

ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº. 25 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

OCT 2020

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ENFIELD PHOTOGRAPHER Katrina Campbell has launched her series of local doorstep portraits taken during lockdown, with each photo accompanied by the subject's stories of coping with life during the pandemic. Pictured here, from left, are Rory, Steve, Sangeeta and Julie. Sangeeta said: "Overall I am feeling okay, perhaps a little reflective. Luckily I am able to work from home, working on my second book." For more of Katrina's photos and stories, turn to Page 11.

Fresh doubts raised over Meridian Water

BY JAMES CRACKNELL
AND SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL
DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Another major row has blown up over Enfield Council's flagship redevelopment project, Meridian Water, after a detailed report claimed "very few local residents" will be able to afford a home there.

The report is highly critical of the council's plans to build 10,000 homes across the ex-industrial zone, suggesting that key decisions were being rushed "possibly compromising the opportunity to effectively address local housing and employment needs".

After years of delays and two deals with master developers going sour in 2017 and 2018, the council decided

to take over control of the project itself. It has since obtained planning permission for the first two phases of new homes and secured a £156m infrastructure grant from the government to improve transport connectivity at the site.

But the newly-published 'Meridian Water Scrutiny Workstream' report – described as a "deep dive" into the project by councillors tasked with scrutinising the council's decision-makers – called for more evidence to back up claims over housing affordability, local job creation, land use, and the scheme's overall financial viability.

The report was authored by Labour councillor Charith Gunawardena and states that with the lowest-priced Meridian Water homes set to cost £345,000, they "will not address local need across Enfield,

let alone in Edmonton". It adds: "The median household income in Enfield is £34,000, so the homes would be unaffordable to the majority of local people, especially those without a large deposit."

Half the homes at Meridian Water, set to be built over the next 15-20 years, will be offered for private sale or rent, with the rest classed as "affordable". But no social rent homes are included in the first two phases that have won planning permission and Achilles Georgiou, another councillor involved in drawing up the report, claims only 27% of homes in Meridian Water's first two phases will be affordable to local people.

At an overview and scrutiny committee meeting held last month, where the report was presented, Meridian Water's programme

director Peter George defended the council's approach and said: "The report states that certain properties at Meridian Water will be unaffordable to local people – implying the council itself is responsible for setting market value.

"The market value will be set by our housing partners, who will be responsible for selling homes having regard for new-build precedents as well as the sales values within the local area.

"We have evidence that demonstrates the affordable rented homes, the 'London Living Rent' homes, will be affordable for everyone living in Edmonton."

Council leader Nesil Caliskan also spoke at the meeting and said the local authority's decision to take

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Enfield Dispatch is the borough's free community newspaper. We publish monthly and distribute 10,000 free copies of each issue – and we will continue to do so during the ongoing public health crisis.

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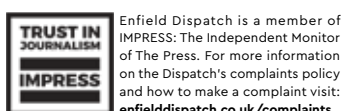
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In limbo over fire safety

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Residents living in a modern housing block in Angel Edmonton could have to shell out thousands of pounds each to replace timber cladding deemed a fire risk.

Leaseholders at Prowse Court in Fore Street have become entangled in a blame game between the off-shore company that owns their freehold and the original developers who built the block in 2015.

Prowse Court is a private development built above Silverpoint Medical Centre. While it was said to comply with building regulations at time of construction, tougher rules introduced after the Grenfell Tower disaster in 2017

mean that all tall buildings must undergo an external wall system (EWS) fire review and obtain a certificate to prove their block complies.

Across the UK, hundreds of buildings are believed to fall below the new required standard, including modern blocks such as Prowse Court, where balconies have been timber-clad. Leaseholder Basim Jafar told the *Dispatch*: “We employed a company to look at all the architects’ plans and they drilled a hole in the wall and said they weren’t concerned about the walls – but they were worried about the ‘thermowood’ on all the balconies.

“Although it has been treated to make it fire resistant, they said it can still contribute to fire. We don’t know how long the chemical treatment will last on it anyway. EWS forms are now required by mortgage lenders for buildings of 18 metres or higher,

to show they are safe. We’ve got a B2 rating – until we get a B1 rating we can’t move, we can’t sell our flats. Unless the work gets done sharpish everyone is stuck.”

The building’s freeholder, off-shore property investors Adriatic Land, deny responsibility. Instead they blame developer Countryside Properties for choosing the materials used in the building’s façade. Countryside did not respond to a request for comment, but a spokesperson for Homeground Management, appointed as freehold manager by Adriatic Land, said: “All parties have bought these assets in good faith but the changes of regulations from government have left leaseholders in troubling positions.

“As these issues are ultimately due to a serial failure of regulation over many years, the onus must be on the government to resolve the challenges in buildings like this, where the resident management company, who have sole responsibility for building safety and management, do not have the expert knowledge or resources.”

While the resident management company, Highmead, is

making an application to the government’s new £1billion ‘Building Safety Fund’, Basim does not believe it’s big enough to cover all the work needed across the UK. “I am angry at the government because if building regulations had been good enough in the first place this wouldn’t have happened,” he said.

“I am angry at the architects and builders – they should be thinking about the value of people’s lives rather than making money for shareholders and taking a few pence off per square metre. I am angry it is unsafe and we are picking up the bill.”

Edel Smullen, another leaseholder at Prowse Court, added: “It is decades of deregulation that have caused this. As a leaseholder you just have no rights – you don’t own the building, you don’t own the walls, yet you are liable to pay the cost.”

Housing secretary Robert Jenrick said: “I will not accept any excuses from building owners who have yet to take action and those responsible should register for the fund so that they can start the remediation process immediately. I have also reached an agreement with local leaders so that this important work can continue safely during the pandemic.”

“It is decades of deregulation that have caused this”



► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on the role of master developer “significantly diminishes the risk associated with private investors and overseas buyers”. She added: “Under the earlier plans to enter a single contract with a single private-sector partner, there would be no guarantees. So, we can ensure private homes are sold to first-time buyers and UK nationals, we can prioritise local people

for new jobs, and guarantee that social infrastructure is provided.

“Intermediate and affordable rented housing are covered by housing benefit and are therefore affordable for local people.”

Councillor Edward Smith, the Conservative group’s lead on housing and regeneration, later responded to the report and said: “Many of the findings are deeply disturbing given the lengthy delays, hundreds of millions spent

by the council to date, and the billions of debt being racked up.

“The lack of strategic direction was the most worrying aspect of the findings. None of the issues raised were acknowledged or addressed fully by the leader of the council. The council appeared to be determined to ignore the lessons of the past and to press ahead regardless with an over-dense, high-rise scheme with insufficient communal provision.”

Police refurb

The Metropolitan Police front counter at Edmonton Police Station has been temporarily closed for refurbishment.

Residents are still able to report a crime at any time of day at Enfield Police Station in Baker Street. Chief Superintendent Treena Fleming said: “The refurbishment of Edmonton Police Station is a necessary process. The building in its current form doesn’t provide our staff with the facilities or equipment to provide the best possible service to our communities.”

No re-opening date for Edmonton Police Station has yet been specified but CSI Fleming added: “The front counter will re-open as soon as refurbishments have been completed.”

Damp home

BY SIMON ALLIN,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

A disabled man and his family were left in mouldy, mouse-infested housing because of failings by Enfield Council.

A report by local government ombudsman Michael King rapped the council over delays that meant the family was stuck in unsuitable accommodation for three years. It revealed that after becoming homeless in June 2017, the family was placed in temporary accommodation, but six months later, a review found it was unsuitable – a ramp did not fit securely and the house was not adapted for his wheelchair. And even though the family told the council the property had severe mould, mice infestations, and the toilet leaked, the council did not find them a new home – until August this year.

The council has agreed to pay the family £9,500 compensation. A spokesperson said: “We would like to apologise to the family for the delay in securing a property that met their needs and the distress this caused.”

Fatal fire

A woman died following a house fire at The Link in Enfield Lock.

In the early hours of Sunday 6th September, firefighters from London Fire Brigade stations in Enfield and Chingford arrived at the property and found a woman unresponsive inside. She was pronounced dead at the scene. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

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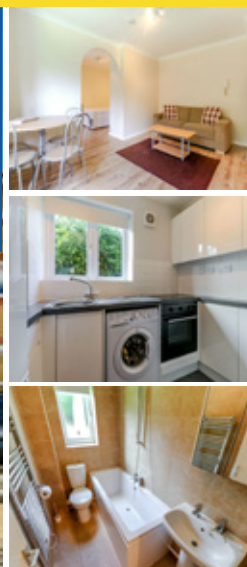


SECOND FLOOR STUDIO APARTMENT – EPC D64
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£200,000 Leasehold

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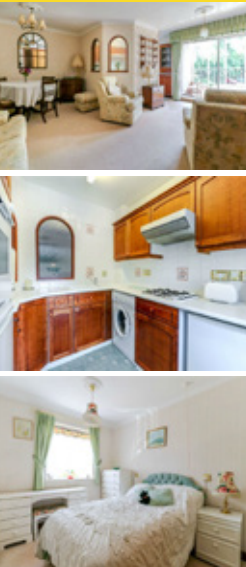


GROUND FLOOR STUDIO/ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT – EPC C74
Waddington Close, Burleigh Road, Enfield EN1 1NB

£235,000 Leasehold

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TWO BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR RETIREMENT FLAT – EPC C72
Cavell Drive, Enfield EN2 7PR

££279,950 Leasehold

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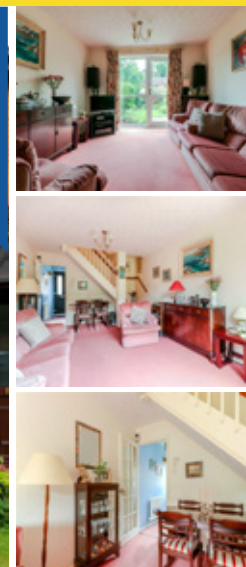


RECENTLY BUILT PENTHOUSE APARTMENT – EPC B89
Windmill Hill, Enfield EN2 7AU

£325,000 Leasehold

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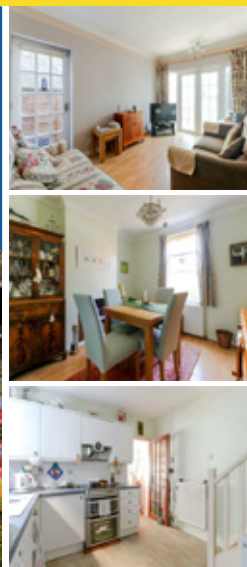


A WELL PRESENTED, CHAIN FREE, TWO BEDROOM HOUSE – EPC D68
Tempsford Close, Enfield EN2 7EP

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VICTORIAN CHARACTER TWO BEDROOM END OF TERRACE COTTAGE – EPC D61
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Get creative with us

Emma Jenkins wants to help mentor students hit by the A-Level results fiasco



Enfield teacher Emma Jenkins is offering to support creative writing students

This summer we watched as students got their exam results back amid the chaos and confusion of algorithm-determined grades.

As an Enfield resident and teacher who has worked with

GCSE and A-Level students, I was heartbroken to see their hard work go to waste, as many of them missed out on grades, college and university places they had worked so hard on.

Every member of our creative writing group Crested Tit Col-

lective (CTC) felt the same. We wanted to help all of those students who were disappointed by the results day fiasco by offering them a chance to take part in our mentorship programme. It is open to the A-Level cohort of 2019/20 and 2020/21, with all aspiring creative writing students welcome, including those that are starting university in 2020. Students of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

Each student we work with will be matched to a member of CTC, one who we feel shares their particular creative interests. The course will consist of a monthly one-to-one session that will deal with creative and theoretical readings, workshops and writing exercises that will eventually lead to a body of work that the student will produce.

The aim of the programme is to firstly build confidence. This will lead to opportunities to participate in a live event showcasing each student's work and to have it published with an

independent publisher, Broken Sleep Books. Also, we hope to help the students develop their creative writing work through feedback, writing workshops, and the introduction of new forms of literature and poetry. Lastly, we want to offer our support in applying or re-applying to courses and positions that they may have missed out on.

CTC was founded in 2019 by alumni of the poetic practice masters course at Royal Holloway, University of London, and comprises ten poets from diverse backgrounds working in a range of experimental types of writing. The group holds regular workshops, readings, and events, including a digital Earth Day reading with a range of renowned poets including CA Conrad, Robert Hampson, and Juliana Spahr.

Apply to take part in the CTC mentorship programme before the deadline on Saturday 31st October:
Visit tinyurl.com/CTCmentorship

Find out more about CTC:
Email crestedtitcollective@gmail.com
Visit ctcpoetry.wordpress.com

We're better, connected

Laura Spencer from Enfield Connections on how the advice service has been re-launched amid the pandemic

Enfield Connections works collaboratively with local charities and organisations to provide free support and advice to adult residents.

Over the last few months, we have reinvigorated our service to provide more direct advice and information and support vulnerable adults amid the coronavirus pandemic.

New advice hubs will be popping up in local Enfield libraries and offering face-to-face drop-in sessions; trained advice workers and supervisors for the new hubs have been recruited and will be offering assistance with council tax payments, health and wellbeing information, housing benefits, online form filling, rent arrears, and more. These new service provisions will work to complement Enfield Connections' existing telephone service.

Angela Greaves, the programme manager at Enfield Connections, says she is energised by the refresh the service has undergone since the start of September. "This year has been a testing time for everyone, with the pandemic hitting those already vulnerable the hardest," says Angela. "We want to be able to provide a helping hand – and now a friendly face – to discuss your issues with you and work to reach a successful conclusion together."

Enfield Connections will be working in partnership with Enfield Council, as well as Citizens Advice Enfield, which will provide a fast-track disability service, and Age UK Enfield, which will deliver later-life planning.

Residents and local organisations can request to book an appointment online.

For more information:
Call 020 3960 0129
Email info@enfieldconnections.org
Text 07741 647 569
Visit bit.ly/enfieldconnections



Angela Greaves, programme manager at Enfield Connections

Charity walkers raise thousands

Alison Moore from North London Hospice thanks all those who took part in the charity's annual fundraising walk

Our big annual fundraiser, Big Fun Walk, was cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic – but 900 people refused to be beaten and still raised more than £50,000 to support patient care at North London Hospice.

Hospice supporters took up our alternative 'My Big Fun Walk' challenge to walk 8.5 miles in their own local community – instead of the usual route from East Finchley to Westminster. Donning our green T-shirts and walking in memory of loved ones that have been cared for by North London Hospice, they walked to support end-of-life patient care in their community.

My Big Fun Walk, taking place on the weekend of 12/13th September, saw hundreds of people – from under-fives to over-80s – step out with friends and family



Instead of all walking the same route together, participants of My Big Fun Walk were encouraged to pick their own routes throughout Barnet, Enfield and Haringey to complete a route equal to that of the annual Big

Fun Walk. Their fundraising efforts have made a big contribution towards the running

of services that provide care to 2,600 terminally ill people and their families each year.

Our director of fundraising, Robin Langrishe, praised the efforts of supporters and said: "With our spring and summer fundraising events programme cancelled this year and our shops closed for months, it's been a huge challenge to continue to provide income for the hospice. So, we are delighted that so many supporters decided to walk for us.

"They've exceeded our expectations with their fundraising efforts and we are so grateful for their continued support at a time which we know is financially challenging for many people."

Find out more about North London Hospice:
Visit northlondonhospice.org

Thrill of the Enfield Chase

Stephen Haywood from Thames21 introduces Enfield Chase Restoration Project, which aims to plant 100,000 trees in the borough



A visualisation of how the Salmons Brook may look following the creation of the woodland along part of its course

Enfield residents will soon be gifted with a new woodland to explore and enjoy.

For generations to come, we will once again be able to see parts of Enfield Chase as the forested land it once was, centuries ago. However, instead of foraging for firewood as our ancestors did, or hunting for wild boar or deer like many past royals, the focus is on nature, recreation, and helping London become more resilient to climate change.

This ambitious tree-planting project – launching next month – will see 100,000 trees planted over 60 hectares of land in the next two years. The project is being managed by Enfield Council and delivered in partnership with Thames21, their corporate partners, and local people. Not only will Thames21 be able to bring its wealth of experience delivering practical volunteering events to the project, but also our driving mission of improving the health of our rivers and waterways.

This opportunity has evolved from a government-funded natural flood management pilot study. We identified certain areas of land that were seen as being suitable to plant trees and hedgerows, reducing the risk of flooding to homes, businesses

and infrastructure downstream.

When planted in the right places, these trees will join islands of existing woodland together and increase the amount of water being able to infiltrate the ground. As well as providing cover, the trees increase the roughness on the ground's surface and slow water flowing over the land, combined with an established canopy that will intercept heavy downpours; the water will have more time for the ground to naturally absorb, retain, and release it over time.

The more natural areas created will also assist in regulating a cooler air temperature, reduce the amount of soil erosion, and stabilise the flow of water all year round, thus creating an overall healthier river and catchment.

This swathe of publicly-accessible green space will incorporate a mosaic of diverse habitats for wildlife; areas of dense woodland, more sparsely-planted open space, wetlands, and areas of natural regeneration that will complement the existing ancient woodland, the natural floodplain, and rich meadows of Botany Bay.

Over the last several months the area has seen a large increase in footfall and more people taking the opportunity to exercise and reconnect with nature. With this in mind, and the potential for additional

health and wellbeing benefits for more people, an upgraded footpath has been designed to increase accessibility. It will snake through the Salmons Brook valley, from the top of Trent Park towards Royal Chase Hotel. An improved crossing into the Turkey Brook catchment will also make for a safer and more enjoyable experience.

Although the overall management of this area will be the responsibility of the council, everyone involved feels that it would be amazing to establish a 'Friends of Enfield Chase' group which could guide the establishment and maintenance required to allow nature to thrive for years to come.

For more information and to get involved:
Visit thames21.org.uk

If you would like to book a corporate volunteering day with Enfield Chase Restoration Project for your organisation:
Email corporate-volunteering@thames21.org.uk
Visit thames21.org.uk/corporatevolunteering

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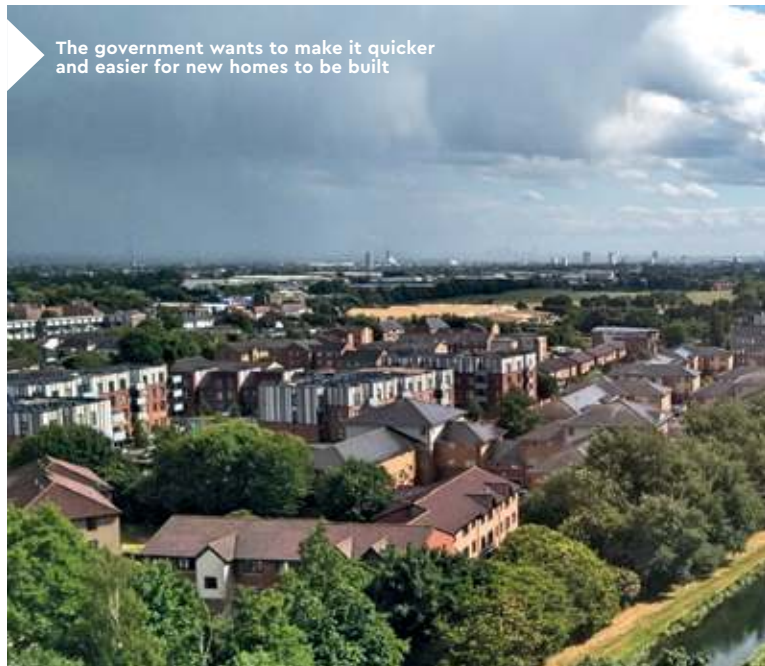
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The government wants to make it quicker and easier for new homes to be built



Planning law changes slammed

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Councillors across the political spectrum in Enfield have slammed a proposed shake-up of the planning system that could curtail their oversight of local applications.

Proposals to streamline planning in the biggest shake-up of the system for decades were published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government last month. Under the proposals, planning applications based on pre-approved ‘design codes’

in areas earmarked for growth would be given automatic outline permission. Areas designated for ‘renewal’ would see a presumption in favour of some developments.

While residents would have a say in the development of design codes and location of ‘growth’, ‘renewal’ and ‘protection’ areas, the changes could lead to less scrutiny of applications by councillors and members of the public.

There are also plans to lift a minimum threshold at which developers are required to pay Section 106 contributions – used to fund affordable housing – from

sites of ten homes to up to 50 homes, while the government has amended rules making it easier for offices to be turned into housing.

Council leader Nesil Caliskan claimed the government had “torpedoed” the council’s plans to block such office conversions in Enfield and, on the Section 106 changes, added: “These proposals are potentially disastrous for Londoners and could reduce the amount of affordable housing built in the capital. It would be a massive step backwards if the government undermined boroughs’ ability to ensure new development in London includes affordable homes.

“We will be sharing our concerns with ministers.”

Mike Rye, a Conservative councillor and shadow cabinet member for planning, welcomed the bid to speed up the drafting and implementation of local planning frameworks, but also criticised the changes to permitted development rights.

Cllr Rye said: “Proposals to allow homes and flats to add two stories without planning permission are unwelcome as this may lead to poor-quality housing, impact negatively on neighbours and the street scene and should be resisted.

“Equally, proposals to allow offices to be replaced by housing without planning permission should be opposed, as this is more likely to lead to poor-quality housing.

“Social housing should be built to a high standard with good-quality amenity space. Only investment will achieve this, and these propos-

als will not help. Local elected politicians are in the best position to judge what is right for their area, and this democratic representative role should not be undermined by any changes to planning law.”

Dinah Barry, leader of the Community First group on the council, added: “Anything that reduces accountability cannot be good, and it undermines trust in the government. It is not the public and councillors who are holding things up.”

Housing secretary Robert Jenrick said: “Our complex planning system has been a barrier to building the homes people need; it takes seven years to agree local housing plans and five years just to get a spade in the ground.

“These once-in-a-generation reforms will lay the foundations for a brighter future, providing more homes for young people and creating better quality neighbourhoods and homes across the country.

“As we face the economic effects of the pandemic, now is the time for decisive action and a clear plan for jobs and growth. Our reforms will create thousands of jobs and lessen the dominance of big builders in the system, providing a major boost for small building companies across the country.”

Take part in the government’s consultation before Thursday 29th October:
Visit gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future

Enfield Council is also running its own public consultation on the changes:
Visit new.enfield.gov.uk/consultations

Estate agents benefits ban ‘discrimination’

BY JESSIE MATHEWSON, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER, AND JAMES CRACKNELL

Enfield estate agents are among the worst in London for discriminating against tenants on benefits, new analysis has revealed.

The BBC Shared Data Unit found that 94% of properties advertised for rent in the borough were being billed as ‘no DSS’ – an outdated acronym referring to the defunct Department for Social Security that is still commonly used as shorthand by estate agents to ban tenants on income support.

In the analysis of properties advertised via the OpenRent website, only three other London boroughs – Kingston (0%), Greenwich (3%), and Croydon (3%) – were found to have a smaller proportion

of rental homes available for let by people receiving income support, such as Universal Credit or housing benefit. Across London as a whole, the figure was 14%.

Most major rental websites no longer allow landlords to state a preference on benefits status – but on OpenRent, properties are listed with the tag ‘DSS income accepted’.

In July, a judge at York County Court ruled that blanket ‘No DSS’ rental bans by lettings agents were unlawful and discriminatory. A second case held at Birmingham County Court last month, supported by housing charity Shelter, ruled that an estate agent had breached the Equality Act by refusing to let a property to a disabled dad.

Because the judgements were from lower level courts, they are not binding on other cases, but campaigners say it sends a clear

signal. Polly Neate, chief executive of Shelter, said: “Shelter has been fighting ‘No DSS’ discrimination for the past two years because we know it pushes people to the brink of homelessness and leaves many feeling worthless.

“This win proves yet again that blanket bans against people on housing benefit are unlawful because they overwhelmingly bar women and disabled people, who are more likely to need help with their rent, from finding a safe home. It’s senseless that people who can afford private rents are being forced into homelessness by blind prejudice. It’s now time for landlords and letting agents to do better.”

The BBC Shared Data Unit also found that only 58% of Enfield rental properties were being advertised as “student friendly”,

compared to 74% across London.

OpenRent founder Adam Hyslop says housing access is “a real and painful problem” for many renters on benefits, but that many landlords have clauses in their mortgages that prevent them from renting to benefits claimants. He said: “Hiding conditions of renting over which the landlord has no discretion only wastes time for all involved.

“To characterise us as somehow hostile to benefit claimants – or worse, lumping us in with agents who have a blanket ban on benefit claimants – is simply unfair and inaccurate.”

Three London boroughs – Hackney, Havering and Kensington and Chelsea – were excluded from the BBC Shared Data Unit study because there were fewer than five listings for these areas on OpenRent.

‘Use Glasgow postcode to get tested’

Privatised Covid-19 test regime branded “shambolic” by MP, reports James Cracknell

A Palmers Green resident says he was told by a local Covid-19 testing centre official that the best way to get an appointment was to pretend he lived in Glasgow.

Steven Rawlinson was unable to use the government’s online booking system to secure an appointment with NHS Test and Trace last week but decided, in frustration, to visit the testing facility at Lodge Drive close to where he lives.

Steven told the *Dispatch*: “There were lots of [private contractor] Serco employees there milling around, but no-one was being tested. He [a Serco employee] said: ‘If you go home and put in a Glasgow post-code, we can test you here.’ This is while most Enfield residents are being told there are no tests.”

Steven later tested negative for Covid-19, allowing him to return to work. “If I hadn’t got that test I would have had to self isolate for 14 days. There are these people being paid to stand in a car park [in Palmers Green] doing nothing while people can’t get test appointments.”

Steven also told Bambos Charalambous about his difficulty getting tested, prompting the Labour MP for Enfield Southgate to write a letter to health secretary Matt Hancock. “This is an utter shambles,” said Bambos.

“It is totally unacceptable that, nearly seven months into this pandemic, school children and parents are unable to get tests.

“I’ve written to the secretary of state to demand urgent action on testing. We need to know who has coronavirus and who hasn’t. It’s the only way we can look after the sick and vulnerable and help get healthy residents back to school or work.”

A Department for Health spokesperson explained to the *Dispatch* that a loophole in the appointments system had been allowing people to use postcodes for areas where there was testing availability to access local sites using the QR codes there were issued. They claimed this issue had now been fixed and said: “If someone turns up with the wrong QR code for a site, they will be turned away from the site and advised to go to the correct site they booked on.”

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We need to be more ambitious on climate

Enfield Climate Action Forum co-founder Francis Sealey reacts to the launch of the council’s climate action plan

In September, Enfield Council launched ‘Enfield Climate Action Plan 2020’, declaring it wanted the authority to become carbon neutral by 2030 and the whole borough by 2040. Unfortunately, the plan’s ambitions fall far short of the vision required, and sadly it has turned into a lost opportunity. While the plan is full of good intentions, it needs more than just aspiration. Having set targets for many areas of council activity, it did not say with sufficient clarity how it would achieve that. We need more detail on their plans to calculate emissions and how they monitor their success in reducing emissions. The plan currently falls far short of ambition in four major areas. Firstly, the council, through its own operations, is responsible



Extinction Rebellion recently held a protest against the new Edgmont incinerator, which Enfield Council continues to support

for under 2% of the borough’s carbon emissions. The overwhelming majority of emissions come from local commercial industry, residential homes, and individual people. The plan has no whole-borough strategy in its proposals, to act as a catalyst for change. It wants the

borough to become carbon neutral by 2040 – but how will it reach out to schools, businesses, faith groups and the public? Secondly, climate change is not just about mitigation. It is also about adaptation. Climate change is happening now and tempera-

ture will rise further by the end of the century, possibly by 2.6 degrees or more. How do we cope with that? How will the council prepare for possible severe heat-waves, floods, drought, storms, food shortages, and challenges to public health? There is a brief mention of this in the council plan, but there is no defined strategy. A plan that deals with mitigation and not adaptation is only half a plan. Thirdly, there are serious concerns about how the climate strategy is joined up with other strategies developed by the council, such as their poverty strategy and local plan for housebuilding. We know that climate change will adversely affect poorer communities more than wealthier ones, and many local areas, especially those in the USA such as Boston, are integrating poverty strategies with climate change strategies – they have created a comprehensive ‘green deal’ as central to their plan. Enfield’s plan is totally deficient in this and that is a major flaw. Finally, the next 80 years are going to be very tough – tougher than probably we have ever known – and we will need

immense community resilience to cope with what lies ahead. This has to be built from the bottom up, with the local authority as a partner and not a leader, and this will need openness and transparency and genuine dialogue. There are currently no plans from the council on how they are going collaborate inclusively with our local communities to make this happen. I suspect one of the reasons Enfield’s climate plan has these omissions is because of the way it was set up, with the taskforce that drafted it meeting in secret from the start and not allowing community groups or even councillors to be a part of their deliberations. This was a fatal flaw and meant that the taskforce depended on consultants, and although they did a good job given their limited brief, the vision that was needed was not there. If it had been open to the wider public, with civil society more intimately involved, things might have been different.

Enfield Climate Action Forum (EnCaf) is meeting monthly to discuss climate change issues locally and hear from a range of people. To get involved:
Email emergency@encaf.org
Visit encaf.org

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Leading the movement in workspaces for those who lead the change,
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Let's take better care of Trent Park

BY RSAAL FIROZ

It was a morning in early July when I was running through Trent Park, and I noticed an abnormal amount of rubbish piled up next to overflowing bins, with plastic, partially eaten meals and an assortment of other waste spilling out on to the central path, near the lake.

I disregarded it as being an isolated occurrence and quickly moved on. The next day, however, there were new mounds of polluting rubbish in the place of the waste from yesterday. This time, I photographed the mess and reported it via the Enfield Council website.

Over the following few weeks, this inconsiderate rubbish dumping became a common occurrence, to a point where I'd hardly be surprised to run past plastic waste, blending in with the natural environment, as if it were some unalterable reality; a permanent feature of the park. This should not at all be the case.

Trent Country Park is a heritage site, with its origins dating back as far as 1066. Over the centuries, it has changed hands various times, and is now under the ownership of the local community. Surely it is our responsibility as Enfieldians to

respect the natural value of this magnificent park we have inherited, and to not use it as a dumping place for rubbish which we could quite easily carry home, or to the next empty bin?

Enfield Council has had strong stances on the 'climate emergency', recently pledging to create a new woodland with 100,000 trees, becoming one of the first UK local authorities to ban meat at its events, as well as introducing schemes such as the effective (albeit controversial) quieter neighbourhoods in a bid to reduce carbon emissions in

the borough. An essential component of the local fight against climate catastrophe is the preservation of green spaces such as Trent Park, which not only contains several acres of oxygen-producing trees, but is also home

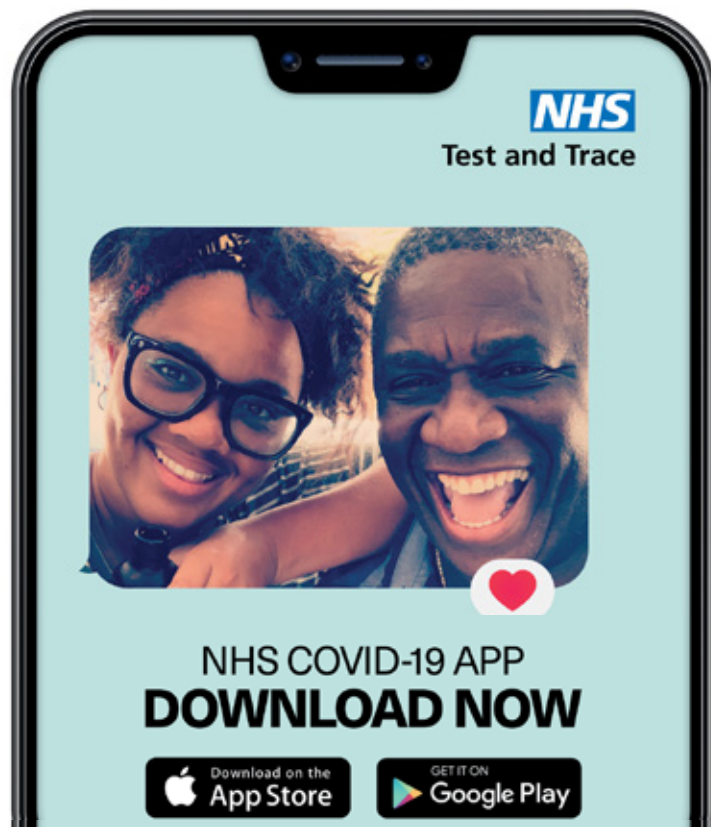
to countless species of birds and insects.

Recently, paper plates and plastic bags were found in the ponds, right beside where the ducks eat. Is this the consideration we, as a community, are giving to our beloved wildlife hub? Enfield is lucky to be home to this wondrous park, and in order to preserve its natural grandeur, the community must do its bit in reducing waste, and the council must take immediate action against the wrong-doers.

“The community must do its bit in reducing waste”

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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 20th October

Ignored?

Dear Enfield Dispatch

My wife and I have lived in Enfield borough since 1960, having purchased our council flat when Margaret Thatcher gave us the 'Right to Buy'. We have improved the property and are happy to remain where we are. But it appears this area is completely forgotten by Enfield Council and the local press, including the *Dispatch*. Having lost a high street, four pubs, a police station, a bank, a baptist chapel and a community hall, we need to stop the rot. Even the Conservative Club seems deserted.

I have been concerned for a number of years about a small verge at Cranbrook Lane that is continually used for fly-tipping. The area has been partly redeveloped with some new medium to high-rise dwellings, which are hardly affordable. We need a strategic and radical infrastructure plan for the whole area, including consideration of roads, rail, bus routes, cycling, housing and commerce.

Ray Finnie
Bowes Road, New Southgate

Affordable to whom?

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Director of law and governance Jeremy Chambers, acting as Enfield Council's spokesperson on Meridian Water, says a "vast number" of homes built will be affordable (*Defending Meridian Water*, Page 9, Issue 22). But what is his definition of affordable? Has an assessment been made of how much this development will alleviate the problem of homelessness in Enfield? In the past, developers have been known to promise a certain percentage of affordable housing, only to find reasons why they cannot meet their commitment down the line when the council cannot do anything about it. Will the council ensure that does not happen in this case?

Councillor Edward Smith also listed concerns the Conservative group has about this development but did not mention affordability. I hope that will be a priority for them going forward.

Brendan O'Brien
Winchmore Hill

Low traffic

Dear Enfield Dispatch

It's a shame that we are divided into tribes for or against an issue (*Low traffic scheme brought in without consultation*, Page 6, Issue 24). Opposers of the low traffic neighbourhood in Bowes Park are deemed resistant to change. But, hang on, don't we live in a democracy? Or is this trial a done deal where the majority's views are set aside? Let's move away from an anti-car ideology; we all want less through traffic, but this scheme will make us an island with access solely via the North Circular. Is that good for your elderly mum waiting for her carer, or an ambulance? Are you a key worker who uses their car for work? Instead of bandying around disputed statistics, let's engage in a proper debate and arrive at a traffic solution that works for everyone. Or are those behind the scheme resistant to change?

Sue Sanders
Bounds and Bowes Voice

Hot air

Dear Enfield Dispatch

In July 2019, Enfield Council finally declared a 'climate emergency', in a motion I was proud to second. But the administration's subsequent actions tell a different story. Consider these two examples.

Enfield residents are concerned about discharges from the huge new incinerator that North London Waste Authority proposes building in Edmonton and, in the light of new evidence and technologies, they are asking for the scheme to be paused and reviewed. But far from supporting residents in giving answers to important questions, the cabinet recently refused to even receive a deputation from them.

And in Bowes Park, residents who question the low traffic neighbourhood being imposed on them without prior consultation have been derided by the council leader on social media. These residents want traffic calming measures and cleaner air but they know the area and are sure that the plan as it stands will make the traffic problems worse.

It's time our senior politicians took action.

Cllr Dinah Barry
Leader, Community First group

Flu jabs made easy

Emma Friddin from Healthwatch Enfield on how the flu vaccine has been expanded during the pandemic



More people than ever before will be offered a flu jab this winter
Credit: NHS

We are well underway with flu season now and many of you will have already seen the 'Just the Flu?' advertising campaign on television. This year, more than ever, it is important for vulnerable people to get their flu jab.

Each year the flu kills 11,000 people on average and thousands more can end up in hospital. The jab is free for those most at risk and is the best way to protect yourself from catching flu. This year, more people than ever before will be

offered a free flu jab on the NHS. This includes people who have specific long-term conditions, pregnant women, those aged 65 and over, individuals living in a residential or nursing home, frontline health or social care workers, and some school-aged children.

In addition, people who were advised to 'shield' from coronavirus and their households will be offered a flu vaccine, as well as the main carer of an older or disabled person. You can find out more about who can get the flu jab on the NHS website.

A few weeks ago, we held an online question and answer session with Enfield residents, local GPs, health commissioners, the public health team at Enfield Council and Age UK Enfield to answer your questions and concerns. The most common questions asked were how to get the flu jab and how the jab will be given safely during the coronavirus outbreak.

We were advised that those who can get a free flu jab will be contacted by their GP, or will hear through their child's school. Local GPs told us that they are delivering the jab using a variety of ways, to help keep you safe. This includes (but is not

limited to) putting in one-way systems in GP practices for patients to quickly receive the jab, as well as offering clinics outside in marquees or tents and in local car parks. This varies between practices and each practice is using its space as best it can to deliver the jab in a safe environment.

Of course, there are still lots of people who are afraid, unsure, or even against having the flu jab – for all sorts of reasons. But we know from first-hand experience how hard GPs have been working to make sure that patients and staff are kept safe. We even produced a short video to show you all the precautions that are being taken to manage infection control. You can watch this video and also watch the recording of our online flu question and answer session by visiting our website.

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

Call 020 8373 6283

Email info@healthwatchenfield.co.uk

Tweet @HealthwatchEnf

Visit healthwatchenfield.co.uk

healthwatch
Enfield

Supporting elderly residents this winter

Monty Meth from Enfield Over 50s Forum on how the organisation is continuing to support local residents

Ten years years ago, when Enfield Over 50s Forum launched a petition aimed at outlawing spitting in the borough, many people responded: "I'll sign it, but it won't do any good."

Today, with Covid-19 a major threat, no campaign we have launched has proved to be more important than the long and successful battle which ultimately led to a 2013 bylaw banning spitting on Enfield's streets.

I say ultimately, because we had to show not only that we had public approval for the ban, but supporting letters from both the Labour and Conservative group leaders on Enfield Council. We had to address a full council meeting and secure a unanimous resolution before the government would consider endorsing the anti-spitting bylaw.

The 4,000 people who signed

that petition have, I think, helped to make Enfield a healthier borough for present and future generations. It made us the first borough for 22 years allowed to fine people £80 for fouling our streets. The council's anti-litter enforcement patrols have now issued fixed penalty notices to some 2,225 people.

As we now live in daily fear of picking up Covid-19, it's timely to recall that petition and campaign, because spitting transmits infectious diseases. And, as winter approaches, we recognise this is a highly dangerous time when the flu bug alone kills on average 11,000 people each year and hospitalises thousands more elderly people with underlying illnesses. Combine the coronavirus and the flu virus with the winter cold and we certainly have a frightening cocktail this year.

We will need to be on our guard, more than ever, against an increase in the number of excess winter deaths. Just like the coronavirus, the flu virus is transmitted from person to person. And just like coronavirus, when an infected person coughs or sneezes, they spread the flu virus in tiny droplets of saliva over a wide area. These droplets can then be breathed in by other people, or they can be picked up by touching surfaces where the droplets have landed.

We are all told we can prevent the spread of either virus by covering our mouth and nose when we cough or sneeze. But the best way to avoid catching and spreading flu is by having the vaccination

before the flu season starts. The vaccine provides the best protection available against a virus that can cause severe illness, yet the number of Enfield people getting it from their GP or local pharmacy has been declining year on year.

"We will need to be on our guard, more than ever"

Now to hear, at this critical time, that Public Health England (PHE) is being abolished and replaced by a National Institute for Health

Protection (NIHP), without any clear policy and direction for improving public health in local areas, is a bizarre government decision. It has been launched with an interim head charged solely with sorting out the coronavirus testing and tracing debacle, but we do not yet know

who will be installed as the permanent chief executive, nor whether it will be mandated to tackle all the tasks currently in the public health portfolio, such as cutting obesity, smoking, alcohol abuse, tackling mental health issues, and reducing health inequalities. We have to wait until next year for answers.

Meanwhile, Enfield Over 50s Forum is focusing on the 2021/22 funding allocation for public health in Enfield and we have enlisted the support of our three local MPs. Our next approach will be to the public health minister, Jo Churchill. We will seek a government commitment to end the outdated and discriminatory formula.

Find out more about getting a free flu vaccine:

Visit nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine



Khadijeh and Mohsen are Iranian refugees living in Edmonton with their three children aged nine, five and two months. Khadijeh said: "We arrived in the UK in September [2019], after a very tough and difficult journey from Iran. We fled Iran for our safety and the survival of our family. We are so grateful to the UK for offering us the hope of a safe future. We are very happy here. We love the British sense of humour, fish and chips, football, and our wonderful new friends."



Eme (right) pictured with her children Isaac, Isla and Ava. Eme works in the public sector with husband James and the family live in Southgate. She said: "I juggle work and periodically give the kids some attention. I no longer feel I have to dress sensibly or change out of my pyjamas."

When we all stayed at home

Photographs by Katrina Campbell

These are engaging portraits with tales of hope. People from diverse backgrounds give their honest account of staying at home during the Covid-19 lockdown. There are shared emotions – empathy, gratitude, anxiety, hope, and a chance to rest and reflect. It's been an uplifting project, taking me to many new corners of Enfield borough, and it has introduced me to so many wonderful new faces. The series now includes 100 portraits. Some people purchased prints, and a percentage of the profits were donated to Crisis UK.

See more of Katrina's photography:

Instagram @storiesbestshared

Visit katrinacampbell.co.uk



David, Yasmin and son Rocky outside their home in Gordon Hill. Yasmin said: "David was furloughed so has made the most of the good weather and time with Rocky. He's built him a playhouse in the garden, which he wouldn't usually have time to do."



The Taylor family suffered a terrible tragedy shortly before the start of the pandemic, when eight-year-old Henry died unexpectedly from a short, unknown illness. The family live in Winchmore Hill. Mum Louise said: "Although not physically here, Henry is with us forever and always. Grief is a lonely, empty place, with all that was once familiar gone. Henry loved being at home and [with sister Giselle] would disappear for hours in a world of their imagination."

The music video for Latenight Honeymoon's single 'Sunlight' was recorded around Enfield, including on a London Overground train



Songs from lockdown

Latenight Honeymoon singer Ted Joyce on the release of the band's debut EP

It's been an intense few months for us. We used our home studio in Bush Hill Park during the Covid-19 lockdown to create our first official body of work, debut EP *Codependency: BST*.

It was written during a time where I, as the lead singer and songwriter, was facing extreme respiratory issues which, although not confirmed, one can only assume were symptoms of Covid-19. Lyrically, our debut EP has been influenced by this ordeal.

We were looking forward to 2020 as a massive year, after a decade of trying to make it as musicians. We released our debut single in March, *Sunlight*, mixed by world-renowned producer Mike Fraser (whose previous work includes Foo Fighters, AC/DC and Biffy Clyro). The music video was shot at locations including Enfield Town Station and Bush Hill Park. For a band from suburban London, it was a dream come true!

The release of this single was supposed to be accompanied by a

year of shows and festivals. Last year saw us play packed tents at the Isle of Wight and Truck festivals, as well as a huge show in Brighton supporting Bloc Party, alongside more than 100 other UK performances. But the pandemic put a halt on this momentum and everything we were doing.

"Our story is one of perseverance and hope"

On the other hand, the extra free time during lockdown gave us an opportunity to create a body of music to be extremely proud of. I like to describe it as "an ode to the British summer that never was". This EP is just scratching the surface of the world we have been creating.

As musicians who have been trying to make ends meet, the pandemic has felt like an insurmountable battle, but it has also forced us into making use of the

tools we have available to us, giving us the time we have always desired to concentrate solely on our music. Lead single *Afterglow* has already been getting some humbling reviews, including two plays on Radio X and Amazing Radio. We are expecting coverage to continue with BBC Music

Introducing and various other outlets.

No matter what happens next, we are hopeful these songs will speak for themselves. They will always hold a place close

to our hearts, which we will be forever grateful for. They have got us through. We are so sure they will do the same for others. Our story is one of perseverance and hope, which I know the world is in short supply of at the moment. It will be told. Even if it takes a few years to do so.

Find out more about Latenight Honeymoon's music:

Facebook /LatenightHoneymoon
Instagram @LatenightHoneymoon
YouTube /LatenightHoneymoon

Ethical eats

Vegan Gemma Parkes enjoys the arrival of a plant-based market in Enfield

I was excited to see Enfield Charter Market transformed last month into a plant-based piazza for the first time in its 700-year history.

The Vegan Markets UK event gave vegan and vegan-curious locals the chance to explore plant-based food and beauty products. The company, which works with councils across the country to deliver vegan markets to cities and towns, made its Enfield debut with a smorgasbord of stalls offering up ethical eats, natural beauty brands and eco-friendly products.

"Inquisitive foodies were treated to guilt-free fast food options"

Although 'millennials' seem to be driving the vegan movement, shoppers of varying ages came down to snap up an array of plant-based goods. Inquisitive foodies were treated to guilt-free fast food options, including Deliver Guru's crispy tempeh katsu burger, while sweet-toothed

shoppers flocked to Dominees Doughnuts, helping them sell-out within two hours of opening. Primrose Grazings' showstopping vegan cheese boards also hit the spot for those with a more savoury palette.

There were plenty of zero-waste cruelty-free finds for beauty enthusiasts, too. IUVO Skincare's luxurious range of freshly handmade products equipped shoppers with everything they need for self care and relaxation. The ethically conscious, family-run business's creations are made wholly from natural, organic formulas, which provided customers with safer skincare alternatives.

For those wanting to live more sustainably, vegan events are imperative to empowering and inspiring people to make their own choices. By hosting an event in Enfield, Vegan Markets UK encouraged locals to support like-minded, ethical independent businesses. This is an important step towards diversifying the high street, which can ordinarily be difficult to navigate for vegans like me.

While it's unclear whether Vegan Markets UK will return to Enfield in future, the market's visit aligns with Enfield Council's recent pledge to fight the climate crisis by banning meat at council-run events. The introduction of a regular vegan market would surely pave the way to making Enfield a greener borough.



Vegans flocked to Market Square for the event last month, the first of its kind in Enfield



Sign up to our weekly newsletter

We have recently launched a weekly newsletter to keep readers up-to-date with the latest news, features and comment from the Dispatch website

Sign up: rb.gy/aj9121

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LICENSING ACT 2003: NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

Notice is hereby given that Ibrahim Aksoy has applied to the Licensing Authority of London Borough of Enfield for a Premises Licence to permit:

Late Night Refreshment (both indoors and outdoors):
23:00–24:00 Sunday to Thursday
23:00–01:00 Friday and Saturday

Supply of Alcohol (both on and off the premises):
11:00–24:00 Sunday to Thursday
11:00–01:00 Friday and Saturday

Opening Hours:
11:00 to 24:00 Sunday to Thursday /
11:00 to 01:00 Friday and Saturday

for the premises: Woody House, 245 Bullsmoor Lane, Enfield EN1 4SB

The public register where applications are available to be viewed by members of the public can be accessed online by visiting <https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/business-and-licensing> and following the link to the Licensing Register.

Email licensing@enfield.gov.uk to request a copy of the application within 28 days from the date of this notice. Any person wishing to submit relevant representations concerning this application must give notice by emailing licensing@enfield.gov.uk, giving in detail the grounds of the representation no later than: **20/10/2020**

Representations received by post will not be accepted during the Covid-19 emergency period.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Authorities Sub Committee and will therefore pass into the public domain.

Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application for a premises licence. A person guilty of an offence is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level five on the standard scale.

Dated: 22nd of September 2020

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 20th October**

FOOD

Enfield Good Food Fair

Sunday 4th October, 10am–3pm
Enfield Market, Church Street,
Enfield Town EN2 6NL

A monthly celebration of fine food and drink, with an emphasis on local, showcasing talented producers from Enfield and beyond!

Free entry

Facebook /EnfieldGoodFoodFair

WORKSHOP

Learn To Knit

Thursday 8th and 15th October
10.30am–12.30pm
Stitch!, 397 Green Lanes,
Palmers Green N13 4JG

Want to learn to knit? Come and join this two-part workshop and learn skills to keep forever! The workshop is split into two sessions on successive Thursdays.

£40 for both workshops

Visit stitch.org.uk

MARKET

Forty Hall Farmers' Market

Sunday 11th October 10am–3pm
Forty Hall Farm, Forty Hill,
Enfield EN2 9HA

Come ready to fill your shopping baskets with a feast of tasty morsels, including the farm's own organic meat, vegetables and wine. Stock up on bread and pastries from local food heroes Holtwhites Bakery and cheese from urban cheesemakers Wildes Cheese.

Free entry

Visit fortyhallfarm.org.uk

ART

Taz Gray presents 'Come Closer'

Runs Monday-Saturday until
11th October
Dugdale Centre, 39 London
Road, Enfield Town EN2 6DS

Taz's drawings reflect how she sees her surroundings; drawing spaces and buildings boldly but balancing them with intimate details urging you to take a closer step forward.

Free entry

Email readbutnoheard@gmail.com

Visit dugdalecentre.co.uk

SINGING

Sing Out at the Dugdale

Thurs 15th October, 3–4.30pm
Dugdale Centre, 39 London
Road, Enfield Town EN2 6DS

Simon Gilbert, former choral director of Enfield Community Singers, invites everybody to sing for fun at the Dugdale. Simon will give you songs and medleys of your choice. No training, hard work, or brain bashing, just the opportunity to sing!

£3 entry

Call 020 8360 7386

Email simon.sgp@googlemail.com

TALKS

Enfield Chase Restoration Project

Tues 20th October, 7.30pm–9pm
Hosted online by Southgate
District Civic Voice

Ian Russell, the principal engineer for structures and watercourses at Enfield Council, will talk about the ambitious new project to create a publicly accessible, sustainable woodland within the rural area of Enfield.

Free entry

Visit southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org/events

Aspects of Enfield

Wednesday 21st October, 2pm
Held online via Zoom

A talk all about Enfield's parks, gardens and open spaces, hosted by Joe Studman, a local history guide and speaker.

£10 tickets, including two more talks in November and December
Call 0787 553 7295

Email joe@jaywalks.co.uk

Visit jaywalks.co.uk

FESTIVAL

Black History Month Film

Festival presents 'Get On Up'

Friday 23rd October, 7pm
Millfield Theatre, Silver Street,
Edmonton N18 1PJ

Black History Month Film Festival celebrates the films that inspire and champion the amazing achievements of iconic performances from black actors, directors and performers and their contribution to the world of film. In 'Get On Up', the late Chadwick Boseman plays legendary jazz artist James Brown.

£5 tickets

Visit millfieldtheatre.co.uk



The Two Brewers pub in Ponders End took a direct hit from a Luftwaffe bomb – seen here before the explosion

Remembering The Two Brewers bombing, 80 years on

Mary Smith looks back on the devastating events of September 1940 in Ponders End

On the night of Monday 30th September 1940, the German Luftwaffe were flying over the Lea Valley, probably looking to target the Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield Lock.

Instead, several high explosive bombs were dropped over Ponders End. Hearing the air-raid sirens, drinkers at a public house on the corner of High Street and South Street took shelter in the pub's cellar.

Unfortunately, the bomb went straight through the building and exploded in the basement. Twenty people were killed that night, but only 17 bodies were recovered. Just one person was pulled out alive, but he died from his wounds in hospital a day later. The Two Brewers was completely destroyed and never rebuilt, the site standing vacant for decades.

At the time of the bombing Cliff Short was a 14-year-old boy who lived in Lincoln Road. He was a runner for the fire brigade and was one of the first people on the scene. He helped to retrieve the bodies from the ruined building – a memory that lived with him all his life.

Cliff later campaigned for the vacant bomb site to be turned into a memorial garden. It took many years, but the garden finally opened on the 74th anniversary of the bombing in 2014. Cliff was 89 then, and helped to officially open the garden.

Commemoration events are usually held on the anniversary date but not this year, because of the coronavirus pandemic.

As Cliff became ill, he was concerned about the future of the garden, but thankfully it still thrives today. Since Cliff's death in 2016 myself and Pam Shapland have volunteered to maintain the garden, as its custodians. With local grants and support from Enfield in Bloom and local Ponders End councillors, the garden has become a pleasant green space, winning gold awards from Enfield in Bloom. The aim now is to get lighting put up in the trees to light the garden in the evenings – especially at Christmas.

“The bomb went straight through the building and exploded in the basement”

History isn't taught very well in schools these days and I think many people in Ponders End don't even realise there was a pub here. We want to make as many people aware of it as we can. The pub was originally a coaching inn along the old Roman road, Ermine Street, which was the main thoroughfare to Cambridge for hundreds of years. It even used to have a stables at the back. The pub was later rebuilt, in 1890, and re-opened as The Two Brewers. It was a beautiful building.



A memorial garden was opened in 2014 on the site of the bombing



The Two Brewers after its destruction

The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA
20th September 2020

Prime Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of a group of NHS doctors, many of us from North London, but also from all over the country, to respectfully request that you stop the North London Waste Authority's (NLWA) plans to rebuild and expand the incinerator in Edmonton – because air pollution and climate change are preventable causes of disease and death.

As you will no doubt be aware, the proposed new incinerator secured a Development Consent Order from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in 2017, and more recently, the NLWA secured a loan at the Local Infrastructure Rate from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. We are respectfully asking you to instruct the Secretaries of State of these ministries to immediately review and revoke the planning permission and the granting of the loan.

While this would be an exceptional intervention, we are sure you will agree that the climate and air pollution emergencies and public health crises require it. We also understand that your personal intervention into plans to build a large incineration and gasification plant in Washington, Sunderland, recently led to the scheme being put on hold.

We would like to tell you more about why we, as doctors, believe the incinerator plans must be scrapped.

Air pollution causes more than 40,000 deaths per year in the UK. It has been linked to cancer, asthma, stroke and heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and changes linked to dementia. The health problems resulting from air pollution cost the UK more than £20billion every year.¹ Air pollution is also associated with increased rates of autism,² preterm birth, and stillbirth³. There is evidence that increased air pollution allows pathogens such as coronavirus to spread further.⁴

The incinerator will release ultra-fine particulate matter (PM 1 and PM 0.1) that cannot be filtered. According to the World Health Organization, for the very smallest particles, there's no safe threshold below which no damage to health is observed.⁵ With regards to slightly larger particles such as PM 2.5, the parliament's Particulate Matter Research Group estimated last December that the current incinerator emits some 1.8 billion PM 2.5 per second, while a study from the British Heart Foundation found that Waltham Forest, downwind from the incinerator, has the second highest PM 2.5 concentration of all boroughs in the country. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has stated that no safe level for PM 2.5 exposure has been identified.⁶ There has been no modelling of the plumes of pollution from the incinerator, and no health impact assessment conducted on the short- or long-term exposure to the plumes.

Air pollution affects deprived communities more which makes existing health inequalities worse.⁷ Recent studies have found a strong correlation between the risks of poor outcomes to Covid-19 and chronic exposure to poor air quality. In this context it is perhaps no surprise that the Edmonton wards have been the worst affected of all wards in Enfield by Covid 19, with the greatest cases and mortalities recorded amongst a community that is over 60% BAME.⁸ Dramatic improvements in health have been shown to occur when air pollution is reduced⁹ and the decommissioning of the current incinerator presents a significant opportunity to improve the air quality of one of the poorest parts of London.

The climate emergency is a public health emergency. Over the next 50 years, the proposed facility would produce as much CO2 pollution as all of London does in two years – seven hundred thousand tonnes of CO2 per year.¹⁰ This is because burning waste produces approximately one tonne of CO2 per tonne of waste burnt¹¹ and the new incinerator will have a capacity of 700,000 tonnes of waste of year, with no plans for carbon capture and storage. CO2 pollution lasts in the atmosphere for hundreds of years – so the negative health effects of the climate disruption it causes are felt far into the future.

The climate emergency will have terrible consequences for health. Floods, heatwaves, droughts and wildfires kill and injure people. Increased air pollution and allergens, decreased water quality, food scarcity, increased infectious diseases, forced migration, increased conflict and violence, and damage to health services infrastructure, are just some of the problems we will face. The climate emergency also damages people's mental health. The groups most vulnerable to health damage from the climate emergency are children, older people, those who are sick, and migrating and marginalised populations.¹² Preventing these terrible effects on health, by acting on the climate emergency now, is much easier and cheaper than trying to deal with the consequences. Prevention is better than cure.

As doctors we work daily to save lives. By securing a stop to the NLWA and the North London councils' reckless plans, you, Prime Minister, will save more lives than we will in our entire careers.¹³

It's easy to clap for our NHS and we appreciated you joining in the clapping during the height of the pandemic, despite your own ill health. We are now respectfully asking you to truly support our NHS by scrapping the Edmonton incinerator rebuild and expansion, and so reducing rates of preventable death and disease both now, and far into the future.

A copy of this letter has been sent to Iain Duncan Smith, the MP for Chingford and Woodford Green, who has been extremely supportive of the efforts of local residents to secure a pause and review of the incinerator expansion plans.

A copy has also been sent to Kate Osamor, MP for Edmonton.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Dr Rebecca Redwood, GP, London
Dr Hannah Blanchford, Specialist Registrar, London
Dr Edward Tranah, London
Dr Katie Knight, Paediatric Emergency
Department Consultant, London
Dr Sevda Hassan, London
Dr Selda Ahmet London
Dr Helen Ward, Consultant in Acute Medicine
Dr Justin Daniels, Paediatric consultant, London
Dr Harry McDonough, London
Dr Jayana Patel, London
Dr Jennifer Plunkett , London
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Dr Polia Naydenova, Geriatric Consultant, London
Dr Robert Smillie, London
Dr Christie Noble, Paediatric doctor, London
Dr Dev Mukerjee, Rheumatology Consultant, London
Dr Bhavni Shah, Rheumatology Consultant, London

Dr Zozik Fattah, Rheumatology Consultant, London
Dr Virginia Lam, London
Dr Alasdair Frater, London
Dr Lady-Namera Ejaimike, London
Dr William Walshe, London
Dr Ahmed Nisar, London
Dr Nick Rollitt, London
Dr Cara Surtees, London,
Dr Shreya Chaudhuri, London
Dr Rebecca Sen, London
Dr Eleni Armeni, London
Dr Chris Valerio, Consultant Respiratory Physician
Dr Zaheer Mangera, Consultant Respiratory Physician
Dr Asim Khan, London
Dr Maya Zosmer, London
Dr Laura Davis, London
Dr David Peprah, London
Dr Sonia Adesara, GP Registrar, London,

Dr Honey Smith, GP, Sheffield
Dr Hellen Caller, Paediatric Doctor, London
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Dr Clare Tomlinson, London
Dr Claire Highton, GP, London
Dr Rachel Cottam, GP, Brighton
Dr Vishal Cohauhan, Tunbridge Wells
Dr Sarah Benn, GP, Birmingham
Dr Clare Andrews, GP, London
Dr Jim Cave, Haematology Consultant, Manchester
Dr Chris Newman, GP, London
Dr Nadia Audhay, London
Dr Emma Radcliffe, GP, London
Dr Juliet Bottle, London
Dr Sarah Foot, London
Dr Hoon Teo, Manchester
Dr David Mckelvey, Manchester
Dr Grace Thompson, Bristol

Dr Angela Wilson, GP, Oxford
Dr Angela Nicholas, Dorset
Mr Andrew Stevenson, Surgeon, Somerset
Dr Dominic Nee, Brighton
Dr Deepa Shah, GP, London
Dr Jessica Keeble, GP, Bradford
Dr Sarah Andersen, GP, East Sussex
Dr Kat Bristol, GP, Gloucestershire
Dr Naomi Adelson, GP, Birminham
Dr Amelia Cussans, Psychiatry doctor, London
Dr Emma Monaghan, GP, Lincolnshire
Dr Elizabeth Harris, Newcastle
Dr Hannah Rosen O'Sullivan, London
Dr Matt Thomas-Davies, London
Dr Suezee Hill, Somerset
Dr Finola O'Neill, GP, North Devon
Dr Kirsten Shukla, Consultant Psychiatrist, Oxford
Dr Rebecca Hall, GP, Somerset
Dr Katie Belremolt, London
Dr Lola Rivas, London

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AROUND THE BOROUGH

ENFIELD WASH

New special school approved

BY SIMON ALLIN,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

A PLAN TO BUILD A SCHOOL for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) has been approved by councillors.

Salmon's Brook School, in Bell Lane, will provide 70 places for children aged eleven to 18 with social, emotional and mental health needs. Enfield borough currently only has one school with 44 places catering for pupils with these needs, which is not enough to meet demand.

The new single-storey school will be built on Bell Lane Playing Fields. Although this is currently an area of open land, an Enfield Council report said it was the "only available and suitable site

for the proposed development". An outdoor multi-use games area will be provided.

At a meeting of the planning committee last month, planning officer David Gittens said: "The proposal forms part of a strategy by the council's education department to gain more capacity and continuity for [SEND] pupils and support transitions into provision post-16, which would include a full educational programme up to the age of 19.

"The proposal provides expert support both in terms of full-time placement, part-time assessment placements, as well as a comprehensive outreach programme to support inclusion in the borough's mainstream schools."

Committee member Mike Rye,

a Conservative councillor, said he regretted the loss of open space, but this consideration was outweighed by the need for this type of school. To compensate for the loss of the open space caused by the construction of the school, improvements will be made to other areas of open space in the local area.

Cllr Rye also raised concerns over the number of road accidents recorded near the site and, in response, the council's transport chief Dominic Millen said the local authority would look to improve walking and cycling provision to reduce the likelihood of further incidents.

Following the debate, the application was unanimously approved by members of the committee.

ENFIELD TOWN

Ideas sought for town centre

ENFIELD COUNCIL IS APPEALING for ideas to help it spend £6million on public realm improvements.

A series of online workshops focus on improvements to Fountain Island, Library Green, the entrance to Town Park and the plaza outside Enfield Town Station, as well as the potential creation of a new community space called 'Saddlers Mill Square' off Church Street. The opportunity follows a period of community

engagement last year, which heard from more than 1,000 people.

The £6m funding was awarded to the council last year by Trans-

"We want to create a high quality public realm"

port for London, as part of its 'Liveable Neighbourhoods' programme. Council leader Nesil

Caliskan said: "We want to create high-quality public realm spaces that are accessible, sustainable and adaptable.

"You might want more entertainment at Fountain Island, greenery outside Enfield Town Station, or perhaps you'd like a hand in designing a new community space. Sign up to our workshops so your visions and opinions can be shared."

To get involved visit letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/enfieldtown

EDMONTON GREEN

Tower block's £12m refurb

ENFIELD COUNCIL IS SET TO undertake a £12million refurbishment to improve "safety and sustainability" at a 22-storey tower block in Devonshire Road.

The 126 homes at Walbrook House will benefit from a new energy and cost-efficient heating

system, fire safety and security improvements, as well as in-flat improvements. External cladding previously deemed unsafe following the Grenfell Tower disaster was removed last year. The latest refurbishment was subsequently delayed by Covid-19.

Councillor Gina Needs, cabinet member for social housing, said: "It's frustrating we cannot complete this work as quickly as we'd hoped, so I'm grateful for everyone's patience and input to help us get this important work completed."

PONDERS END

Huge new brewery launched

Beavertown founder Logan Plant at Beaverworld in East Ducks Lees Lane



LONDON'S BIGGEST BREWERY has opened on the banks of the River Lea.

'Beaverworld' is the new home for brewing company Beavertown, capable of producing 90 million pints every year – ten times more than its original brewery in Tottenham.

The £40million development was made possible after Heineken bought a minority stake in Beavertown two years ago. It will now employ 150 people at the new Ponders End site. It's been a rapid growth for founder Logan Plant,

son of Led Zeppelin signer Robert, who began by brewing beer in his kitchen in 2011.

Logan said: "Beaverworld has been a long time in the making and we're thrilled that we've now started brewing on site in Enfield. With Beaverworld, we've created a quality-driven brewery with passion and love for the craft at its core.

"Beaverworld is the answer to our dream of getting more Beavertown in the hands of the masses and we could not be more excited that it's now up and running."

WINCHMORE HILL

Bigger school

BY SIMON ALLIN,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

A SECONDARY SCHOOL HAS won permission to build a sixth-form block and games area to cater for rising pupil numbers.

The two-storey building at Winchmore School, in Laburnum Grove, will provide education for mainstream students and those with autism. It means teaching will be able to take place on one site, rather than staff and pupils sometimes having to travel to and from temporary classrooms in Wilmer Way. A floodlit multi-use games area will accommodate football, netball and tennis.

BRIMSDOWN

New jobs

ONLINE RETAIL GIANT AMAZON is hiring 200 new people at its Brimsdown warehouse following a huge boost in trade during the pandemic.

Amazon is increasing the number of permanent staff at its Stockingwater Lane delivery hub from 100 to 150 – with another 150 new "seasonal roles" added for the Christmas period. In total the American company is creating 10,000 permanent jobs and 20,000 temporary jobs across more than 50 UK sites.

Amazon's European vice president Stefano Perego said: "The new roles will help us continue to meet customer demand and support small and medium-sized businesses selling on Amazon."

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#MoreThanACollege

Winning return for Towners

Andrew Warshaw enjoys the return of competitive football to the QE2 Stadium for the first time since March



Ryan Blackman celebrates his goal for Enfield Town against Lewes last month Credit Tom Scott

There may be more important things than football in the current climate but the non-league game has suffered greatly when it comes to Covid-19, ripping the heart out of our national sport.

Hence the delight among the Enfield Town faithful when the new season finally kicked into gear last month, after a worrying summer of unpredictability and uncertainty. Off the field, the club was hit by an unfortunate positive coronavirus case in the weeks leading up to the start of the season, forcing many of the squad to self-isolate and seriously disrupting training and warm-up friendlies.

Luckily, it didn't stop the Towners kicking off the new campaign on time and with a raft of new players to bolster the spine of the team and replace those who have left; there are high hopes of improving on last season's seventh-place finish when fixtures were curtailed prematurely.

Importantly for everyone concerned, the board of directors, together with a string of volunteers, have put a tremendous amount of work in to take all the necessary precautions to make the stadium as Covid-friendly as possible, allowing for 250 fans to attend the opening game of the season. They went home happy after a 4-1 win over

Lewes, paving the way for a cautious and incremental increase in capacity as long as government regulations allow it.

At a virtual supporters' meeting before the season got under way, chairman Paul Reed confirmed that, during these unprecedented times, the club needed to tighten its belt significantly in virtually all spending areas, including a first-team playing budget

“There are high hopes of improving on last season’s seventh-place finish”

reduction of approximately 20%. Members were informed, however, that the club's summer-long crowdfunding initiative had raised £11,830, most of it going towards a significant floodlight upgrading.

Achieving the club's ambition of reaching the play-offs this season and keeping a tight rein on finances represents a difficult

balancing act. This isn't helped by the continuing impact coronavirus is having on the game, making planning almost impossible amid the threat of local lockdowns, crowd restrictions, or opponents having positive cases and matches being called off – which has happened several times at other clubs already this season. Add to that, there's reduced prize money on offer in cup competitions for non-league teams. This is a headache facing not just Enfield Town but most of their rivals, apart from those with major investors to cushion the financial blow.

Enthusiasm is high and whatever happens over the course of the next few weeks and months, the bigger picture is one of a club that has stabilised under the present board, without the kind of reckless spending that has brought many a larger club crashing to its knees.

Paul said: “Our business plan is always set realistically and our associated budgets prudently. The club has achieved two promotions in almost 20 years of existence, and has come from a ground-share situation to leasing its own ground, and the first team have been either in, or in contention for, the play-offs for a number of recent seasons.”

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