

ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº. 16 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

JAN 2020



This new variety of snowdrop was recently discovered at Myddelton House Gardens in Enfield – and locals are being invited to name it. Suggestions for what the new snowdrop should be called can be sent to myddeltonhousegardens@leevalleypark.org.uk with a winner being announced at the park's 'Ultimate Snowdrop Sale' on Saturday 25th January.

Government urged to commit to Crossrail 2

Experts doubt whether major rail project will go ahead

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

A proposed new railway through Enfield could “transform” the borough and “increase people's quality of life” – but there are growing doubts over whether it will be built.

Crossrail 2 is planned to add significant extra capacity to the West Anglia Main Line in the east of the borough and provide a regular, direct rail service to south-west London, via the West End. A second branch of the route could terminate at New Southgate.

However, delays and cost overruns

to Crossrail 1, which had been due to open in 2018 but will not start running for at least another year, has sapped enthusiasm for a second major rail link through the capital.

A conference hosted last month by the Policy Forum for London brought together several experts in major public infrastructure projects to discuss progress on Crossrail 2 – with a speaker from Enfield Council invited to highlight the benefits it would bring to the borough.

The Congress Centre in central London heard that shifting political priorities and concerns over funding sources had put Crossrail 2 at risk.

But Neeru Kareer, head of strategic planning and design at Enfield Council, told the audience the £30billion project still had huge potential.

Neeru said: “We suffer from economic and social deprivation. Improved connections to London would secure employment opportunities and affordable housing for previously excluded communities. “Crossrail 2 is about transformative impact and at the heart of that is reducing inequality. It would realise the ambitions of our residents.”

Neeru warned that the local authority “could not plan in a vacuum” and needed to see a firm commitment to Crossrail 2 from

the government. Doing so would also “propel delivery” at the council's flagship housing redevelopment scheme, Meridian Water, where the council wants to build 10,000 homes.

She added: “The opportunities that Crossrail 2 present would enable us to increase people's quality of life.”

Political priorities have shifted since the current Crossrail 2 plans were first announced in 2013, however. Neither Labour nor the Conservatives mentioned the project in their election manifestos, with both parties instead keen to show

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they were prioritising infrastructure in the north of England. Ongoing delays to Crossrail 1, which will be known as the Elizabeth Line when it eventually opens, have also spooked potential investors.

Manish Gupta, a corporate finance partner at Ernst and Young, spelt out the difficulties. He said: "Crossrail 1 was estimated at £16bn but is now costing £20bn. It was supposed

to open in 2018 but is now scheduled for 2021 or 2022. Until a couple of years ago it was seen as an exemplar of big infrastructure projects. Today everyone associated with it wants to disassociate themselves from it.

"Crossrail 2 is even more challenging. There is a government requirement for 50% of funding to come from private sources – for Crossrail 1 it was 25%. When Crossrail 2 was first approved there was a pro-London lobby in government. Today there is

a debate about London versus the north.

"How do we get over that challenge? Something equally big needs to be sanctioned for the north."

Although the cost-benefit ratio for Crossrail 2 is said to be strong, Manish warned that it would likely need four times as much private finance as Crossrail 1, given the sizeable difference in their budgets. "We have to show that it makes sense," he added.

If built, Crossrail 2 would serve Meridian Water, Ponders End, Brimsdown and Enfield Lock stations with regular trains every five minutes, although these would not begin until the 2030s. At the Policy Forum for London event the panel of experts was asked by the *Dispatch* for their views on how likely it was that Crossrail 2 would still happen. Two said they thought it was inevitable, but two others expressed doubts.

Richard Bull, a legal director and parliamentary agent for Pinsent Masons, said: "A member of the government told me that he fears political support is draining away – unless the costs are properly managed it will be difficult."

David Gordon, chair of the London branch of the Institute of Directors, added: "The risks of it not happening are quite high."



Council sets out homelessness strategy

BY SIMON ALLIN,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

An ambitious plan to end homelessness in Enfield has been approved by Enfield Council's key decision makers.

The local authority will focus on intervening early to stop people from becoming homeless, so it no longer needs to place residents in temporary accommodation. It sees the private rental sector as a solution to the homelessness problem and aims to boost supply using the council-owned company, Housing Gateway.

Described as a "step change" in approach by council leader Nesil Caliskan, the new Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy was approved by cabinet members last month. The report says the rate of homelessness in Enfield has soared by 250%

since 2011 – partly because of government welfare reforms such as Universal Credit and caps on benefits.

Enfield has the second-highest number of people in temporary accommodation in the country and had the fourth-highest rough sleeper count in London in 2018. The main cause of homelessness in the borough is eviction from private rented sector accommodation.

Council staff now plan to use data to identify residents who are at risk of becoming homeless and intervene "at the earliest opportunity" before problems start to snowball. Working alongside the voluntary sector, it will ensure residents have training and support before their tenancies start and are aware of their rights and responsibilities.

Rather than paying private landlords incentives to let their properties, the council plans to

fund the deposit and month's rent in advance for people who cannot do so themselves. Ending the use of temporary accommodation to house people who have become homeless is expected to save the council more than £1million per year. Cllr Caliskan said: "This is a step change – it is different to what the administration was doing and indicates we are going in another direction."

"Part of that is acknowledging the private sector is here and it is not serving residents well. We have to engage with the private rented sector far earlier than we do."

"What this strategy says is if you think you are going to become homeless, it is okay to go to John Wilkes House and say you need help before you get an eviction notice."

"This strategy says prevention is the best thing we can do as a local authority."

Budget gap

BY SIMON ALLIN,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Mounting cost pressures may force Enfield Council to dip into its reserves to balance the books.

The council needs to plug a £1.5million budget gap during the next financial year because of growing demand for adult and children's social care as well as an inability to make some of the savings it had planned.

The budget gap has been reduced since October, when it was £3.3m, but if further cash cannot be found the council will have to use some of its £39m reserves. Local authorities are required by law to balance their budgets – if they fail the government can take control of spending.

A medium-term financial plan was discussed at a cabinet meeting last month. Mary Maguire, cabinet member for finance and procurement, said: "We have invested more money in adults' and children's social care... A further review has identified new pressures, which is why the budget gap is bigger than was forecast."

Bid to block incinerator rejected

Protests against a new incinerator in Edmonton are continuing despite campaigners losing a legal bid to block the project.

In November the Stop the Edmonton Incinerator campaign argued its case at the High Court, claiming the climate emergencies declared by local authorities meant its environmental impact should be re-examined.

Although it was rejected, in December green groups protested outside a North London Waste Authority (NLWA) meeting in Camden, where the seven councils wanting to use the new incinerator met to discuss plans to burn up to 850,000 tonnes of waste every year for 25 years.

Anissa Connor from Extinction Rebellion Enfield was one of those protesting. She said: "A new incinerator with greater capacity is not consistent with declaring a climate emergency. Incineration creates a perverse benefit to generating more combustible waste and reduces incentives to invest in schemes encouraging waste prevention, recycling, composting and reuse."

NLWA says the new incinerator will help power 127,000 homes.

Labour holds Enfield seats despite national losses

James Cracknell reports from the general election count at Lee Valley Athletics Centre



Feryal Clark is the new MP for Enfield North

All three of Enfield's parliamentary seats returned Labour MPs to Westminster at December's general election, despite a bleak result for the party nationally. Bambos Charalambous shook off his long-time Conservative rival David Burrowes in Enfield Southgate, winning by a similar margin to his shock victory in 2017 and vowing to "protect constituents from a hard Brexit".

Enfield North now has a new representative in parliament, Feryal Clark, who won the seat back for Labour after the defection of former MP Joan Ryan earlier this year. Feryal, Labour's first Kurdish MP, said she was "humbled" to win the seat.

In Edmonton Kate Osamor once again romped home to victory,

even though her majority was nearly 9% lower this time around. Reflecting on a mixed night of emotions, newly-elected Enfield North MP Feryal Clark told the *Dispatch*: "I fought this campaign as a new candidate, knocking on doors three times a day, and we had hundreds of activists helping us. I took nothing for granted.

"I am a fighter and I will fight for Enfield North"

"But with another Tory government for five years and a hard Brexit, I have got a huge job to do. I hoped the outcome would be different but I am a fighter and I will fight for Enfield North."

Feryal is currently a councillor in Hackney but says she now plans to move to Enfield to focus on

being a local MP.

Joanne Laban won an increased vote share for the Conservatives in Enfield North, while still being beaten. She said: "The consolation is waking up in the morning with Boris Johnson in Number 10."

At the end of another closely fought contest in Enfield Southgate, a marginal for many years, Bambos Charalambous said he was "honoured" to win. He told the *Dispatch*: "I am always cautious on election days but the responses we were getting on the doorstep were very positive. We worked hard.

"Labour needs to reflect on what has happened around the country and not make any rash judgments. Labour's Brexit message may have been too much for the northern seats and the Tories got

their act together."

Bambos had earlier said he was "deeply honoured" to be re-elected by voters who had "rejected the politics of division".

In defeat, David Burrowes joked that it was now "2-2" between him and Bambos in general election campaigns and wondered if "we should have a decider". The Conservative candidate added that he was still happy because "the referendum result will now be respected".

Edmonton saw the biggest fall in the Labour vote share across Enfield's three seats, but there was never any danger of the constituency turning blue. Kate Osamor said in her victory speech: "Politics has become toxic so I am thankful for a clean fight in Edmonton.

"The problems in this country will get worse with a hard

Brexit, but I will continue to fight Edmonton's corner."

Rival James Hockney said: "Being a Conservative in Edmonton is a tough challenge but I am humbled to get 10,000 votes. I congratulate Kate."

The total voter turnout across Enfield for this election was 66.7%, compared to 70.6% in 2017.

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Edmonton

Kate Osamor, Labour: 26,217 votes | 65% (-6.5%)

James Hockney, Conservative: 10,202 votes | 25.3% (+2.2%)

David Schmitz, Liberal Democrats: 2,145 votes | 5.3% (+3.4%)

Benjamin Maydon, Green: 862 votes | 2.1% (+0.7%)

Sachin Sehgal, Brexit Party: 840 votes | 2.1%

Sabriye Warsame, Independent: 75 votes | 0.2%

Turnout: 61.58%

Enfield Southgate

Bambos Charalambous, Labour: 22,923 votes | 48.5% (-3.2%)

David Burrowes, Conservative: 18,473 votes | 39.1% (-3.6%)

Rob Wilson, Liberal Democrats: 4,344 votes | 9.2% (+5.2%)

Luke Balnave, Green: 1,042 votes | 2.2% (+0.6%)

Parag Shah, Brexit Party: 494 votes | 1%

Turnout: 72.34%

Enfield North

Feryal Clark, Labour: 23,340 votes | 51.8% (-6.2%)

Joanne Laban, Conservative: 16,848 votes | 37.4% (+0.5%)

Guy Russo, Liberal Democrats: 2,950 votes | 6.5% (+4.4%)

Isobel Whittaker, Green: 1,115 votes | 2.5% (+1.3%)

Ike Ijeh, Brexit Party: 797 votes | 1.8%

Turnout: 66.15%

Time to take action

Francis Sealey from Enfield Voices introduces a new local campaign group aimed at tackling the climate emergency



A tree-planting event held last November at Weir Hall Park, Edmonton

The general election is over, the die has been cast and the Conservatives have a clear majority.

Although Brexit will dominate the next two years as we seek trade agreements, now is the time to tackle the one issue that will affect us, our children and especially our grandchildren – climate change.

Tackling climate change needs

to involve individuals, community groups, businesses as well as Enfield Council. As a result, Enfield Climate Action Forum (EnCaf) has been formed to galvanise our community to tackle an issue that could threaten life on our planet by the end of this century. We are told by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change that we have only ten or eleven years to make a difference

– we must start now.

Fifty local organisations have already expressed an interest in being involved in the forum, ranging from churches and mosques, to charitable and community organisations, social enterprises, pressure groups and social networks.

The forum plans to meet at least four times each year with a core committee co-ordinating activities and publishing regular newsletters. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd January at the Dugdale Centre.

The aim of the forum will be to create awareness about the urgency of climate change, to encourage co-operation between members, exchange knowledge and good practice, facilitate local civil society action and to monitor local authority plans to address climate change.

The council's Climate Emergency Task Force has now met twice – both times in secret. When they are discussing an issue that affects the whole community, this is unacceptable. We all need to collaborate together, especially after an election victory for a party that has not made climate change a priority.

According to Friends of the Earth research, Enfield's performance on reducing carbon emissions is poor compared to other local authority areas. They argue the borough particularly needs to do better on increasing use of public transport, cycling and walking, improving home insulation, and renewable energy. Researchers at the Tyndall Centre say Enfield should reduce emissions by at least 13% per year. This needs to be monitored by the whole community.

At Enfield Voices we interviewed the three winning election candidates about their views on climate change and hope to work with them in the next parliament. We are also creating a list of advisors and specialists to help steer us in developing community action and to advise on what steps the council should take.

This will be a critical year, where we will see how serious government, businesses and local councils are about limiting emissions.

View the latest EnCaf newsletter:
Visit clt1095668.bmeurl.co/973D4A7

If you know an organisation that might like to join EnCaf:
Email emergency@encaf.org

Greater than the sum

BY GARETH REES

I'm a local inventor and I recently launched an educational maths games app at the Dugdale Centre.

Myself and local entrepreneur Garry Kousoulou introduced the app, called 'SumW0rdZ', to local school-children and showed them how it could improve their arithmetic.

The app teaches children that making mistakes as they play can help them get better, because there are rewards and milestones that show them where and how they are improving. These are recorded on a leaderboard so they can see how they compare against other players.

We spoke to the children afterwards and all gave very positive feedback about how quickly they got better at arithmetic when using the app, even when they previously thought they were not any good at maths. They added

that they found it rewarding, challenging and addictive.

An additional function of the app is that it helps children's general knowledge and spelling in a fun, rewarding and challenging way. Words are selected from a choice of topics such as London Underground stations, Premier League football teams, American presidents and world rivers.

During the launch event we held an informal competition for multiple age groups and the winners won a signed SumW0rdZ certificate, plus promo codes allowing them to download all the themes and dice combos in the app.

The plan in the near future is to run more sessions in community spaces, perhaps including schools, and we hope to make SumW0rdZ available via app stores so it can be on as many phones as possible.

For more information about SumW0rdZ:
Visit gkrgames.co.uk



Children are introduced to SumW0rdZ at the Dugdale Centre last November

Making life easier

Janice Nunn from Enfield Dementia Action Alliance on how the borough is being made friendlier for people with dementia

Enfield borough has been recognised as a 'Dementia Friendly Community' by the Alzheimer's Society – a place where people with dementia are understood, respected, supported and can be confident of contributing to community life.

We launched Enfield Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) in 2013 and it now has a broad range of members, including voluntary organisations, community groups and local businesses. Enfield DAA arranges free dementia friends awareness sessions for local people at the Ruth Winston Centre in Palmers Green, plus local groups and churches including St Paul's in Edmonton, the local fire service, rotary club and other partners.

As part of the recognition process we carried out a local survey to identify what would help people living with dementia in the borough, in partnership with Healthwatch Enfield. The results were then put into an action plan for the present year. This included working with organisations regarding their signage – in particular the display of 'way out' signs in public toilets.

This is because people living with dementia can often get confused when they are out and about. While they can identify toilet signs they can't always find the way out when there are a lot of doors of the same colour.

The survey also showed that using public transport can prove challenging. Trying to identify the correct bus, finding out how to pay, and then knowing when to alight can mean some people simply don't go out. However, we're offering local transport organisations, such as taxi firms, one hour of free dementia friends awareness sessions so they can provide support for people living with dementia in Enfield.

If you own a local business or are involved with schools, colleges, health clubs, pharmacies, charities, community groups or other local organisations and would like to find out more about joining us in making a dementia-friendly Enfield, please get in touch!

For more information about Enfield Dementia Action Alliance:

Email venetta.hunt@ageukenfield.org.uk
Visit dementiaaction.org.uk/local-alliances/3470_enfield_dementia-action_alliance

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	Weds 22 Jan 7-9pm	St Peter's Church Hall, Bounces Road
Developing your idea (Workshop)	Sat 25 Jan 1-3pm	Westbourne Hall, Eastbournia Ave. N9 0RU
Info Sessions	Weds 12 Feb 10am-12pm	The Ark Montagu Road N9 0UR
	Mon 17 Feb 11am-1pm	Edmonton Green Library (First Floor)
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In good confidence

Pauline Ferguson tells James Cracknell why she is determined to help women into the world of work



Pauline Ferguson has previously worked as a social worker for 20 years

Women can face a unique set of challenges when entering the world of work – and Pauline Ferguson is determined to help them.

This year the former social worker is launching a series of workshops and coaching sessions designed to help empower women who may lack the confidence needed to approach potential employers and succeed in job interviews.

Pauline has identified several key factors that she says disproportionately affect women when they look for jobs; lack of self esteem, confidence, choice and hope all play a part in preventing women from making progress with their careers.

“I wanted to look at how to help women with no confidence who don't believe they can get a job,” Pauline tells me. “When I

was younger there were a lot of positive people around me who pushed me to go into work and that helped me to keep my focus and get to the level I did.

“I always remembered the people who helped me build my confidence and it became the backbone of everything I did. It was never easy but I think those people keep you going.”

After 20 years of being a social worker Pauline decided a few years ago to re-train as a psychotherapist, while also pursuing her passion of making jewellery and ceramics for sale at local markets.

With the support of UnLtd and Bontagu Big Local, Pauline is now determined to share her experience in the world of work to help

empower other women to chase their dreams.

“The women I have worked with say that I don't treat them like they are nothing, I respect them and show empathy.

“If you don't have that in your life it can be very difficult to gain that confidence you need. I have seen women with such low confi-

“They are not getting the help they need from the job centre”

dence that they don't even want to go to a training session. They are not getting the help they need from the job centre. I want to be that link between the two.”

Pauline began to run some taster sessions at The Ark in Edmonton

to see whether her empowerment techniques could make a difference for women who were struggling.

“They were for women interested in health and social care. Not only did they find it positive, there were women who decided to go on into education.

“I decided to continue working with women in groups and in one-to-one sessions in order to facilitate that change and help these women contribute to society.

“My project is going to offer a series of workshops for women, building their confidence. Some of them may have not had a job interview in ten years. Isolation is one of the biggest issues women face, when they have been out of work for a long time looking

after children, and I am devising a programme specifically to help them and overcome the challenges they face.”

Pauline is now working on a launch event for the project and is looking for other organisations she could partner with in Edmonton to help fund it in the long-term.

“In reality there are lots of training courses out there that job centres pay for but they are often not effective – I think this will make a difference.

“If there is anyone out there who wants to come in for training or wants to work with me and needs that support, let me know.”

A launch event for Infuzion 7 takes place Wednesday 22nd January at The Ark, Edmonton. For more information: Email infuzion7info@gmail.com

Earlier attempts to cut traffic in the Fox Lane area by installing planters at road entrances failed



Why I welcome low-traffic neighbourhoods

Palmers Green resident Adrian Day welcomes moves to cut traffic in his local area

If we are to address issues of climate change, pollution-related illnesses and deaths not to mention obesity, inactivity and road deaths from vehicles, we need interventions to change behaviours and reduce the dependence on cars.

There is plenty of noisy opposition to the new low-traffic neighbourhoods proposed by Enfield Council [Anger over council's low-traffic plan, Issue 15, Page 1], just as there was to the excellent cycle lanes. But those that are able need to be encouraged to walk more, cycle more and use public transport more often. To carry on as we have been doing is not an option.

The Fox Lane Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) group includes residents from 13 streets in the Fox Lane area of Palmers Green, who all welcome the active steps being taken to cut down on speeding vehicles and rat runners so that everyone can more readily walk and cycle around the neighbourhood.

For too long, drivers have been using these residential roads as a cut-through with recorded speeds regularly over 60mph. Thousands of vehicles use these back streets as a shortcut every

day. This traffic should be kept on the main roads where it belongs, so that people feel safe on the roads they live in and are happy to walk and cycle.

We're delighted that Enfield Council is bringing forward plans to tackle this issue properly. The issue of heavy and speeding traffic is not new – some residents have been campaigning about traffic problems in the area for 30 years. Unfortunately, a planters scheme trial in early 2019 – narrowing the entrance to each road with a large planter – failed

“Thousands of vehicles use these back streets as a shortcut every day”

to reduce traffic or speed.

Council monitoring shows that many roads face high levels of traffic, with around 42,000 vehicles a week using Fox Lane. Amberley Road has 4,300 cars per day and around 27,000 per week in a road of just 50 households. It is clear that the majority of these journeys are through-traffic rather than residential car journeys.

The Fox Lane LTN group does not agree with every detail of

the council's plans. Many of us would like fewer road closures than the 16 proposed. However, all members are in agreement of the principle of an area-wide plan to close 'rat runs' and we hope that the sticking points will be ironed out during the trial. We are encouraging all residents to share their views with the council about what they think will work.

Reducing the volume of traffic in the area will improve air quality and help more people consider walking and cycling and rely less on their cars for short journeys.

The same approach in Waltham Forest produced dramatic improvements in air quality and daily exercise among residents – and showed that the surrounding road network can cope with changes to vehicle journeys.

Low-traffic neighbourhoods are now being proposed by several boroughs across London. As Enfield looks to roll out its own low-traffic neighbourhoods, it is great that we are able to play our role in finding out what works best.

For more information about the council's quieter neighbourhoods plan:
Visit cycleenfield.co.uk/quieter-neighbourhoods

Council must save our school

A plea from a parent of a pupil at Bowes Southgate Green

Bowes Southgate Green School is an 'outstanding' primary school located on a temporary site.

Our lease expires in 2023 and the school needs to find a permanent home as a matter of urgency. The local community needs more, not fewer primary schools. Bowes Southgate Green Parent Action Group would like to see a permanent site for the school secured as soon as possible.

Enfield Council is ultimately responsible for the education of the borough's children. They

initiated the creation of the school back in 2014 and have been involved in the process and discussions about a permanent site ever since.

The school launched with its own head-teacher, uni-

form and admissions policy. It was promised its own permanent site and 'bulge' funding from the council. But after the original idea for a site at Grovelands fell through, nothing further was done to secure a permanent site, leaving the school hanging.

In the meantime, the school became an academy to be able to fundraise and maintain its high academic standards. It has been settling and thriving on a purpose-built temporary site within the campus of Broomfield School.

It was last summer when, as parents, we realised the school's future was under threat. We started our campaign, with a petition that was signed by more than 1,000 parents, leading to meetings and discussions with all parties involved to find a solution.

South-west Enfield, where the school is based, is in desperate need of primary school places. All other schools in the area have long waiting lists. The council's own figures regarding

2019 admissions show that Bowes Southgate Green has a waiting list, while 23 of the 25 schools in Enfield with a "small number of places available" are in Edmonton – four miles away.

As a parent group, we have met with Enfield Learning Trust, Broomfield School and Enfield Council on numerous occasions. They have all agreed that there is a need for the school and a permanent site.

At a September meeting we discussed options regarding a permanent site, with the council committing on a number of

actions to take the matter forward towards a solution.

Unfortunately, since then, the process has been somewhat stuck. It has been disheartening and extremely frustrating. All we want is to

secure a permanent site for a much-needed primary school in our local area. It is the council's responsibility, we find ourselves driving an extremely cumbersome process.

A school requires resources, time and energy to be developed and established. We have that here at Bowes Southgate Green. Is the council prepared to jeopardise this and sit back while it all goes to waste – only to have to restart all over again in a few years when the pressure for local primary spaces reaches unattainable levels? Where is the council's accountability when they're expecting local families to travel, daily, with their children, four miles to Edmonton?

We urge the council to follow through with their commitment to work with the government, Enfield Learning Trust and Broomfield School to find a permanent site for our outstanding school that is well established in the community – before it's too late.

“All we want is to secure a permanent site for a much-needed primary school”

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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 before the next deadline on Tuesday 21st January.

Help needed

Dear Enfield Dispatch

The Parker Centre is a specialist day centre for older people with dementia, where clients enjoy a range of activities and events in a safe and supportive environment. Some people are fairly active, enjoying exercise classes, a dementia choir group and arts and crafts, whereas some are frail, needing higher levels of care. The centre runs with a team of experienced staff, supported by dedicated volunteers, which creates a caring, fun and creative setting for nearly 100 older people each year – it really is a special place.

However, the centre's beautiful ex-library building is in a state of disrepair. High ceilings mean that we need assistance from a company with specialist equipment and experience to help transform this building into an inspirational space. Can you help? The clients, as well as staff and volunteers who work so hard, deserve this. Please email venetta.hunt@ageukenfield.org.uk.

Venetta Hunt
Age UK Enfield

End cuts

Dear Enfield Dispatch

City Hall recently released a report exploring the link between the government's welfare reforms and rising levels of homelessness. Cuts to local housing allowance, the benefit cap and roll-out of the 'bedroom tax' and Universal Credit have plunged many people into huge rent arrears and, in some cases, on to the streets.

The precarious living situations of most vulnerable families in our community have been exacerbated by increases in rents and the costs of living. If the government is serious about achieving its aim of ending homelessness by 2027, it needs to listen to charities and reconsider a number of the damaging changes.

A good start would be abolishing the five-week wait for Universal Credit first payments. We also need to see the government act to strengthen tenants' rights in an often harsh and unforgiving private rented sector by swiftly abolishing Section 21 evictions.

Joanne McCartney
London Assembly Member for Enfield

Road rage

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Car-hating Enfield Council held a public exhibition of new proposals to close roads in Palmers Green connecting Fox Lane with Aldermans Hill and Bourne Hill. The only ways into and out of this area for cars would be via Fox Lane, which would be blocked off halfway along its length. Only W8 buses would be allowed to enter and leave Cranleigh Gardens at its junction with Bourne Hill.

The thinking is that the problems caused by through traffic are so bad that it should be eliminated completely. The huge amount of inconvenience this would cause to residents and visitors to the area does not seem to have been considered. The amount of increased traffic on the main roads, and longer queues of stationary vehicles, will increase air pollution.

It looks like Enfield Council is up to its old tricks again. Just like when it used every device it could think of to bulldoze through the Green Lanes cycle lanes.

Robert Taylor
Federation of Enfield Residents'
and Allied Associations

Car chaos

Dear Enfield Dispatch

I write to express my dismay at the disinformation, propaganda and absurd proposals put out by Enfield Council under the banner 'Fox Lane Area Quieter Neighbourhood'. I have lived on the Lakes Estate for over 30 years. No letter or formal notice of these proposals has been received. Is a general notice affixed to the local lamp-post adequate notice for the council's proposals to implement such radical changes to this estate? Where are the rules set out for notifying residents?

The proposals will massively affect all car journeys. From my house to reach Aldermans Hill 300 yards away would become a trip of 2.5 miles up to Southgate Circus and back down. Any journey to the North Circular will involve two additional miles and 30 minutes extra when traffic is busy, with additional congestion created along the route, and of course added pollution and stress.

These appalling proposals are being pushed through with little consultation.

Mel Kirkland
Derwent Road, Palmers Green

Local campaign group opposes NHS merger



NHS England claims local people do not need to be consulted on the CCG merger

BY SIMON ALLIN,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Local campaigners are warning a major healthcare shake-up affecting Enfield is part of the “privatisation” of the NHS.

Members of a group called Defend Enfield NHS say a decision to merge the borough’s clinical commissioning group (CCG) with four neighbouring CCGs will lead to patient care being increasingly based on cost rather than need and more private firms being used for NHS contracts.

CCGs were set up in 2012 and can buy in services from private health companies as well as NHS providers. Enfield CCG is now merging with groups in Barnet, Islington, Camden and Haringey to form the giant North Central London CCG. This is part of creating an integrated care system (ICS) involving the NHS working closely with councils and other organisations to “help people live healthier lives for longer and stay out of hospital when they do not need to be there”, according to the NHS England website.

Defend Enfield NHS activist Martin Blanchard, a retired medical academic and NHS consultant, claims the new system would be designed to “keep people away from expensive care” such as GPs and A&E departments. He said: “The idea is to reduce spend as the population grows and keep people away from expensive care.”

Fellow campaigner Marion Judd,

a former NHS physiotherapist, added: “Access to GPs is going to become more difficult. It will lead to patients needing operations such as hip replacements waiting much longer for treatment, placing pressure on them to consider taking out private health insurance to

access earlier treatment.”

The campaigners believe the CCG merger is part of an ongoing privatisation of the NHS. Martin added: “NHS England has a list of registered organisations allowed to provide support to set up and run the ICSs. Out of 83 listed, only seven are NHS organisations. The rest are private companies and 23 are from the USA. The public has not been consulted about this – they are doing it behind our backs.”

An NHS spokesperson said: “The single CCG will continue to work closely with local authorities, NHS providers, GPs, voluntary and community organisations at a borough level to deliver high-quality, accessible health and care services for residents, improve outcomes and reduce health inequalities across north London.

“Patients, service users, carers and residents will continue to be central to the development of plans at both the North Central London ICS level and borough-based integrated care partnership level.

“Patients and residents will continue to be represented on appropriate committees.”

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Book an appointment if you have received an invitation letter for cervical screening and you're registered with an Enfield GP practice.

You can book directly with a GP/ practice nurse at your usual surgery during their opening hours.



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www.enfield.gov.uk/HealthyEnfield

ENFIELD
Council

Raising awareness of cancer

Free cancer awareness sessions now available for community groups, writes Emma Friddin from Healthwatch Enfield

Do you currently organise or attend a community group in Enfield or deliver services to local residents?

If you think people in your group would be interested in hearing about how they can reduce their risk of getting cancer, get in touch and book your group in for one of our free ‘Talk Cancer’ awareness sessions.

Our fully trained facilitators can visit groups of five or more to deliver a one-hour session to help your members learn how to reduce their risk of getting cancer; learn why early diagnosis is important; and learn about NHS screening programmes.

At the beginning of 2019 we spoke to more than 600 of you about your knowledge of cancer awareness. Half of you told us that you wanted to learn more about prevention awareness through face-to-face events in Enfield. We listened to your feedback – these sessions are the result.

Last year we worked alongside Enfield Council and Cancer Research to develop our Talk Cancer programme and deliver interactive cancer awareness sessions within the local community, just like you asked. Over the last few months we have travelled across the borough hosting Talk Cancer sessions and have been attending local community groups and social groups to help Enfield residents learn more about how to reduce their risk of cancer, the importance of early diagnosis and make sure they understand the value of the cancer screening programmes the NHS currently provides.

Feedback on our sessions so far has been positive, with almost all attendees reporting that the session helped them learn more about cancer, while also giving them the opportunity to ask questions and dispel any myths that they may have about cancer.

This year we want to make sure that all local community organisations in Enfield have the opportunity to attend a Talk Cancer session. So don’t miss out, book your session today! Dates are available until May 2020 and our fully trained facilitators will adapt our session to the needs of your group.

healthwatch
Enfield

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

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FIRST CLASS FREE!

Do you have any New Years Resolutions?
Why not try one of the 22 fitness classes
we run each week across Enfield

Keeping fit and active can help you stay happy and healthy; improving circulation, reducing the risk of falls, lowering blood pressure, and preventing diabetes, as well as being really good fun!

From Senior Circuits to Zumba Gold, gentle country walks to Aqua Aerobics, there really is something for everyone at Age UK Enfield's Fit for Life project. Classes are often followed by refreshments to help you unwind after the class and socialise with other members.

Plus – your first class is free! So no excuses, get in touch to find out what is available in your area. Classes are £4, walks a voluntary donation of £1.

For more information, please contact the Fit for Life team
on 020 8375 4120 or admin@ageukenfield.org.uk
or visit www.ageukenfield.org.uk

Age UK Enfield is the trading name of Age Concern Enfield, Company number 3352062 Registered charity number 1063696

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At Stitch! you can learn how to make a quilt, among many other craft skills

Have a crafty new year

Suzanne Kelly from Stitch! wants more people to learn how to make and mend

Throughout Enfield and north London a fast-growing number of people are devoting more and more of their spare time to learning how best to 'make and mend'.

They range from crafters of all ages who want to gain new skills and be creative, to busy mums eager to make or mend their own clothes as a more sustainable alternative to the disposable fashion trends from online retailers and the high street.

If your new year resolution is to learn a new skill, or take a refresher course, Stitch! has a range of workshops for all levels, from beginners to experts. We are a social enterprise set up last May and based in Green Lanes, Palmers Green.

Among the new classes for 2020 is a course on how to repair your jeans using the skill of visible mending. Denim is one of the world's most resource-hungry fabrics to make. Our latest classes teach you how to

give your jeans a longer life. You'll learn how to darn them using the Japanese art of 'shashiko'.

Weekly sew and make classes will also restart on Wednesday 8th January. You can choose a simple item or garment you would like to make and Stitch's resident expert seamstress Pat Stevens will be on hand

11th January to 1st February); a similar quilting course for intermediates (Wednesday 15th January to 5th February); a two-part crochet lesson for beginners (Thursday 9th January and 16th January or Friday 17th January and 24th January); plus a mosaics class for beginners and improvers, with expert Alex MacHallam (Sunday 19th January, 10am-4pm).

Whatever takes your fancy, we hope you'll join us and learn something new in 2020. The Stitch! team are also actively recruiting volunteers to work in the shop and gain experience in a friendly, creative environment – please get in touch if you are interested.

For more information about Stitch! craft classes and volunteering either drop into the shop at 379 Green Lanes, Palmers Green, or contact us online:

Facebook @N13crafts
Instagram @Stitch_n13
Tweet @StitchN13
Visit stitch.org.uk

“Among the new classes for 2020 is a course on how to repair your jeans”

each Wednesday between 1pm and 2.30pm to guide you through the sewing process. This is a continuously running class which you can book from week to week.

Other classes on offer include our improvers knitting sessions, designed to develop skill, technique and confidence (Wednesday 8th and 15th January, 11am-1pm); our beginners quilting course running over four weeks (Saturday

Make a fresh start in 2020

Jo Johnson from Love Your Doorstep on how to stick to those new year resolutions

Happy New Year from all of us at Love Your Doorstep! Now that we're the other side of the festive season, thoughts turn to the year ahead.

Our online community forum gets flooded with requests related to new year resolutions and fortunately we have plenty of businesses that can help with these; whether it's keeping fit, taking up a hobby, de-cluttering or quitting a habit.

If fitness is high on your agenda there really is something for everyone. If you want one-to-one fitness training one of our personal trainers can assist; we also have plenty of groups and classes including zumba, kick-boxing, yoga, Thai boxing, outdoor training and trampoline classes.

Another important focus is self-care. On offer are mindfulness workshops, meditation, hypnotherapy and even gong sound therapy! For some, self-care is about spending time doing the things we love or seeking inspiration from something new. There are art groups, choirs and even dance sessions for adults, if any of those take your fancy. And remember that there's entertainment all year-round in Enfield so you might want to look at booking a comedy show, live music or a play at one of our local venues.

High up on the list of plans for the new year are often home improvements. The festive period gives people a chance to reflect on potential work that needs doing around their home – we have a wide range of trades people including painter/decorators, handy people, builders, electricians, plumbers and more. Many of us use this period to also have a thorough sort out, but if you can't face taking on the job yourself we have professional de-cluttering people who will come and assist you!

Many of the things that take up space in your home may no longer serve a purpose, but could be welcomed by one of our many local charities or services. This leads us on to another new year goal – volunteering. There are so many wonderful charities and projects locally that can't operate without our community giving up a little bit of their spare time. This includes our community patrol!

Whatever your goals may be for the new year, Love Your Doorstep can help.

For more information about Love Your Doorstep: Visit loveyourdoorstep.co.uk

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Textphone users please call 18001 020 8379 5212

www.enfield.gov.uk/safeguardingadults



The only way is upcycling

Patricia Graham's creative use of an old armchair won plaudits at the London Upcycling Show



A creative Enfield resident who turned a tatty 70-year-old chair into a work of art using only recycled materials has won a top prize at the London Upcycling Show.

Patricia Graham saw potential in the unwanted Parker Knoll armchair and didn't want it to be thrown away – instead creating

a portrait inspired by the 1950s. “As I pulled layers of the chair back, it was like revealing a story,” Patricia explained, “The type of person able to afford a chair like that in 1950, directly post-war, was probably quite wealthy. Hence, the lady that I've tried to put on it, she's sort of 'glamorous Fifties'.

“The fabric is from somebody's sheet, interior designer samples and some bits and pieces from school. There's bits of the community in it and it's a story in itself.”

North London Waste Authority (NLWA), which co-ordinates waste disposal across Enfield and neighbouring boroughs, helps organise the London Upcycling Show as a way to promote recycling. Research by NLWA suggests that Britons are keeping 69 million items of “unloved furniture” despite much of it still being in good condition.

Patricia's creative use of an old chair won top prize in the armchair category at the show in November. London Upcycling Show judge and TV presenter Tommy Walsh said: “Upcycling is a fantastic way to breathe new life into a plain – or plain ugly – piece of furniture and it's much easier than people think. For relatively little effort or cost you can create a beautiful piece that's totally unique to your home.”

Get more advice about re-using old furniture:

Visit wiseuptowaste.org.uk

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 by Tuesday 21st January.

MEETING

The Enfield Transport Circle

Tuesday 7th January, 8pm–10pm
Enfield Drill Hall, 1 Old Park Avenue,
Enfield EN2 6PJ

We are a friendly group of local transport enthusiasts who have been meeting on a monthly basis since 1971. This month's meeting is a presentation by Doug Fairhurst on major changes in UK railway lines and bus networks.

Free entry

Visit tetc.btck.co.uk

PANTO

TEO Theatre presents 'Aladdin'

Wednesday 8th to Sunday 12th
January, various times
Waterhouse Hall, 77 Compton Road,
Winchmore Hill N21 3NU

The Enfield Outcasts Theatre Productions (TEO) is an amateur dramatics group established in 2016. Our panto this year is 'Aladdin'.

Children £7, adults £10

Email [boxoffice@](mailto:boxoffice@teo-theatre.org.uk)

teo-theatre.org.uk

Visit teo-theatre.org.uk/book

FILM

Talkies Community Cinema presents 'Making Waves'

Thursday 9th January, 7.45pm
Dugdale Centre, 39 London Road,
Enfield Town EN2 6DS

Director Midge Costin and her crew of predominantly female practitioners draw together interviews with filmmakers, editors and sound specialists to show just how crucial the craft of sound design is to the success of film.

Free entry

Visit enfieldmarket.co.uk

MARKET

Community Market

Saturday 11th January, 10am–4pm
Chickenshed Theatre, 290 Chase
Side, Cockfosters N14 4PE

Featuring crafts stalls including handmade glass, ceramics, jewellery and textiles, organic skin care products, retro furniture and vintage clothing.

Free entry

Visit chickenshed.org.uk

WRITING

Winchmore Hill Creative Writing Group

Sun 19th January, 1.30pm–5.30pm
Winchmore Hill Friends Meeting
House, 61 Church Hill N21 1LE

Enjoy creative writing? Looking for other writers to share ideas and feedback? Develop your skills with an experienced tutor by joining our writing group. We welcome beginners.

£25 per session

Email [christine@](mailto:christine@roomforherown.plus.com)
roomforherown.plus.com

TALK

Homes Fit For Heroes

Tuesday 21st January, 1.30pm
Dugdale Centre, 39 London Road,
Enfield Town EN2 6DS

Museum of Enfield presents Homes Fit For Heroes, a talk about about the centenary of Addison's Housing Act that had promised new homes for servicemen returning from the First World War.

Free entry

Visit dugdalecentre.co.uk

THEATRE

London Emek Theatre presents 'Yuzlerce Sabah'

Friday 31st January, 7.30pm
Millfield Theatre, Silver Street,
Edmonton N18 1PJ

This is the story of a family-run cafe and an elderly couple who are its regular customers. It is also the story of a myriad different characters who pass through the cafe day by day – depicting many different lives. This production will be in Turkish, with English subtitles.

£10 tickets

Visit millfieldtheatre.co.uk

ART

Enfield Art Circle

Wednesdays, 10am–12pm & 1pm–3pm
Enfield Chase Tennis Club, Mortimer
Drive, Enfield EN1 2LH

Regular art class run by Dolores Kitchener. Learn the techniques of art in a relaxed atmosphere with individual support. New members welcome.

£9.50 per class

Visit enfieldartcircle.org

AROUND THE BOROUGH

COCKFOSTERS

Wildlife classroom opens



The new wildlife learning centre at Trent Park has been funded by housing developer Berkeley

A NEW WILDLIFE LEARNING centre has opened in Trent Park.

The wildlife classroom is an interactive space for teaching people about the vast range of creatures found at Trent Park – including hedgehogs, smooth newts, common toads, frogs and grass snakes, as well as rare great crested newts.

Children from Merryhills Primary School and a team from the Wildlife Rescue and Ambulance Service

(WRAS) joined housing developer Berkeley at a launch event last month. WRAS provides a sanctuary at Trent Park for sick, injured, orphaned and trapped wild animals and birds, while Berkeley is building 270 homes on the former Middlesex University campus and agreed to fund the new wildlife classroom as part of its community investment.

Barry Smitherman, chair of trustees at WRAS, said: “We would like to

thank Berkeley for creating the new wildlife classroom. My wife June and I have been caring for local wildlife since 1992 and have given many talks on wildlife and their environment. We believe education is a very important part of saving and protecting our native wildlife.

“We hope the classroom will encourage more schools to visit us. It will also be rented by other groups to earn income for the charity.”

EDMONTON

Shelter for rough sleepers

BY SIMON ALLIN,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

HOMELESS PEOPLE WILL HAVE a safe and warm place to stay over the winter months thanks to a new shelter now open in Edmonton.

The shelter, in a converted building on the Claverings Industrial Estate, can sleep up to 20 people and provides breakfast and evening meals for guests. Open between 5pm and 9am, it features beds, shower rooms, kitchen areas, and male, female and disabled toilets.

One of the guests, a man in his 20s, said: “This shelter has allowed me the time and energy to focus on other areas and on sorting out some problems, giving me the opportunity to focus on the next stages of my life.”

In 2018, the borough had the fourth-highest number of rough sleepers in London and the seventh-highest in England, according to an Enfield Council report. The new shel-

ter is run by a charity called All People All Places and will remain open for six months. The Edmonton site was chosen because the area has a high number of rough sleepers and is close to council services, transport links and job opportunities.

Gina Needs, the council’s cabinet member for social housing, said: “There are too many people sleeping rough in London and Enfield Council is tackling the problem in this borough by opening a winter shelter to help those most in need. “We wanted the most vulnerable members of society in our borough provided with a warm, clean bed and a hot meal during the coldest part of the year.

“The winter shelter will play a vital role in helping Enfield Council get homeless people the vital help and support they need to find permanent accommodation and get the support they need to get their lives back on track.”

WINCHMORE HILL

Better access at reuse centre

BARROWELL GREEN RECYCLING Centre has opened its gates to pedestrians for the first time, making it easier to bring in old electrical items and furniture, as well as access the site’s second-hand shop, Revive.

A new pathway separating pedes-

trians from car traffic has been installed which will take people around the council-run recycling centre near Firs Farm. It previously only allowed residents to drop off their unwanted items by vehicle or bike.

Enfield Council’s cabinet member for environment, Guney Dogan, said: “We want to make recycling as simple as possible. The pedestrian walkways are safe and easy to navigate with clear signposting to all the different recycling areas. “Best of all, it’s now easier than ever to stop off at the Revive shop, where you can reuse items that could have otherwise been thrown away.”

Enfield residents can also drop off their garden waste at Barrowell Green, including Christmas trees.



Barrowell Green is the home of Revive, a second-hand shop

SOUTHGATE

Bank closure

CYNERGY BANK HAS ANNOUNCED its Chase Side branch will close in March.

This decision was made following a decline of in-branch transactions as more customers move to online banking. However, Cynergy Bank has an arrangement that allows customers to use HSBC branches to deposit cheques and cash into their Cynergy Bank accounts.

Will Swain, the company’s chief customer officer, said: “Falling levels of in-person customer activity means we will be closing our branch in Southgate. We are writing to all customers who have used the branch.”

SOUTHBURY

Green wall

GEORGE SPICER PRIMARY SCHOOL has installed a living ‘green wall’ to help protect pupils from air pollution.

The wall of ivy should reduce nitrogen dioxide in the school’s playground by up to 20%, as well as protect children from transport noise from the busy Southbury Road.

Enfield Council secured funding to install the green wall. Headteacher Dominic Spong said: “This has been something I have been very keen to see happen for everyone. Not only will it enhance the quality of the air for the children, but additional green plants are always aesthetically pleasing in built up environments.”

BUSH HILL PARK

Golf award

BUSH HILL PARK GOLF CLUB was named ‘Golf Club of the Year’ at the Club Awards Gala Dinner.

The night sees golf clubs from across the UK celebrate the best in the business. Hundreds attended the event at Doncaster Racecourse, hosted by TV presenter John Inverdale.

Stewart Judd, general manager at Bush Hill Park Golf Club, said: “This is testament to the vision, investment and hard work undertaken to drive the club forward. We are all proud to receive this award. The club celebrates its 125th anniversary in 2020 and this is the perfect way to mark our fantastic heritage.”

Investing in youth

Andrew Warshaw on a new partnership between Enfield Town FC and a successful youth academy



Hertfordshire-based EDSV Academy has formed a new partnership with Enfield Town FC Credit EDSV Academy

YOUTH academies at the highest level of football may not have the clout they once did, given the influx of overseas imports, but for the majority of clubs they still provide the best platform for players to fulfil their dreams.

Now, in a hugely exciting move, Enfield Town has linked up with the nationally recognised EDSV programme. Standing for 'Every Day Stand Victorious', EDSV began life in 2012 with a mission to create an environment focused on performance, bridging the gap between grassroots and professional football and providing an ethos working on the person as well as the player.

The Hertfordshire-based programme was created by experienced player development coach Billy Highton and, with the help of a fully-qualified coaching team, has improved the technical skills of scores of both male and female players across the region, allowing them to train while remaining

in full-time education.

Since its formation, EDSV has led the way in providing academic qualifications and football training to more than 500 students, boasting a raft of international and domestic successes including no fewer than 17 league titles. The academy gives opportunities for players in such competitions as the FA Youth Cup, Isthmian League, FA Women's National

League, as well as National College Football.

Now, from September 2020, Enfield Town FC will partner with EDSV to provide both football and academic studies for male and female players aged from 16 to 19 years, in local and surrounding areas.

Billy said: "We are excited to form a partnership with such a huge club, after extensive discussions with chairman Paul Reed and his board around what we wanted to mutually gain from the academy programme, and I am delighted to be associated with the club.

"We have a vision to be the

best, that means both academically and football-wise, and we will provide every opportunity for young players to fulfil their dreams."

Enfield Town FC chairman Paul Reed says the partnership is exactly what the board have long been seeking to take the club forward. "A strong football and academic programme have been part of our aspirations for a long time now and I'm delighted that we've been able to partner with EDSV to deliver this," said Paul.

"As a community club it's essential that we provide sporting and educational opportunities to young people across the borough and beyond as we look to continue

to grow all the sections of our club. I'm really excited about what this programme can deliver for both the scholars and the club and I'm certain that we'll see plenty of success stories over the coming years."

Find out more about EDSV and how to join the academy:
Tweet @edsv_academy
Visit edsvacademy.com

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Parla Italiano

Parla Italiano is a school of Italian for adults based in Palmers Green. We teach all aspects of the language with a focus on speaking. Classes are small with plenty of teacher's attention. We offer all levels. Our next complete beginners class starts in January 2019. For more information please:

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Support independent local journalism

What we do

Here at *Enfield Dispatch* we do things differently. We combine professional journalism with voluntary contributions from people who live and work in the borough and create content which is responsive to and reflective of the community.

These are challenging times for print media with many newspapers closing and advertising revenue in decline, but our not-for-profit model offers a new approach to creating local journalism which is inclusive and accountable.

How you can help

As a not-for-profit publication we rely on the generous support of our community. We look to our readers, who recognise the value of independent journalism, to help support us.

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enfielddispatch.co.uk/join

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