most Brexit-leaning constituency in the borough, although it still voted narrowly to remain in the EU.

In Edmonton, which has comfortably returned a Labour MP at every election since 1997, there

offences. The furore following the case led to Kate's resignation from the shadow cabinet, but she decided to continue as an MP.

Amid a wave of so-called 'trigger ballots' from Labour constituency parties around the country, whereby a sitting MP can be forced to fight a local selection contest, Kate was threatened with de-selection in October – although it is not clear why. However, the Labour Party has since confirmed that Kate will not have to defeat local rivals to retain her candidacy for re-election. At time of going to press, the Conservatives had yet to confirm who their Edmonton candidate would be.

While the two main parties are likely to be the chief contenders for all three Enfield borough constituencies, polling suggests that both the Liberal Democrats and newly-formed Brexit Party will gain votes at the expense of Labour and the Tories in what will likely be a campaign focused around the issue of the UK's continued membership of the European Union. It would take something of a political earthquake for either of these smaller parties to win a seat in Enfield,



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would seem to be little chance of anyone being able to oust incumbent Kate Osamor – who won a whopping 71.5% of the vote in 2017. Kate, who grew up in nearby Haringey, was first elected in 2015 and a year later was appointed as shadow secretary of state for international development. She attracted controversy last year, however, when her son – whom she employed in her constituency office – was convicted of drug



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but with many voters wanting to express a clear view on Brexit at the ballot box they could still play a key role in determining who ultimately wins on Thursday 12th December.

Next month's edition of Enfield Dispatch will be an election special featuring pitches from the candidates of all three borough constituencies. We will also be covering the Enfield election count on the night itself via our website [enfielddispatch.co.uk](http://enfielddispatch.co.uk) and Twitter feed @EnfieldDispatch.



## By the book

**Dr Farah Alam-Mirza has written a series of advice books for children**

**I**n my work as a local GP in Edmonton I often see parents worried about their children; some are fussy eaters and need advice on healthy eating, some need help with hygiene or other things.

Eventually I realised that parents would benefit from a series of books covering these topics and, because I communicate with children every day, my professional background could help me to write them.

I have now published an interactive series of information books in story format, with colourful illustrations, on common minor health problems in children. The text has been written with the young child in mind, so they can understand it easily, and the stories are from everyday life.

For example, in *Achoo* the children are at a superhero party, but one of them has a cold and he keeps coughing and sneezing all over the other children without using a tissue. The latest book out is *Brush Your Teeth*, in which children go out trick and treating for Halloween but collect lots of sweets and get toothache

because they didn't brush their teeth – the story ends with a visit to the dentist!

These books are for teachers and parents to share with young children, to empower both the child and adult with health-related knowledge in a fun and engaging way. The colourful pictures are designed to engage young children, and there are questions at the end to recap the main message. The health advice in the books is the same as the practical advice that I give to parents and children in my work as a GP every day.

As well as doctors, other healthcare professionals such as dentists and pharmacists have been featured, and characters in forthcoming books will include an optician, nurse practitioner and dietitian as well. I hope these books will be useful in primary schools, nurseries and libraries – and will make a great present too!

**Dr Alam's book series on children's health is available to buy now:**

**Visit** [amzn.to/31FxHL1](http://amzn.to/31FxHL1)



Dr Farah Alam-Mirza is a local GP at Evergreen Surgery in Edmonton

## Scouts celebrate



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

**Thursday 14th November, 2–4pm**  
**St Peter's Church Hall, Vera Avenue**  
**Winchmore Hill N21 1DN**

- **Guest Speaker: Cllr Nesil Caliskan**  
**Leader, Enfield Council**
- **Introduction from The Mayor of**  
**Enfield, Cllr Kate Anolue**

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## 60 years in Southgate

BY CHRIS KENNEDY

**S**ixty years of the 20th Southgate Scouts group was celebrated at a special anniversary party last month.

Originally founded as the 198th North London in 1959, the group provides a wide range of activities for young people aged from six to 14 years from its base in Cannon Road, Southgate.

Beavers, cubs and scouts all attended the party together with group leaders past and present, plus special guests including Steve Smith, the district commissioner for scouting in Southgate, and Joe Law, whose father Philip was a founder member and the first scout leader of the group. Mayor of Enfield Kate Analoue was another very welcome guest and she commented on the uplifting and positive energy from all who attended.

During their diamond jubilee year, the scouts have been enjoying a wide range of special activities including burying a time capsule, linking up with a group in Massachusetts who are also celebrating 60 years of formation, and having a sleepover at Legoland Windsor amusement park. Best of all – the scouts have been given Blue Peter badges!

An exclusive commemorative badge was also produced to commemorate the anniversary and was presented to the mayor and to the other special guests at the party, which finished with a rendition of 'Happy Birthday' and the cutting of an amazing three-tiered cake dressed in scouts uniform!

Here's to the next 60 years.



## Demanding better care

Southgate resident Emma Livingstone is campaigning on behalf of people living with cerebral palsy

**I**'m a mother of three living with cerebral palsy (CP); an umbrella term for a group of lifelong conditions that affect movement and co-ordination caused by problems in the brain before, during or soon after birth.

Around 111,000 people have the condition in the UK, similar to the number with multiple sclerosis or Parkinson's disease. However, co-ordinated and specialist services unfortunately do not exist today for adults with cerebral palsy.

Because it is traditionally thought of as a non-progressive condition and life expectancy is similar to the general population, attention is mostly focused on services for children. However, CP is still degenerative and needs ongoing treatment to offset medical issues, such as early joint degeneration, that can be extremely debilitating if left untreated.

To help pressure the medical profession and politicians to improve care for adults with CP, last year myself and my physiotherapist Miriam Creeger founded the charity Adult Cerebral Palsy Hub to campaign for better support and services and give a voice to the CP community.

The idea for the charity emerged in early 2016 when I was recovering from hip surgery. I had seen a significant decline in my mobility in my late 30s, which had led to several surgeries and having to give up work as a speech and language therapist.

As a charity we are endeavouring to bring people together and create the space for conversations around CP. We believe that by sharing experiences and demonstrating how practice could be done differently, we can galvanise support and begin to change what people imagine is possible.

In January this year the National Institute for Health and Care Excel-

lence published guidelines for the care and support of adults with CP, for the first time. This is an important framework to shape improvements to services and although there is no compulsion on health commissioners to implement these changes, we believe services could and should be different.

In April, we held a discussion with representatives from leading London hospitals and NHS special commissioning to talk openly about the issues involved in meeting the lifelong needs of adults with CP. I have also taken our campaign to parliament and in August myself, Miriam and Paralympian Leon Taylor, an Adult CP Hub ambassador, met shadow disabilities minister Marsha De Cordova.

To mark World Cerebral Palsy Day last month Adult CP Hub ran a family fun day at Chickenshed Theatre in Cockfosters to promote

the benefits of activity and exercise to help support mobility and delay degeneration. Mayor of Enfield Kate Analoue attended the event along with more than 100 members of the adult CP community, plus friends and families.

Finally, this month we are running

a conference bringing together medical professionals, researchers, charities and members of the adult CP community to discuss what good practice looks like. We believe that things could and should be different and if we get people to talk about it, things can change.



Adult CP Hub founders Emma Livingstone (left) and Miriam Creeger (centre)



## Awards for young stars of retail



'Rising star' Jamelia Donaldson is a former Enfield County School pupil

Two Enfield entrepreneurs have been named as winners at the Black British Business Awards. Jamelia Donaldson, who won in the 'Entrepreneur Rising Star' category, and Uzo Okwuosa, named as 'Consumer and Luxury Rising Star', picked up their prizes last month in a glittering ceremony at St Paul's Leonardo Royal Hotel in central London.

The Black British Business Awards (BBBA) celebrate exceptional performance and outstanding achievements of black professionals and entre-

preneurs in the UK.

A former Enfield County School pupil, Jamelia is founder of Treasure Tress, a product discovery box for women and girls with textured hair. Jamelia graduated from Aston University with a first-class business degree in 2013 and set up Treasure Tress two years later, describing it as a way to help black women "look after their curly hair in the conventional fashion they have always deserved".

Jamelia, after picking up her BBBA prize, said: "It feels amazing and overwhelming to be the winner of the Entrepreneur Rising Star category. I wasn't expecting it because the other finalists are doing some amazing work as well, but I feel completely blown away."

"The BBBA are so important because they allow us to be seen, heard, appreciated and valued as citizens for the culture we are helping to build in the UK. It makes me feel visible, which is not only important to me, but to others that look up and towards me for guidance, advice and mentorship."

Kingston University graduate Uzo Okwuosa is a fashion designer at Frank Horn, a brand established in 2015 that offers a wide selection of luxury handmade leather goods with an emphasis on "quality, functionality and timelessness". He is based at a workshop in Barking and sells his products online; Uzo's designs have been showcased at some of London's prestigious design and craft exhibitions.

"I came here not expecting much and to think I have been considered, shortlisted and won is amazing," Uzo said of his award. "It's a weird dynamic because I'm usually in my studio being a creative and it feels amazing to come here and get recognition for my work."

The Black British Business Awards have been running for six years. Chair and co-founder Melanie Eusebe said: "I am enormously proud of the winning talent in this year's awards and to be able to showcase such a versatile range of business excellence. I wish all the winners the greatest success in their onward journey."

## Cycle scheme shortlisted for prize

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Enfield Council's A105 cycle lanes scheme has been nominated for a top national transport award.

The Cycle Enfield initiative along Green Lanes, built using Transport for London 'Mini Holland' cash, is a finalist for the prestigious Transport Planning Society's People's Award.

The scheme was opened in March 2018 and introduced more than six miles of protected cycle lanes from the North Circular through Palmers Green, Winchmore Hill, and up to Enfield Town.

An overall winner for the prize, deemed to be the "most noteworthy transport planning initiative of the year" by the Transport Planning Society, the professional body for transport planners in the UK, will be named at a ceremony at the Institution for Civil Engineers on

Wednesday 20th November.

A panel of judges spent the summer looking for schemes that had made a "real difference to people's access to services, quality of life and wellbeing" and decided to include the Cycle Enfield project on a five-strong shortlist. It had been nominated by local campaign group Better Streets for Enfield.

The council has recorded an increase in cycling along the A105 of up to 85% since the cycle lanes were opened, helping to boost people's health. However, some local business owners have complained about a loss of trade since the number of parking spaces was reduced, while the president of the National Federation of the Blind UK has said some elements of the scheme endanger blind and partially-sighted people.

Stephen Bennett, chair of the Transport Planning Society, said: "While major projects hit the headlines, this award is a reminder that often the most important initiatives are ones that take place in the local community, informed or even led by local people; projects that keep us connected to the things we need every day – our jobs, schools, green spaces and health services."

Other nominees for the award include a green walk in Lincolnshire and another cycle scheme in Plymouth. Judges include Stephen Joseph, former chief executive of the Campaign for Better Transport.



The A105 scheme through Palmers Green and Winchmore Hill was opened in March 2018

## Council tax to rise again

### Bills to rise by total of 4% if budget voted through next year

Council tax bills look set to rise again during the next financial year.

Enfield's top decision-makers have agreed a 1.99% increase in core council tax and a 2% rise in the adult social care precept for 2020/21. The precept is a ring-fenced levy that can only be spent on adult social services.

Bills could rise further if the Mayor of London announces an increase in the share of council tax going to the Greater London Authority at City Hall.

Cabinet members agreed the rises, which form part of Enfield's medium-term financial plan, at a civic centre meeting last month. The changes still need to be signed off by councillors at the annual budget meeting in February next year.

Mary Maguire, the council's cabinet member for finance, said: "General fund finances are tight, and despite the fact that the government announced some new monies for adult and children's social care, it's

still not nearly enough for the demand pressures we face.

"Our aim has been to set a resilient budget – one that is not reliant on one-off resources.

"The government's approach over the past couple of years has been to announce one-off funding, which is not sustainable.

"What we need is proper, decent, predictable funding so we can plan properly."

Enfield Council had to make £18million worth of savings ahead of the 2019/20 financial

year – on top of £178m already been made since 2010. The rise in council tax would bring in an extra £3m per year. Despite savings and extra revenue-raising plans, officers are still working to close a £3.5m budget gap.

Alev Cazimoglu, cabinet member for health and social care, thanked colleagues for helping to protect social care from funding cuts. She said: "We have continued to live year-to-year in adult social care not getting the

BY SIMON ALLIN,  
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

sustainable funding we need.

"The extra money we have been given [by the government] is not even meeting demand. It is just enough to possibly cover our inflationary costs, like wages.

"It is not being recognised that there is an increased demand for care, so we are not being fully funded in the way that we should be.

"The crisis is continuing – but this administration is doing its best."



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NHS England says there is no need to consult local people about plans to merge five clinical commissioning groups in North London



## Local NHS merger is a farce

*Enfield Over 50s Forum president Monty Meth expresses concern over plans to merge five CCGs*

Patients have been an integral part of the NHS decision-making process since its inception 71 years ago. Until now. In September, Enfield NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the body responsible for delivering primary care in the borough, was given an ultimatum; support a merger with four other local CCGs from April 2020, or have a merger imposed upon them in April 2021.

NHS England wants to merge the CCGs in Barnet, Islington, Camden, Haringey and Enfield, creating a much larger body called North Central London CCG. The 15 voting governing body members – eight of them Enfield GPs – had to approve the merger without seeing the structure or constitution of this new bureaucratic monster allegedly being created to meet the health needs of more than 1.6 million patients spread over 204 doctors' surgeries, with a £2.1 billion budget to provide all their primary care needs.

No commercial company would be allowed to contemplate a similar venture without first producing a detailed structure, together with

the benefits and any downside envisaged, for consideration by all those affected. But NHS England has set only one public target for this 'shot-gun marriage' – to cut management costs by 20%. To secure this objective it has ruthlessly abandoned its duty to consult local people on the merger decision, stating that "public consultation is not required to merge CCGs". Neither has it sought approval from Enfield Health and Wellbeing Board or Enfield Council's health scrutiny panel. Therein

***"The total lack of public accountability by this new NHS body has to be resisted and challenged"***

lies the danger – voices of Enfield patients will be silenced as the new mega-CCG railroads through ill-conceived and controversial service-cutting plans.

Moreover, Enfield Council has supported the merger without any public scrutiny and, it is claimed, NHS England has agreed in return to set aside the local authority's £80m deficit built up over many years – which they have no hope of reducing while Enfield's public health

budget remains under-funded.

In a letter to Enfield GPs calling for feedback on the draft constitution for the North Central London CCG by Monday 21st October, local NHS bosses said it was important to maintain strong relationships with voluntary, community and patient groups and to "not lose vital touch points that allow us to listen to local voices". Yet, it has no place for a non-voting patient on the governing body – unlike the present Enfield CCG. There's a place

for just one patient and public engagement representative for the five boroughs, one Healthwatch rep, and just two Enfield GPs to represent our 47 surgeries.

The total lack of public accountability by this new NHS body – likely to be based in Camden or Islington – has to be resisted and challenged. It is a farce.

**The next Enfield CCG governing body meeting is on Wednesday 18th December from 1.15pm at Holbrook House, Cockfosters Road. To sign the petition to stop all NHS England's proposed CCG mergers:**

Visit [petition.parliament.uk/petitions/276169](http://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/276169)

## Getting into politics

*In our latest councillor's column, Bush Hill Park ward member Clare De Silva talks about the importance of getting young people politically active*

We are facing huge challenges both nationally and locally in our political arenas and in many ways it is a time like no other for our democracy. Contrary to popular opinion however, politics, especially at a local level, is actually relatively easy to get involved in.

Encouraging others to get involved in public life is a real passion of mine, so it was a huge privilege to visit year five pupils at The Raglan Schools recently. Fellow Bush Hill Park councillor James Hockney and I spent an afternoon with 120 children aged nine and ten, being grilled on all things political. To tie in with Local Democracy Week the pupils also had the opportunity to take over the council chamber at Enfield Civic Centre for their own debate!

For many years I thought that politics was something that 'other' people did. It was a career in the charity sector, working in some of the most disadvantaged areas of London, which led me into political life. I began to see that some of the

barriers holding people back from flourishing in their family lives, socially and economically, went deeper than I was able to reach. I realised that I needed to be on the other side of the table; that's why I am now involved in politics.

I became a councillor in Bush Hill Park just over a year and a half ago because I wanted to be able to support the local community and

make a positive difference. It's a very tangible and practical way of getting involved in local issues and I am able to be part of improving everyday life for local residents.

I was so encouraged by the passion of the students from The Raglan Schools in Wellington Road as they spoke about politics. They were engaged, informed and interested, keen to share their thoughts on pressing local issues such as parking around their school as well as broader issues including climate change. At a time when our politics is under strain, it is great to see the enthusiasm of the next generation and budding politicians in the making.

I would encourage anyone of any age who is interested in public life to get stuck in and get involved.



Cllr De Silva was elected in 2018

Clare De Silva represents Bush Hill Park along with James Hockney (Conservative) and Will Coleshill (independent). Ward surgeries are held every third Friday of the month, 12.30pm–1.30pm, at Stanton Coffee Shop, Queen Anne's Place, Enfield EN1 2QB. Call 07971 673 881. Email [Cllr.Clare.DeSilva@Enfield.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Clare.DeSilva@Enfield.gov.uk)



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# LETTERS

## Send us your letters

Got an opinion on something in Enfield? We accept letters of up to **150 words** from people and organisations in the borough. Email [EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com](mailto:EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com) before the next deadline on Tuesday 19th November.

## Money to burn

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

**C**oncerns about the rebuilding of the incinerator in Edmonton include evidence showing that where you have an incinerator, you have low recycling rates. Of course the terrible effects of air pollution on health are already well known. However, I'm writing today about the cost to taxpayers. There have been numerous price tags put on the new incinerator; between £650million and £800m. What concerns me is that we don't know the latest cost estimate, despite asking, and if central government does provide the loan, how much will it affect our council tax and for how many years will we all be paying it back?

Strangely, North London Waste Authority just sent out a press release about the impact of two million people's rubbish on the climate emergency should the rebuild not go ahead. But if the rebuild does go ahead it will lock us in to up to 50 years of burning rubbish – including recyclables – producing as much as 700,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> every year.

Why should we have to pay to pollute?

**Dr Rebecca Redwood**  
Stop Edmonton Incinerator Now

## A little compassion

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

**E**nfield residents have got the power to change our community for the better by being part of North London Hospice's 'Compassionate Neighbours' project. Help us involve people who are lonely and isolated and are living with a chronic illness by exploring their interests and finding out what's going on around them.

Join our free local training on Friday 6th and 13th December at North London Hospice in Winchmore Hill – how you support the project after that is up to you. There are many options; from visiting someone regularly to helping us develop our local connections. For more details email [CN@northlondonhospice.co.uk](mailto:CN@northlondonhospice.co.uk). We look forward to seeing you!

**Rebecca Eastick**  
North London Hospice

## Volunteers needed

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

**W**e know during the lead-up to Christmas our network of foodbanks see even more people needing help. They will be doing all they can to provide vital emergency support so people don't face hunger. Having your support for this year's Tesco food collection will make a real difference – the more people who volunteer, the more food will be collected from generous shoppers.

From Thursday 21st until Saturday 23rd November charities Trussell Trust and FareShare will be collecting food at Tesco stores in Enfield Town, Ponders End, Edmonton, Enfield Lock, Winchmore Hill, Oakwood and Southgate. We are looking for local volunteers to encourage shoppers to donate, so that as much food as possible can be collected.

Last year the project supplied more than 2,200 meals across Enfield. Sign up at [fareshare.org.uk/tescofoodcollection](http://fareshare.org.uk/tescofoodcollection)

**Emma Revie**  
Trussell Trust

## Old market, new ideas

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

**I**am the new manager of Market Place in Enfield, the site of the weekly Royal Charter market which runs on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. I have introduced a 'crafters corner' which takes place on the first Saturday of the month and we also now do a 'natter morning' every Thursday.

We are holding our Christmas market here on Sunday 8th December, 11am–5pm, and will be providing a platform for local crafts people to sell their wares and for visitors to find unique and personal gifts. There will be pottery, handmade bags, jewellery and artwork, all from talented people. Our regular traders will also be selling toys and Christmas decorations.

The Christmas market will play a key part in bringing our community together at this seasonal time of year.

**Amanda Wauchope**  
The Old Enfield Charitable Trust



## Another victory for people power

*Emma Friddin from Healthwatch Enfield welcomes news that Chase Farm's urgent care centre will stay open until 10pm*

Chase Farm Hospital's urgent care centre will continue to open until 10pm



In September's edition of *Enfield Dispatch* we told you about the work we have been doing to ensure local people's voices are heard on proposals to reduce the opening times at Chase Farm Hospital's urgent care centre.

We wrote to Enfield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) recommending they maintain the current daily opening times of 8am–10pm, based on the views and experiences you told us about. Despite proposing in September to close the centre an hour earlier at 9pm, Enfield CCG has now agreed to keep the urgent care centre at Chase Farm open until 10pm – just as it is at present.

At Healthwatch Enfield we have taken an active interest in the opening hours of the centre at Chase Farm Hospital. Following an earlier intervention in February the current hours were retained, before the proposal to close the centre at 9pm was put to the public in June.

During this consultation period, we engaged with almost 400 Enfield residents to hear their views about the proposals – and 84% of you told us that you did not agree with the earlier closing time. You told us about concerns relating to the provision of urgent care services in Enfield, the potential difficulties of accessing urgent care services, and the impact this will have on accident and emergency (A&E) depart-

ments and the ambulance service. You continued to tell us stories where you have used the urgent care centre as an alternative to attending A&E and received high-quality, timely care.

Using your views and experiences, we published our report *What local people think about the proposals to reduce the opening times of the Urgent Care Centre at Chase Farm Hospital*. We also wrote to Enfield CCG, asking them to consider local people's views as the decision about the opening hours was being made.

This is an example of how sharing your feedback can really make a difference. Patricia Mecinska, chief executive of Healthwatch Enfield, said: "We are delighted that the views of local people reflect the decision made by NHS Enfield CCG."

"We will continue to monitor the opening hours of the urgent care centre at Chase Farm Hospital and we will seek to ensure that the voices of local residents are represented as further reviews take place."

**healthwatch**  
Enfield

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

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Email [info@healthwatchenfield.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchenfield.co.uk)  
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Children can have their vaccination as a nasal spray. Adults can get the vaccine via their GP or at many local pharmacists.

Find out more:  
[www.nhs.uk/staywell](http://www.nhs.uk/staywell)

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Starting this month there will be 59 performances of *Snow White* at Chickenshed Theatre over the festive period

## Keeping it festive

*Kevin Metchear from Chickenshed on what audiences can expect at the theatre this festive season*

**D**on't get me wrong; here at Chickenshed, we're very used to being busy.

Two-hundred students are in the building most days, 800 members of our children's and youth theatres attend their regular sessions and rehearsals throughout the week and at weekends, plus we have more than 300 performances every year in our various performance spaces.

What's more, over the past year we've added a programme of classes and workshops; such as yoga, pilates, chi gung, mindfulness and kettlebell weight training; which have all attracted new people through our doors for the first time.

I've been working at Chickenshed for 12 years and I can confirm that it's been getting busier every year – and it wasn't exactly quiet when I started! Some time ago I took on the additional role of overseeing commercial development and as part of that I began a process to examine precisely how we were using our amazing building. As a

result, we've been able to welcome some amazing local people and organisations to run events and fundraisers over the past year.

In making these links, our aim has always been to look beyond the purely commercial benefits for both sides and to embrace opportunities to partner with those who are able

as four shows in a single day!

We've also slotted in some amazing festive gigs on the *Snow White* set, featuring Georgie Fame and the Blue Flames, Judie Tzuke and Liane Carroll. And finally we've got a Christmas market and our pop-up charity shop every Wednesday.

I also want to mention that we recently took over the running of the Chickenshed café and theatre bar after a ten-year period of it being run by third parties. We've been working hard to build a new menu, with the underlying principle

that all profits go to support the amazing work that Chickenshed does, giving opportunities to young people.

Please do try to find time to visit us over the upcoming months; we'd love to show you what the world looks like when you let everyone in to play their part.

***“We'd love to show you what the world looks like when you let everyone in to play their part”***

to share our vision of a world where everyone is welcomed and included.

In the coming months we'll host 59 performances of our fab festive show *Snow White* with a diverse cast of 800 (split into four different casts, so 200 per show). As if that wasn't enough, we'll also have another great show running at the same time; *Christmas Tales* is aimed at young children up to six years and there'll be 20 performances in total, meaning we'll have as many

For show times and ticket information at Chickenshed Theatre: Visit [chickenshed.org.uk](http://chickenshed.org.uk)

## Find your fix

*Jo Johnson from Love Your Doorstep gears up for the festive season*

**T**he clocks have now gone back (hopefully by the time you read this you've managed to figure out which items in your home to adjust manually!) and once Halloween is out of the way, people's minds turn briefly to fireworks.

There are some fantastic public displays taking place locally. Enfield Town Park Fireworks is making a grand return on Saturday 2nd November and the popular Walker Ground display in Southgate takes place the same night. Once Halloween and Bonfire Night are out of the way, we head towards the festive season!

If you are a business looking to advertise a role for the busy Christmas period, or if you are looking for work yourself, take a look at the Love Your Doorstep jobs board. It's easy to use and new vacancies are added daily. We also list jobs in our weekly community newsletter so it's worth subscribing if you want the info to hit your inbox directly.

The Love Your Doorstep community patrol continues to do great things. Our well-established patrol covers the Enfield Town area at lunchtimes and after-school during term time. We now also have a patrol in the Highlands area and we are receiving requests from residents in other parts of the borough. We would love to support these areas too – keep your eyes peeled for our updates via the dedicated Facebook page! Now that it's darker the patrol is even more necessary, so even if you can lend one hour per month we would love to hear from you.

Winter sees an increase in posts on our forum from residents with issues with leaks, gutters and loose tiles. Likewise, fencing (the wooden kind not the sport) becomes a popular thing at this time of year – nothing like a bit of gusty wind to highlight a loose panel. I'm sure you will find what you need among our reliable tradespeople.

If you are a local business we would love you to join our Love Your Doorstep family! Now is a great time to get involved and build your brand among the community. We have a platform of more than 25,000 local people to share your products and services with. It's a great way to grow your business locally and become part of the community you live in.

For more information about Love Your Doorstep:

Visit [loveyourdoorstep.co.uk](http://loveyourdoorstep.co.uk)



# Dance for charity

## A 'Strictly' style dance is being held in aid of The Nightingale Cancer Centre

BY ANNE-MARIE SANDERSON

I have known the staff and volunteers at The Nightingale Cancer Support Centre in Enfield for over ten years, first through my job and then when they supported me after my friend Nick passed away having battled with cancer.

I met Nick when he taught me ballroom and Latin dancing at his school in Potters Bar. Over the years we became good friends and when he became ill and was in hospital, I would help out teaching pupils at his school. It was only ever meant to be a temporary arrangement.

Three of us have kept Nick's dance school running in his memory, but I now also run my own dance fitness classes in

Enfield. Being able to pass on the skills he taught me and, more importantly, pass on his sense of fun and love of dance, is an honour. I hope he'd be proud.

I will be running two 'Strictly' style dance fitness classes at St Michael's Church of England School in Brigadier Hill on Saturday 9th November, from 11.30am–2pm, to raise money for The Nightingale. The classes are based on ballroom and Latin dances so participants will be able to experience some of the steps they see on *Strictly Come Dancing* without the need for a partner. Tickets are £10 to take part in one of the sessions but there is free entry to the canteen where there will be stalls and refreshments.

The emphasis will be on having

fun. People can come in fancy dress if they would like (although I appreciate it's not everyone's cup of tea!) and I am so excited about the upbeat playlist that I have put together for the day, incorporating the cha cha cha, the Charleston and waltz to name but a few.

It is such a pleasure to be able to give something back to The Nightingale. They rely entirely on the backing of the community to continue providing free services for those affected by cancer and if I can raise even a few hundred pounds for them, I will be happy.

**For more information about Dancing Like Strictly on Saturday 9th November:**

**Call** 020 8366 4333

**Visit** [nightingalesupport.org.uk/product/dancing-like-strictly](http://nightingalesupport.org.uk/product/dancing-like-strictly)



Anne-Marie Sanderson (centre) runs a local dance class in Enfield Credit Chris Wood

### 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 19th November.

### FIREWORKS

#### Enfield Town Fireworks

Saturday 2nd November, 5pm–9pm  
Enfield Town Park, Cecil Road,  
Enfield EN2 6LE

November is set to arrive with a bang, a whizz and a sparkle! This popular event, which returns after an absence of four years, will feature fireworks, a funfair and food and is run by Enfield Council.

**Tickets £8 adults, £5 children**

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

### BUSINESS

#### Enfield Expo 2019

Thursday 7th November, 9am–5pm  
Dugdale Centre, 39 London Road,  
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**Visit** [enfieldexpo.co.uk](http://enfieldexpo.co.uk)

### CINEMA

#### Talkies presents 'Rocketman'

Friday 15th November, 7.15pm  
Bounds Green Bowls and Tennis Club, 20 Goring Road,  
Bowes Park N11 2DD

Palmer's Green boy Dexter Fletcher directs this epic musical fantasy about the uncensored human story of Sir Elton John's breakthrough years.

**Tickets £6.50**

**Visit** [talkies.org.uk/event/3889](http://talkies.org.uk/event/3889)

### SHOPPING

#### Vintage Fair

Sat 16th & Sun 17th Nov, 10am–5pm  
240–244 Green Lanes,  
Palmer's Green N13 5TU

A vacant shop will be transformed into a veritable emporium selling all things vintage; 40+ traders will be selling vintage clothes, books, toys, accessories, homeware, vinyl, curiosities and collectables.

**Free entry**

**Visit** [tattybits.co.uk/pgflea](http://tattybits.co.uk/pgflea)

### WORKSHOP

#### Building Resilience in Young People

Thurs 21st November, 9.45am–1pm  
Community House, 311 Fore Street,  
Edmonton N9 0PZ

A workshop led by Sarah Berman from mental health charity Young Minds, helping people to understand resilience and how to help build it in children and young people.

**Free entry**

**Email** [admin@enfieldva.org.uk](mailto:admin@enfieldva.org.uk)

### CHOIR

#### Gospel Singing Fayre

Sat 23rd November, 12pm–5pm  
Ponders End URC, College Court,  
Enfield EN3 4EY

Gospel Temple Apostolic Church is hosting a gospel singing fair, where people can listen to the sounds of gospel singing, experience fresh local talent, munch on some food and see the best that the community has to offer.

**Free entry**

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

### CONCERT

#### Berlioz Concert

Saturday 30th November, 7.30pm  
The Latymer School, Haselbury Road,  
Edmonton N9 9TN

Adoramus Choir and Orchestra together with the London Forest Choir and two children's choirs to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Hector Berlioz's death in a performance of 'Te Deum'.

**Tickets £20 advance, £22 on door**

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

### Christmas Day Open Afternoon

**25th December**  
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## AROUND THE BOROUGH

### PALMERS GREEN

## Wheelchair user slams council over access

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

ENFIELD COUNCIL HAS APOLOGISED to wheelchair users for an “oversight” after blocking them from using an entrance to Broomfield Park.

After a concrete block was placed in front of an entrance to the park, installed to stop vehicles from entering illegally, only enough space was left for people to enter on foot.

Local wheelchair user Nina Grant was outraged by the sudden blockade and had threatened legal action against the council if they did not move it. Although other entrances to the park allow wheelchair access, the gate blocked by the council was the nearest one to Nina's home – forcing her to use an alternative entrance 300 metres away.

Nina was especially angry with the council because, after submitting a Freedom of Information request about the decision to block the park entrance, she discovered that no Equality Impact Assessment had



been carried out. “It is discriminating against a particular group of people,” she told the *Dispatch*. “A public body like the council has to give due consideration to how it affects protected groups.”

Nina enjoys following the path inside the park on her route home from Palmers Green, but had been forced to follow the pavement instead. She added: “It is a lovely park. If they had put it [the barrier] slightly to the side

it would still have blocked vehicles without blocking me.”

After several weeks the council moved the barricade and apologised. A spokesperson said: “The concrete barriers were placed to prevent illegal encampments; unfortunately their positioning prevented wheelchair access to the park at that entrance.

“These barriers have now been moved. We would like to apologise to anyone inconvenienced by this.”

### PONDERS END

## Complaint over timetable changes

TIMETABLE CHANGES AT PONDERS End Station have been slammed as “unacceptable”.

Rail company Greater Anglia made adjustments to its timetable following the launch of a shuttle service from Meridian Water to Stratford – with fewer trains from Liverpool Street stopping at Ponders End each

evening, forcing people to change at Brimsdown in Zone 6. More trains now start from Stratford instead.

Writing to transport watchdog London Travelwatch, Philip Ridley from Enfield Transport Users Group said: “It is completely unacceptable. My commute was once a convenient 17-minute service, twice an hour. It

has now turned into a nightmare, as if I had moved to Hertfordshire with a 44-minute journey and a need to pay for Zone 6 tickets – completely unacceptable.”

Greater Anglia apologised to passengers for any inconvenience but said the changes were made to reduce congestion and improve punctuality.

### WINCHMORE HILL

## Network Rail apologises to residents

NETWORK RAIL HAS APOLOGISED for a “lack of communication” over work to install new fencing at the rear of people's gardens.

Work on the railway embankment started in September but later stopped after Hoppers Road

residents complained they hadn't been notified of work adjacent to their properties.

A Network Rail spokesperson said: “We apologise for the lack of clear communication about work to upgrade fencing near

Winchmore Hill Station. This was not good enough.

“Work on this project has been postponed. Network Rail will write to residents in the area to provide information about the project prior to work restarting.”

### EDMONTON

## More buses for hospital

BUS SERVICES AT NORTH Middlesex University Hospital are set to be improved.

Transport for London (TfL) has opened a consultation on replacing the W10 bus between Crews Hill and Enfield Town with a new service, the 456, which would run from Crews Hill to North Middlesex, via Enfield Town and Winchmore Hill.

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, in a written response to a question from Joanne McCartney, the London

Assembly member for Enfield and Haringey, has also said the 491 could be re-routed via the hospital.

Joanne welcomed the news. She said: “Having campaigned for better transport links to our local hospitals for a number of years, I welcome TfL's plans. It is vital that patients and their families are able to easily access reliable transport links.”

To take part in the public consultation on the new route go to [consultations.tfl.gov.uk/buses/route-456](https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/buses/route-456)

### ENFIELD TOWN

## Security cameras installed

TEN NEW CCTV CAMERAS have been installed by Enfield Council in the area around Holly Walk and St Andrew's Church.

It follows a number of incidents in the area, some of which involved knife crime. Nneka Keazor, cabinet member for community safety, said: “We had to take positive steps to

help reduce crime in this area and restore confidence.

“Following some concerning incidents involving a small number of people, we engaged with members of the public to see what we could do to reassure and protect them. The number one request of the council was for CCTV. We have listened and delivered.”

### ENFIELD LOCK

## Uncollected waste

BY SIMON ALLIN,  
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

RUBBISH WAS LEFT STREWN across a street after black bin rounds were missed for three weeks.

Neighbours in Newport Close had to put up with the unhygienic conditions because cars parked at the entrance to the cul-de-sac stopped Enfield Council's bin lorries from getting through. Resident Sinasi Aydemir said: “We

can't store rubbish bags in our houses, so we put them by the side of the road. Everyone has ten to 15 bags now. A fox came in the night and made a mess – now I can't let my son play in front of my house. Some people park their cars at the entrance, half on the pavement and half on the road. They leave their cars and walk to the train station. “Something needs to be done, but the council just ignore it.”

A council spokesperson said: “We are aware there have been access issues. The cars blocking the entrance are parked legally, but we will be looking at ways we can mitigate this issue. In the meantime, we have made arrangements for a smaller vehicle to complete the collections.”





More than 80 different netball teams play regularly at Broomfield Park



# Cash boost for netball league

## Quarter-of-a-million pounds set to be spent on renovating courts in Palmers Green

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Broomfield Park in Palmers Green will continue to be the home of netball in North London thanks to a £100,000 grant from Sport England.

Enfield Council will use the money to help renovate nine existing courts at the park, currently used by 80 teams and more than 1,000 players every year. The North London Netball League (NLNL) has been based at Broomfield Park since 1950.

The money from Sport England will be added to the £150,000 already received from the London Marathon Charitable Trust. Before renovation can begin, however, plans for the project will need to

win planning approval. The council is working with Historic England and other parties to ensure the improvements are sympathetic to the surrounding landscape.

Maria Mitchell, from North London Netball League (NLNL), said: "We're delighted that both Sport England and London Marathon Charitable Trust have awarded grant funding to enable the redevelopment of the netball courts in Broomfield Park. We look forward to working with Enfield Council to see the renovations completed. "As the North London Netball League approaches its 70th anniversary, it's great to know our teams will be able to play their sport for many years to come on decent and

safe courts in Palmers Green.

"Netball is growing in popularity and on match day in Broomfield Park it really is fantastic to see so many girls and women playing the sport they love.

"Hopefully the improved facilities will allow us to bring all the physical and mental health benefits of playing a team sport to even more women in North London."

It is hoped that participation in netball will increase by a fifth within two years of the new facilities being completed. Works on the site, if the plans are approved, are expected to start in late spring and finish by September 2020.

Mahtab Uddin, the council's cabinet member for public health, added: "We are keen to promote both netball and tennis as fully inclusive activities that can help improve people's health and wellbeing in a positive and encouraging atmosphere.

"As well as supporting the NLNL, we hope to start a new walking netball programme for those who perhaps are new to the sport or are not as active. In addition, our 'Back to Netball' programme will re-introduce the sport to those who have not played for some time."



# Black and white support

Andrew Warshaw on how Enfield Town FC is committed to supporting the local community

Enfield Town FC has, from time to time since its formation, supported a preferred local charity – invariably one which provides services that reflect the community ethos of the club.

The Enfield Town board recently decided that the club will link up with a different locally-based group for the duration of a whole season and for the current season the chosen charity partner would be Zebras Children and Adults' Charity.

Zebras aim to support both children and adults with disabilities to live the way they choose. The charity believes it is important that if you have a disability you must be given the chance to get the most out of life. Crucially, Enfield Town's disability team will in particular benefit from Zebras' input. "I've been very keen for a long time for the club to have a link with an Enfield-based charity," says club director Dave Bryant, who helped drive the new partnership. "Zebras fits in with our ethos of being an inclusive club.

"We've had one-off arrangements in the past but the idea is to promote a local charity every season, as long as it has a clear Enfield dimension. It wouldn't necessarily be an exclusive deal and we'd still be open to working with others, but it's the first time we've identified a charity partner to focus our attention on a particular enterprise.

"In future it could be any char-

ity in Enfield, whether it be refugees living in the borough, the homeless, or cancer sufferers. It's of mutual benefit because it also helps promote our existence and hopefully brings in more fans."

Among Zebras' initiatives are helping people gain employment experience, improving health and wellbeing, building confidence and self-esteem, alleviating the effects of poverty for individuals, families and carers; and diminishing stigma, inequality, abuse and discrimination.

The charity's relationship with the club will include the provision of space at a number of home matches during the course of the season for Zebras to promote itself and raise funds. In October, Zebras were invited to the Cheshunt 'local derby' game at Queen Elizabeth II Stadium where over £100 was raised and a Zebra outfit was used by the mascot.

Harriet Piercy and Jamie Ashton, founders of Zebras, could not disguise their excitement at being selected. "We are very proud of the work we do in our borough which is far and wide-reaching for such a small charity with only a handful of volunteers," they said. "This has been a great year so far and we are very much looking forward to working with Enfield Town."

**For more information about Zebras Children and Adults' Charity:**

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



Enfield Town FC's Marc Weatherstone (centre) with Zebras Children and Adults' Charity co-founder Jamie Ashton (zebra costume)



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