

ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº. 27 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

DEC 2020

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ENFIELD CHASE Restoration Project was officially launched last month with the first of many volunteering days being held near Botany Bay. The project, a partnership between environmental charity Thames 21 and Enfield Council, aims to plant 100,000 trees on green belt land in the borough over the next two years – the largest single tree-planting project in London.

Foodbank in demand as pandemic continues

Enfield North Foodbank prepares for Christmas surge

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

The manager of the borough's biggest foodbank has thanked residents for their support during a year when demand for emergency food aid has doubled.

Kerry Coe, who runs North Enfield Foodbank, told the *Dispatch* that the surge in demand for its services had been matched by a surge in donations and volunteers, which meant that every person in the borough who has been referred to them for food support packages has been able to get one.

"One of the wonderful things about the last eight months is that

we have seen people come together as a community," said Kerry. "It is wonderful to see people stepping in to volunteer – we have had hundreds of people helping us. As well as donations, we couldn't do what we do without volunteers."

"We have never not been able to give people food when they've come to us. I want to say a massive thanks to everyone who has been so generous, it is really wonderful."

Kerry revealed that during the pandemic to date, more than 13,000 local people in need have been fed by North Enfield Foodbank, across the whole borough. This is double the rate of the previous year, although at the ini-

tial peak in spring demand was three times higher.

"I think we are likely to see another big increase [in demand] in the run-up to Christmas," Kerry warned. "We will need people's support."

"The pandemic has amplified the challenges that families were already facing. There's the jobs situation, waiting for benefits to come through, debt, housing, and people obviously being off work sick – people are struggling, but I'm glad we can be here to help."

To access foodbanks, people need a referral from a local organisation or professional, such as Enfield Council, Enfield

Citizens Advice, a local GP or social worker. Of those people referred to North Enfield Foodbank this year, most have been because of low incomes.

Even if the pandemic is brought under control early next year, the economic impact could be felt for some time to come. Enfield was recently named the "most financially insecure" area in the UK, after local unemployment trebled (*Enfieldians deemed UK's most financially insecure*, Page 6).

Help support Enfield North Foodbank:

Call 07826 542 119

Email info@northyenfield.foodbank.org.uk

Visit northyenfield.foodbank.org.uk/contact-us



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Nº.27

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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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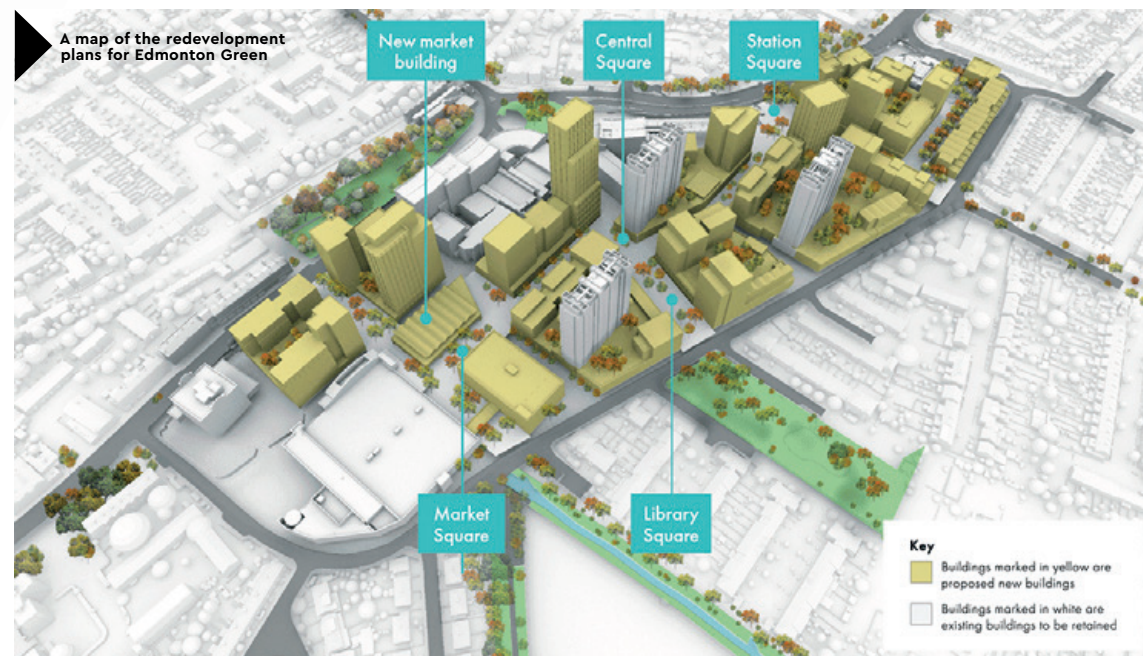
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Major Edmonton Green redevelopment unveiled



BY JAMES CRACKNELL

The owners of Edmonton Green Shopping Centre want to build 1,500 new homes – including a 30-storey tower block – as part of a sweeping redevelopment of the site.

While the existing three tower blocks, ASDA, and the bus station would be retained, much of the remaining older parts of the site would be torn down, with additional residential blocks built above newly created shopping areas.

The current indoor market would be demolished to help open up the site and create new public spaces and thoroughfares, with a replacement market built on an existing car park “to make it the focal point of the new development”.

Owners Crosstree Real Estate Partners have been working on the plans since buying the site from St Modwen in 2018, with surveys and public events being held over the last two years to hear local people’s thoughts. A number of improvements to existing facilities have also been made in that time. Feedback suggested people wanted a mix of shops, restaurants and cafés, and the Crosstree proposals include a greater range of retail and hospitality units, including independent local shops and cafés as well as high street brands. A new ‘Library Square’ would also

be home to an enhanced library, with a dedicated community hub created below Mendip House.

Opinions are now being sought on the plans, prior to the submission of a planning application to Enfield Council. Sabri Marsaoui, asset director at Edmonton Green, said: “We have already conducted a lot of consultation with residents and we hope they will see we have taken on board their feedback.

“Edmonton Green has so much potential and we feel these proposals will help realise this. It is vital the development remains

“Edmonton Green has so much potential and we feel these proposals will help realise this”

grounded in what already makes Edmonton Green successful and that is why we have put the market at the centre of these proposals.

“We also believe our plans for new streets, spaces and squares will make this area safer, and a place for local people to spend time shopping or socialising with friends and family.”

The proposals have been drawn up by architects LDS. If approved by the council, the first phase of the scheme – on the ASDA car park – would be due for completion in 2023. The whole redevelopment is estimated to last between ten and 15 years.

The Edmonton Green plans are

the latest in a string of high-rise schemes proposed for the borough this year. In September, investment giant Blackrock won planning permission to build 1,800 homes in towers up to 29-storeys tall on a retail park in Southbury; while in October, a proposal by Deutsche Bank to rebuild Palace Gardens Shopping Centre in Enfield Town, including a 26-storey tower and several hundred homes, was revealed. Both schemes are proving controversial among residents, being planned as they are for generally low-rise areas, but

in Edmonton Green the skyline is already punctuated by existing high-rise blocks, the tallest being 25 storeys.

Regarding the height of the tower blocks proposed, a Crosstree spokesperson said:

“Edmonton Green is identified in local planning policy as an appropriate location for tall buildings. The residential blocks will therefore range in height from four to 30 storeys. The centre of the site will feature taller buildings, with smaller buildings at the perimeter to tie in with Fore Street and other neighbouring streets.”

Residents can now have their say, until Sunday 6th December, by logging on to egconsultation.co.uk. A window display has been placed at 50 South Mall, a vacant shop within the centre, and online webinars are also being held. A community newsletter is being sent to more than 7,000 homes.

Culture strategy

BY SIMON ALLIN,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

A plan has been launched to encourage more local people to take part in cultural activities and tap into London’s £52billion creative economy.

Councillors approved a five-year strategy designed to improve access to culture in Enfield at a cabinet meeting last month. With one in six Londoners employed in the creative industries, Enfield Council hopes to bring more of those economic opportunities to the borough.

Enfield has historically had a very low level of active cultural participation and has limited cultural infrastructure compared to similar local authorities, according to a council report. Designed to turn that around, the strategy has three priorities; sustainable culture, creating opportunities for young people, and culture every day.

It identifies the council’s £6billion Meridian Water regeneration scheme as a potential hub for film, television and associated industries. The council hopes to attract more businesses such as OMA Film Studios, which last summer opened its new Enfield Lock site, claimed to be the largest film studio in London.

The council cultural strategy proposes a “youth culture catapult programme” to increase and improve creative opportunities for young people. Deputy leader Ian Barnes told the meeting: “This strategy is for the council to convene and catalyse the whole borough to work in collaboration, from grassroots community organisations to large-scale commercial players.”

Waste plan

North London Waste Authority’s plan for waste disposal across seven boroughs over the next ten years is being examined by an independent planning inspector.

Stephen Normington is assessing whether the North London Waste Plan, which identifies sites for disposing of waste up to 2031 and includes guidance for determining relevant planning applications, complies with legal requirements and is “sound”.

The plan was initially launched in 2019, but several amendments have since been made. A consultation is now open and local people have until Thursday 10th December to contribute to the public examination of the document – visit nlwp.net/examination.

Borough businesses battling to survive

Olivia Devereux-Evans talks to Enfield entrepreneurs about their struggles through the pandemic

With England having been under a second national lockdown throughout November, and many restrictions continuing into December, local businesses in Enfield continue to face financial uncertainty.

Essential businesses, such as those selling food, have been allowed to stay open throughout the second lockdown, but non-essential shops were not. And while the government has extended its furlough scheme until March 2021 in a bid to stave off mass redundancies, many business owners are still struggling to continue trading.

They include Michael Blake, who has run Trimble's Fancy Dress Shop in Windmill Hill since 1998. He told the *Dispatch*: "I would say we are probably 80% down on business since March. We have survived purely because of what we got from the government. Otherwise, we would have closed, without a shadow of a doubt."

Trimble's secured a loan and was eligible for the government-backed business rates relief scheme. Michael also plans on using the flexible furlough offer until March to pay staff. During the current lockdown, Trimble's is relying on customers emailing in deliveries for dance wear and fancy dress costumes. But profits from big fancy dress occasions have declined sharply.

"At Halloween we lost about 75% of our normal business," added Michael. "It should have been a big Saturday for us."

Yvonne Fuller has run Shed Loads of Crafts in Crews Hill since 2015, with business partner Sandra Gardner. Speaking at the start of the second lockdown, Yvonne said they were worried about losing trade. "November is our busiest month in the whole year," she told the *Dispatch*. "So we are going to be financially at a loss."

Shed Loads of Crafts was eligible for business rates relief, some of which Yvonne and Sandra put aside. They are now trying to increase



Michael Blake and Jennie Law at Trimble's in Windmill Hill

their online presence while they are unable to open the shop, using their Facebook page.

Asked how she was feeling about the future of the business, Yvonne said: "Despondent at the moment, but we will be good, we will get there. We have got customer followers, so we will be okay. The pandemic has actually shown how many people do believe in us and want us to survive."

Mizad Khodsee, who runs Mauritian Foods Online, has a fruit and vegetable stall and supermarket at Edmonton Green Shopping Centre, which was recently taken over by a new management company, Crosstree. Mizad said the new management had been a positive and that people were still doing their essential grocery shopping there.

Crosstree has helped businesses struggling at the centre by giving them rent discounts. Mizad also received government support,

including a 'Bounce Back' loan. Asked about the future of the business, he said: "We have to keep positive because we are all in it [together]. The show must go on. We have to have a bit of a glimmer of hope that we are just going through a hard time."

Many businesses have adapted their offer to customers to stay afloat during the pandemic. But My Time Artisan Fare in Palmers Green, run by Brian Lewis, has changed more than most. It had been open since 2015 as a café, but like many such firms saw a decline in sales following the first lockdown. Brian told the *Dispatch*: "Our sales were something like 40–50% coming back, and that was when we did [government discount scheme] Eat Out To Help Out."

My Time also received business rate relief but Brian said it wasn't enough and that he had to decide what else could be done to help the business survive. He did some market research with Palmers Green Action Group and discovered locals wanted a deli in the area. My Time subsequently re-opened as an organic delicatessen, grocery store and café, branching out into home food deliveries and click-and-collect.

"If we had not been creative we really would have died," said Brian. He is now hopeful for the future and added: "We are going to be able to move forward. I just want to say a big thank you to the residents and customers for supporting us."

Contact Trimble's Fancy Dress:
Facebook /Trimblesfancydress

Contact Shed Load of Crafts:
Visit shedloadofcrafts.com

Contact Mauritian Foods Online:
Visit mauritianfoodsonline.com

Contact My Time Artisan Fare:
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Brian Lewis behind the counter at My Time in Palmers Green

Support for rough sleepers

BY OLIVIA DEVEREUX-EVANS

Enfield Council has been given £9.1million to help house and support rough sleepers across the borough.

The government funding, the highest amount allocated to a London local authority, will be used to create 73 homes across three housing projects. It was one of 38 homelessness schemes across the capital selected to receive funding by mayor of London Sadiq Khan, who was given £94.3million in total by the government to provide longer-term accommodation to people living in hotels, hostels or supported housing.

Enfield Council leader Nesil Caliskan said: "Enfield Council has worked tirelessly to support homeless people and secure suitable accommodation for them, particularly in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic."

"Despite significant pressure on our finances, we will continue our engagement, support and advice and work with our partners to reduce rough sleeping in Enfield."

"This will be through a combination of improvements to the private rental sector, the establishment of the council's ethical lettings agency, known as Enfield Let, and the provision of high-quality, affordable and safe accommodation with welcomed financial assistance from the mayor of London."

"In addition, we will work to strengthen residents' ability to remain housed through support and training."

The overall goal is to help 900 people across London move into new homes by the end of March 2021. A large number of these rough sleepers were accommodated in hotels by City Hall and by borough councils at the start of the pandemic. The emergency programme helped 1,700 homeless people who would have been vulnerable to coronavirus infection in shelters or living on the streets.

Sadiq Khan said: "The projects I'm supporting will create the homes our fellow Londoners deserve and ensure they have access to the support they need to rebuild their lives."

The great outdoor dining experiment

Neil Littman on how local eating establishments adapted after the first lockdown – and how they might recover from the second

Since the start of the pandemic, big changes have been made by the hospitality industry as it seeks to adapt to new restrictions.

More residents are staying home and using nearby amenities, which include The Green in Winchmore Hill. During the first lockdown we suddenly had impromptu family picnics and people eating their lunch on the seating areas.

This was supported by one of the cafés, Nespresso, which began doing takeaways, while Going Greek also provided home deliveries. But of the six food outlets in the area, four of them remained closed for three months. Buckle and Vaughn probably had the most difficult issues, being primarily a sit-down restaurant.

When local restaurants and cafés were finally allowed to fully re-open in July, businesses needed to re-engage with the community and find ways to survive and recoup the financial hit they took during months of closure.

Most of the eating establishments in Winchmore Hill are independently owned and they re-opened in different ways. There

was greater demand for outdoor seating, where little or none had existed previously.

After the local residents' association petitioned councillors, Enfield Council agreed to allow outdoor seating on the slip road of The Green, closing it off at both ends for a period of six months. If this had not happened with the speed it did, several of the dining outlets could have easily gone out of business.

The council would not allow any permanent structures to be erected to protect diners from the elements if the weather got bad, but some places were allowed umbrellas and collapsible shelters that could be removed and stored. More importantly, restaurants adapted their offers to suit the changing circumstances. Most served some sort of takeaway menu, in addition to what they had been doing previously.

The Larder took a radical approach, becoming a bar and paella venue with evening openings, in addition to serving breakfast and lunch. It also made alterations to its garden area and overhauled its menu. New chefs were taken on and more outdoor seating provided, plus a gazebo erected on The Green.



Hopper & Bean opened with an expanded takeaway menu, including vegan sausage rolls from Cornwall that provided serious competition for Greggs! It also established an outdoor eating area.

A few of the businesses signed up to the government's 'Eat Out

to Help Out' scheme. It was something that Buckle and Vaughn benefited from enormously – they even decided to continue the scheme on their own initiative until November.

Going Greek operated continuously during the whole period, and

on Friday evenings seemed to be the venue of choice for the local police force. It was good that customers were happy to adapt as well.

A major factor that helped at first was the weather. It stayed consistently warm and dry for nearly two months. But the weather changed for the worse in late August and September, resulting in little or no outdoor dining.

This raises doubts for how hospitality businesses will cope after the end of the second lockdown. If no shelter is provided, it is feared the whole point of removing traffic from this part of The Green will be lost, as customers will no longer wish to eat or drink outside.

The council will decide early next year whether the outdoor dining scheme will operate indefinitely. Winchmore Hill Residents Association (WHRA) is seeking to identify what specific measures are required to maintain the successes of the experiment over the winter months and wants to work collaboratively to develop broad proposals for further improvements.

To get involved with discussions around the future of The Green:
Visit whresidents.org

Helping those in need

Olivia Devereux-Evans talks to the founder of a support group and foodbank that has seen demand soar during the pandemic

An Edmonton community project is helping up to 400 people a week – with services including food deliveries and mental health support – as people continue to struggle through the coronavirus pandemic.

Build Achieve Support Empower (BASE) was started by a group of friends in September 2019, following a course with a parent engagement panel at Enfield Council which highlighted that one in four children were not receiving hot meals.

Founder Candice Charles is a child-care educator and said the group expanded faster than she ever imagined when Covid-19 hit earlier this year. The help BASE provides



includes food delivery, domestic violence aftercare, child and family support. The volunteers pay for the food which they provide to the community themselves.

Candice said: "We are struggling but

it is a nice feeling that you are helping someone else. It does not need to be a headache to help someone."

The group is based at All Saints Church Hall, Edmonton, and is open all week. Home food deliveries are done from Saturday to Wednesday and the hall is open on Thursday and Friday for collections. Enhanced safety measures are in place for deliveries and collections.

BASE also collaborates with a number of other organisations, including Bread and Butter, Morgan's Creative Minds and Sonny the Snail's Sensory Garden in Ponders End. Bread and Butter provides people with frozen meals and food that can be cooked as well as recipes. Morgan's Creative Minds offers art

therapy via Zoom and outdoors to help those affected by the loneliness coronavirus restrictions can bring.

BASE also wants to reduce the stigma around using foodbanks. Candice said: "We try to make more people welcome and show that there is no shame in asking for help."

In the long-term, Candice wants to be able to grow the food that BASE provides. She now has two allotments, one in Ponders End and one in Edmonton, and is in need of volunteers to help plant fruit and vegetables.

BASE is not limited to Enfield borough and Candice says she often receives South London referrals, which she now does once a week. She wants other boroughs

to start similar projects so more people can be helped.

Before the government agreed to support Marcus Rashford's free school meals campaign, there was a surge in demand from parents. Candice added: "We were going through bags like it was nothing. It [Marcus's campaign] was a really good thing, and I am glad someone did it."

BASE is always looking for donations and in addition to food is in need of sanitary towels, baby milk and nappies. It also accepts donations of buggies and cots.

For more information about BASE and to donate:

Call 07488 342 275
Facebook /BASE-Edmonton-104349154501982
Visit gofundme.com/f/tackling-child-poverty
Visit bankuet.co.uk/base

Reaching out to rough sleepers

A local homelessness charity is seeking both volunteers and donations

BY BASIL CLARKE

If you find yourself homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless and don't qualify for temporary accommodation with the council, who will come to your rescue?

In Enfield or Haringey boroughs, it will most likely be the homelessness prevention charity All People All Places (APAP). It will help you stay where you are, or, if you're already homeless, provide emergency accommodation and support you to find somewhere more permanent.

APAP began operation ten years ago in Haringey and four years later in Enfield, co-ordinating volunteer-run winter night shelters set up in places of worship, finding accommodation for guests to move on to, and working with them collaboratively to create a pathway plan for their future. Over the 2018/19 winter, these shelters provided 1,063 bed-nights, putting up 91 individual guests, and found somewhere to live for nearly half of them.

APAP support workers can help clients find accommodation without an upfront deposit, source missing documents, register with a GP, complete benefit claims, and much more. They build trust and provide a safe environment for clients to open up about their underlying problems and begin to deal with them.

In autumn last year, APAP's operations expanded. In addition to the night shelter



APAP provides temporary shelter for rough sleepers while trying to arrange permanent accommodation for them

model, where in each borough a different church or synagogue houses guests one night a week, APAP set up static shelters; in Haringey a former care home, in Enfield a disused industrial unit. They took on additional staff to run them, and APAP became a year-round professional operation with 18 staff.

The expansion came just in time, because the arrival of Covid-19 made it necessary to house rough sleepers for the duration of lockdown. But it also meant that the dormi-

tory model APAP used was unworkable – it would take only one person with the virus to infect everyone else breathing the same air. Single rooms became essential.

The former Haringey care home could be adapted without too much difficulty, but in Enfield the industrial unit could not. The solution was for Enfield Council to take over a hotel in Edmonton, which APAP helped run until it closed in August.

Currently, APAP has one shelter operat-

ing, in the former care home, with room for 30 guests. Instead of the guests moving between churches, a different church group or community group comes to the shelter each night, providing food and keeping guests safe and engaged. In January this will be joined by a six-bedroom house in Enfield, where guests can stay while APAP works with them to find somewhere to live. APAP could easily fill more such houses, but can't yet afford them.

To support clients, including people not yet homeless but at risk of becoming so, APAP has a day centre in Haringey and is planning to set up a resource centre in Enfield, providing access to support workers and laundry facilities.

Expansion and professionalisation have not diminished the importance of voluntary support, whether from individuals or community groups. Volunteers provide food and toiletries, take turns to run the shelter, maintain and clean the buildings, and help raise awareness of the charity – much of whose income comes from small individual donations.

In the face of growing unemployment and debt, likely leading to evictions, APAP needs every helping hand and every penny it can get. Could you or your community group step in to help at shelters or to raise money?

For more information and to offer support:

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New schools for hospital site

BY JAMES CRACKNELL AND SIMON ALLIN,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Two new schools and hundreds of homes have been granted planning permission on the former Chase Farm Hospital site.

At a meeting of the planning committee last month, a two-storey primary school and four-storey secondary school for the site were approved. They will provide teaching facilities for 1,260 pupils and around 120 staff.

The new primary school building is for One Degree Academy, an existing school in Ponders End that wants to relocate, while the planned secondary is Wren Academy, a new school that opened in September but has been forced to teach its first pupils from a site it's currently sharing with Nightingale Academy, in Edmonton.

Enfield Council planning officers recommended the new school buildings in The Ridgeway for approval, highlighting "insufficient provision" for education in the borough – particularly for secondary places in north-west Enfield.

During the meeting, a resident objected to the proposals, raising concerns over increased traffic and the potential for more parking problems in nearby streets. But speaking in support was Gavin Smith, principal of Wren Academy, who said: "Enfield children deserve nothing less than the very best opportunities, buildings, facilities and staff in these schools."

After councillors raised concerns about traffic and parking, officers agreed to attach a condition for the schools' starting and finishing times to be staggered, reducing potential impact on neighbours. The new permanent school buildings are



planned to open in September 2022, but new temporary buildings that would allow both schools to begin teaching next year at the Chase Farm site, bought by the government in 2017, are being proposed in a separate planning application.

The new Chase Farm Hospital building was opened in 2018 and part of the original plan, approved in 2015, included 500 homes in blocks up to five storeys tall, in place of the demolished hospital buildings, but so far only 138 have been built.

Because space is now needed for the new secondary school, the government claims the remaining homes need to be built in taller, six-storey buildings, so they take up less space. A second planning committee meeting in November approved the application for 362 homes.

Speaking on behalf of the government, a planning agent told the meeting: "We are optimising the use of previously

developed land to deliver important social infrastructure. This is critical to the growth of the borough and will help the council meet its housing targets."

The government agreed to provide 20% affordable housing – up from 14% in a previously agreed planning permission but still far below the council's 40% target. Committee member Daniel Anderson said: "We have a policy. What is the point in continually having meetings where we are being told we can't meet the requirement for affordable housing?"

Planning officers told councillors that while the development would be visible from the green belt, the flats would be lower and less intrusive than the existing hospital buildings. Two councillors abstained from the vote on the plans but it was voted through by the remaining members of the committee.

For more information on the plans:
Visit chasefarmdevelopment.co.uk

Enfieldians 'most financially insecure'

Borough unemployment nearly three times higher than before pandemic

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Enfield residents are the least "financially viable" in the whole of the UK, according to a loan company's research.

Lender Moneybarn ranked 369 local authority areas by a series of criteria, such as average incomes, house prices and unemployment, with Enfield coming bottom of the pile. Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire, took top spot.

Six of the ten least financially viable locations were found to be in London. In Enfield, nearly 40% of residents earn below the national living wage (£10.75 in London), while they also scored poorly for gross disposable income, annual pay, and employment. London boroughs Barking and Dagenham, Hackney and Redbridge also featured in the bottom five. Inverclyde in Scotland was the only location outside England to feature in the bottom ten.

Newly-released job data from the Office for National Statistics show nearly a three-fold rise in local unemployment. More than 19,000 people (9%) of working age in Enfield are now claiming unemployment benefits, up from 7,000 people (3.3%) one year ago.

UK households are expected to face an additional £6billion in debt as a result of the Covid-19 health crisis and economic recession, as millions of people fall behind on payments. Tim Schwarz, head of marketing at Moneybarn, said: "The government has its work cut out to get the nation back on its feet and help people live more comfortably, especially post-Covid 19."

Shortly after announcing a second nationwide lockdown for England, the government last month announced an extension to its job retention scheme, commonly known as furlough, until spring next year. It has also provided additional support for local authorities, with Enfield Council handed another £9.6million, bringing the total government support for the local authority during the pandemic to £40.6m. The council estimates its additional spending and lost income amounting from the public health crisis will total £64.6m.

Former Tory MP 'sorry' over election leaflet

David Burrowes apologises to councillor

Former Enfield Southgate MP David Burrowes has been forced to apologise to a local councillor for printing a lie about her on his election leaflets.

The defeated Conservative, who lost to current Labour MP Bambos Charalambous in both 2017 and 2019, admitted falsely claiming Southgate Green councillor Claire Stewart had supported a controversial high-rise development in Southgate town centre.

The election literature carrying the fabrication was distributed widely during the 2019 General Election campaign in a ward that Cllr Stewart does not represent. Cllr Stewart was not herself a candidate in the general election, but is employed by Bambos as his chief of staff and campaigned for his re-election.

Cllr Stewart said: "It is absolutely right

that David Burrowes retract his statement and apologise. His actions contributed towards the toxic political atmosphere that sees women targeted with smear campaigns.

"Clearly David Burrowes' actions were only meant to damage my reputation – they were nothing to do with the general election."

In an apology posted on the Southgate Conservatives website, David wrote: "I am very sorry to have stated in a leaflet in November 2019 that Cllr Stewart supported the planned Southgate Office Village development. I now realise that this was not the case and Cllr Stewart has not supported the development, and I am happy to make this clear."

David Burrowes was Conservative MP for Enfield Southgate between 2005 and 2017. The formal apology came as part of an undisclosed legal settlement between

the pair after Cllr Stewart instructed her solicitors to pursue a case of defamation.

The 17-storey plans for Southgate Office Village were rejected by Enfield Council in June this year.



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High-rise plans causing concern

In our latest councillor's column, Grange ward member Terry Neville shares his trepidation over local redevelopments

I've been a councillor in Enfield now for 34 years, and during that time I've seen many changes – sadly not all for the best!

Grange ward is having more planning issues at present than I've seen for some considerable time. The present ones are a mixture of controversial applications in the Enfield Town area and an increasing number of planning enforcement cases, as a lack of determined action by Enfield Council over recent years has led to many more people effectively 'chancing their arm' with developments and arguing about it afterwards!

I and my two ward colleagues continue to press the council on these cases, and I've recently called on the chief executive to investigate how effective planning enforcement is in the borough, something which

he is now organising.

In Enfield Town there are two significant new applications, the biggest of which is being submitted by Deutsche Bank, the owner of Palace Gardens and Palace Exchange shopping centres. The company is proposing a major overhaul of the shopping centres, particularly in the now very tired Palace Gardens. The plans we have seen for the revamped Palace Gardens are a major improvement on what is there now, including the incorporation of a "boutique" Everyman cinema and restaurants to boost the night-time economy.

But a major investment in the town centre – which this undoubtedly is – has to be funded, and Deutsche Bank propose to do this by constructing a 26-storey apartment block, explicitly for rent only, above the shopping

centre. As councillors we have met with the developer and its representatives and while recognising the commercial necessity, we have strenuously expressed our opposition to such a tall building. We are now organising a campaign against this aspect of the proposals – watch this space!

Another significant proposal within Grange ward is the redevelopment of the Metaswitch building at 100 Church Street, next to the New River. This con-

sists of two apartment blocks, of five and seven storeys. The taller one will be visible from Cecil Road,

and again we have sought to persuade the developer, Dominvs, to limit the blocks to five storeys. As if that wasn't enough, there is a third proposal, to build a 14-storey block on the Ross House site in Windmill Hill, to which we expressed our outright opposition when we

met the developers (also Dominvs) – resulting in those plans being

'put on ice' for the now.

Last but not least, the council has been consulting on its own proposals for revamping roads around Enfield Town. There is much opposition to these too, as they involve narrowing the carriageway in Church Street to one lane, quite ignoring it seems the existing volume of traffic. We are seriously concerned about the proposals generally, which do not address the basic problem of making Enfield Town more appealing to shoppers. Further reductions in car parking will do nothing to bring shoppers in – the Labour administration think cyclists are the answer, which is emphatically not the case.

Cllr Neville represents Grange ward alongside Andy Milne and Chris Dey (all Conservative). Ward surgeries are being held online only. To get in touch:

Call 07852 903 724

Email Cllr.Terry.Neville@Enfield.gov.uk



Terry Neville was first elected to Enfield Council in 1986

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The low-traffic neighbourhood in the Fox Lane area of Palmers Green was installed this autumn



Road safety is a goal we can all share

Palmers Green resident Jeremy Hay-Campbell urges clearer thinking on Enfield's low-traffic neighbourhood schemes

The introduction of two low-traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) in the Bowes Park and Fox Lane areas of Enfield borough have been warmly welcomed by some residents and strongly opposed by others. But what is the reality?

Residential streets are being over-used by motor vehicles, and speeding has worsened. Traffic on these streets in the capital has increased by a shocking 72% since 2009, while A-road traffic has dropped by 1%. It is estimated that at least a third of London car journeys are under 2km (1.2 miles), which for many is a walkable or cyclable distance.

LTNs are being trialled not just here but all over London. Given there is an acknowledged public health crisis of inactivity and obesity, while air pollution and the climate crisis are big environmental issues, LTNs are one method to make change happen. A survey by Kantar Media recently showed that eight out of ten people support measures to reduce road

traffic in their neighbourhood.

LTNs aim to remove through traffic in residential areas, to make them safer and quieter. They aim to create an environment that encourages people to walk and cycle where they can, reducing car dependency for short journeys in particular. To achieve this, vehicle access is limited through the use of filters; barriers, planters or cameras. The objective is not stopping all car use but encouraging drivers passing through an area to keep to main roads, which are designed to accommodate this traffic.

So far, around 100 LTNs have been introduced across London. More are expected, as central government releases an extra £175m of 'active travel funding' to local authorities. The Bowes Park and Fox Lane LTNs are part of a strategic plan adopted by Enfield Council through its 'Quieter Neighbourhoods' programme.

The impact of these LTNs should be quieter and safer roads, lower pollution, and a more healthy and active population. Initial feedback

from Bowes Park and Fox Lane shows more cycling and walking and dramatic reductions in traffic within the perimeter of the schemes. One local primary school in Palmers Green, St Monica's, has calculated that children walking or scooting has more than doubled in the last year.

But of course, an LTN cannot be introduced without compromise. Car journeys to and from the LTN area may take longer. This is because, initially, main road traffic surrounding an LTN will increase. But evidence does show that as drivers adjust their routes or find alternative means of transport – perhaps being persuaded to leave their cars at home for short journeys – traffic reduces over the long term.

Residents in the Fox Lane area, where I live, have been campaigning for over 20 years to reduce through traffic. Since 2013 there have been various public meetings, plans, and unsuccessful trials of speed humps and planters. In Bowes Park, there have been discussions going on for over a decade. Now, the Covid-19 crisis has accelerated the installation of these plans.

There has been criticism of the process of LTN implementation; a lack of prior consultation, plans hurriedly brought in, and delays to emergency services [*Ambulance crews 'impeded' by low-traffic scheme*, Page 14]. The plans have been introduced quickly to comply with government funding rules and communication could have been better, but we are actually in the middle of a real-time public consultation that is ongoing right now. This is an active trial, where we get to experience the changes and make comments about them as we see the effects.

Emergency services have been consulted and the introduction of camera filters in Warwick Road, Fox Lane, Meadway and Conway Road have been a direct response to specific requests from these services.

It is a pity it's proving so difficult as a community to work together to manage these changes. But remember that if you think the LTN can be improved, or you really don't like the plans at all, then you can let Enfield Council know. Equally, you should tell them if you do like the plans. Because what all residents need is a scheme that's proven to work.

Have your say:

Visit letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/neighbourhoods

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 15th December

Museum move threatens Enfield's heritage

Dear Enfield Dispatch

I am the former director of a number of British national museums and, decades ago, an Enfield Grammar School pupil. I retired to Enfield Town 22 years ago.

I am seriously concerned by the suggestion that Enfield's archives and local history collection be moved from the Dugdale Centre. As a long-time member of The Enfield Society, I have seen their persuasive counter-proposal, and the disappointing response sent by Enfield Council's property director [*Council rejects £20,000 museum offer*, Page 11].

Given the design principles adopted by the council for its admirable 'Let's Talk Enfield Town' scheme include the guiding principle to ensure Enfield "celebrates its heritage", it is surely entirely wrong to choose such a moment to exchange a purpose-equipped facility, where this history has been professionally preserved and accessible, for the civic centre's basement.

If the council genuinely wants to create a more active and lively town centre, moving any part of its historic collections away from that centre can only be counter-productive, and shows a wanton disregard for the value of this heritage. Precisely the opposite is required – strengthening the collection's position and related activities, giving it more publicity, and enabling it to communicate more of Enfield's proud and long history. This cannot be achieved by moving it, its staff, and loyal volunteers, into the basement of the civic centre.

The Enfield Society's offer of £20,000 could be used with great effect to expand the opportunity for the museum and related archives to be a vibrant town centre attraction in a building designed to be Enfield's cultural centre – not civic offices.

Colin Ford
Gentleman's Row, Enfield

New A&E booking service

Dear Enfield Dispatch

At a time when everyone is trying their best to minimise contact with other people, waiting around in an A&E ward is not ideal. That is why NHS 111 First has set up a new system so that patients can be referred to the most appropriate urgent or emergency service for their needs, helping them avoid waiting around for a long time to be seen. If A&E is needed, a timed appointment can now be booked via 111. This will be better than having to wait around, and better for the hospital to help maintain social distancing for everyone's safety.

Emma Friddin
Healthwatch Enfield

Low-traffic schemes welcome

Dear Enfield Dispatch

It's good news Enfield Council is addressing high-traffic neighbourhoods in the borough with trials in Bowes Park and Palmers Green. Low-traffic neighbourhood (LTN) schemes encourage people who can to make short journeys by walking or cycling, releasing road space for those who must drive (35% of car trips in London are under 2km).

Vehicle miles in London have risen 72% in the last ten years – on unclassified side streets – while A-road traffic has actually fallen, thanks to satellite navigation systems. We need more low-traffic neighbourhoods in the borough because they help address many big challenges; pollution, climate change, childhood obesity, adult inactivity, road-related deaths and serious injuries. They make streets quieter, safer and cleaner. LTNs are supported by central, regional and local government, as well as the UK public; a recent YouGov survey showed 57% support LTNs, with just 16% against.

Adrian Day
Better Streets for Enfield

Christmas meal delivery service launched

BY ANDREW WARSHAW

An Enfield charity is bringing festive cheer to elderly people at risk of loneliness this Christmas.

Jenny Ramadan, who runs Enfield Health and Wellbeing Centre (EHWC) from her home in Bush Hill Park, is giving up part of her Christmas Day to distribute a traditional lunch to over-60s across the borough, along with a small present to open.

Jenny has been running the not-for-profit organisation for three years. It provides a number of services, but the biggest is its assessment-based, confidence-boosting befriending initiative, delivered to around 500 local clients.

Despite being a single parent of eight children, Jenny is no stranger to charity work. Before setting up EHWC, she worked for eleven years for the Enfield branch of Age UK. And back in 2007 she received a prestigious ‘volunteer of the year’ award for London from Princess Anne, for her work with Victim Support Enfield.

But this year is the first time Jenny has



set out to provide Christmas meals for the borough’s most vulnerable residents – giving up her own festive needs in the process.

“I got the idea because of lockdown,” Jenny told the *Dispatch*. “So many vulnerable people are really isolated and can’t see their families, or get out. Some have mental health issues, others are

simply too scared to leave their homes. “I woke up one morning and thought ‘should I, should I not?’. I decided, what have I got to lose?”

Jenny was recently contacted by an elderly 74-year-old Enfield woman living on her own. “She basically said that last Christmas she had baked beans on toast.

“She was so thrilled when I told her she would be having a proper Christmas Day meal. She’s a classic example of the kind of people we are trying to help.”

The food is being prepared according to individual needs on Christmas Eve, at St George’s Church Hall in Freezywater, and will be delivered to more than 50 people the following morning by Jenny and an enthusiastic team of volunteers.

Some might wonder why they are all prepared to give up their own Christmas morning. “The work we do is so rewarding, I don’t do this for money,” Jenny responds. “I do it because I genuinely want to help. I love the elderly who have so much knowledge and experience. Sometimes I think they are a forgotten generation. I was brought up by my grandmother and great-grandmother.

“Also, I wanted my introduce my children to socialising with the older generation. My clients are like our extended family.”

For more information about EHWC:
Email ehwc8@outlook.com
Visit enfieldhealthwellbeingcentre.org.uk

Advertisement

Skydiving for Sue

BY OLIVIA DEVEREUX-EVANS

A great granny from Winchmore Hill completed her first ever skydive – honouring the memory of her daughter who died of a brain tumour.

Ten years ago Kathleen Taylor’s daughter Sue was diagnosed with a glioblastoma multiforme (GBO) brain tumour and died aged just 42, six weeks after diagnosis.

Kathleen decided to raise money for Brain Tumour Research, a charity that funds research at centres in the UK and campaigns for the government and other larger cancer charities to invest more in research. It hopes to speed up treatments for patients and eventually find a cure.

Kathleen, 80, was the second oldest skydiver this year to jump at Skydive Hinton in Northamptonshire, but said she was determined to complete the challenge – despite waiting for a second hip operation.



Octogenarian Kathleen is supporting Brain Tumour Research

The jump was originally going to take place in March, on what would have been Sue’s 52nd birthday, but was cancelled because of the pandemic. Coronavirus restrictions now in place mean skydivers must wear their own clothes, but Kathleen’s jump went without a hitch and she landed safely on her feet for a tea and bacon roll.

Kathleen said: “Although I am one of the oldest people who have done this jump, my instructor told me I was the calmest person he had met in 20 years.”

After losing Sue, Kathleen and husband David set up In Sue’s Name, a member charity of Brain Tumour Research. They aim to raise £1million by 2027 in aid of vital brain tumour research at the charity’s centre of excellence, part of Queen Mary University of London.

Kathleen and David have four children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. A number of family members, including David, have already done skydives themselves to raise money for Brain Tumour Research. David said: “Kathleen was really relaxed. It was the rest of us who were worrying!

“I am very proud of her as I know Sue, who had done a skydive herself, would have been.”

Sue Farrington Smith, chief executive of Brain Tumour Research, said: “The partnership with In Sue’s Name is helping fund vital research into brain tumours and we won’t give up the fight until we have improved outcomes for patients and their loved ones.

To donate to Kathleen’s fundraiser:
Visit totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/jumpingforsue2

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Council rejects £20,000 museum offer

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Enfield Council has rejected a £20,000 offer from The Enfield Society for spending on improvements to its local museum and studies library.

The local residents' group made the offer with the caveat that the money would only be made available if both the Museum of Enfield and Enfield Local Studies Library and Archive remain based at the Dugdale Centre in Enfield Town. More than 2,000 people have signed a petition calling on the council to keep these facilities there.

However, the council is still proposing to relocate the studies library and adjacent conference rooms to Enfield Civic Centre, allowing the first floor of the Dugdale to be used as office space for staff from its children's and young people's services department, who are currently split across three different sites. Such a move would save "hundreds of thousands of pounds" in rent and other costs, according to council property director Mark Bradbury, who wrote a letter to The Enfield Society rejecting their offer.

Mark wrote: "I appreciate your interest and concern in both the archives and museum services and thank you for your offer to contribute £20,000 to updating the displays, should they remain at Thomas Hardy House [home of the Dugdale]."

"While it is not the only reason for creating a children and family service hub, the financial benefit runs to hundreds of thousands each year, so while your offer is generous it will not offset this."

The Museum of Enfield contains some



17,000 local historic and ancient artefacts, but only a small number can be displayed at one time. Enfield Local Studies Library and Archive features historical documents dating back to the 13th Century, including photographs and newspapers. It moved to the Dugdale, which was specially adapted to host it, in 2008.

In March, the local authority revealed its intention to create offices for its chil-

"Some documents are centuries old – temperature changes can damage them"

dren's services department on the first and second floor of the Dugdale. The council says the museum – currently occupying spaces on both the ground and first floors – will remain but with all permanent displays moved to the ground floor. Enfield Local Studies Library and Archive is set to be evicted, with the civic

centre its proposed new home.

The Enfield Society is opposed to the move and, in October, set out an alternative plan to keep everything at the Dugdale, together with its £20,000 offer of match funding. Trustee Val Munday told the *Dispatch* the council's rejection of the society's offer was disappointing but said the group would continue to campaign to keep the local archive at the Dugdale.

Val said: "I fail to see how they [the council] can manage to get the artefacts currently on display on the first floor to fit on the ground floor without cutting space."

"The museum uses things from the archives but if they are not in the same building, it means transporting them. Some of those documents are hundreds of years old – changes in temperature and humidity can damage them."

"We won't let this slide. We have got a meeting scheduled with [council leader] Nesil Caliskan in December. We hope by then the council will have produced some concrete plans we can look at."

Row over council officers' pay

BY SIMON ALLIN,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

A row has broken out over pay increases for senior officers at Enfield Council as the local authority comes under increasing financial pressure.

Members of opposition group Community First criticised pay hikes that saw one top executive take nearly £200,000 in salary and pension contributions – a 19% increase year-on-year.

The pay increases are set out in the council's draft statement of accounts for 2019/20. The document reveals one executive director took home £199,795 in taxable pay and pension contributions – up from £168,317 the previous year. It also appears to show three senior officers received performance-related pay packets – even though the council abolished the policy in July 2018, the opposition group said.

Community First – a group of four ex-Labour councillors – highlighted officers received "generous" pension contributions of £26,910 and £13,438. The opposition group claimed these breached council pay policy – although salary is normally considered separately from pension contributions. It also claimed there was a failure to provide details of job titles and responsibilities of those staff earning more than £50,000, as required by the Local Government Transparency Code, but the council pointed out this information was available on its website.

Councillor Daniel Anderson said: "It is utterly unacceptable that the council is paying senior officers eye-watering salaries."

An Enfield Council spokesperson denied the authority had breached pay policy and said some of the opposition group's statements were "factually inaccurate" and "misleading". They said: "Since 2017, Enfield Council has cut its senior manage-

ment team and costs by a third (£1million), at a time of unprecedented pressures and demands on local government. The council now has one of smallest senior management teams in London in relation to the size and complexity of the borough."

"The council has a robust incremental pay structure in place and does not set basic percentage pay increases, which are negotiated for senior officers through the National Joint Council. There has been no breach of the council's stringent pay policy."

"Furthermore, if council officers opt into the pension scheme, the amount payable by the council as an employer's contribution is calculated once every three years by the fund's actuaries and approved by the pension policy and investment committee."

"At a time when all officers are pulling together to help protect the community, such a misleading and inaccurate attack by experienced councillors is extremely disappointing."

Pandemic donations paid to council officer's bank account

BY SIMON ALLIN,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Conservative councillors have criticised the use of an Enfield Council staff member's bank account to handle donations to the borough's coronavirus response.

Tory group leader Joanne Laban said it was "unprofessional" of the council to use the account to process more than £23,000 of donations to Enfield Stands Together, a project set up to help deliver food and other supplies to vulnerable people during the pandemic.

A letter dated 16th September, sent from an internal audit manager, stated that because Enfield Stands Together was not a charity, the council had to use a JustGiving page that only allowed funds to be transferred to a personal bank account.

Council bosses agreed for the funds to be transferred to an officer's personal account before being moved to the Enfield Stands Together bank account within 24 hours. The letter adds: "Internal audit is satisfied that the documented procedures around the transfer of funds from the JustGiving page to the Enfield Stands Together bank account were followed and that all funds were duly transferred."

Cllr Laban said: "It was deeply unprofessional of the council to use a member of staff's bank account for its activities. The Labour administration was very unfair to put the member of staff in that position, especially when the council had alternatives such as the mayor's charity and other online fundraising methods it could have utilised."

"It was deeply unprofessional"

"Fundraising for donations to support food provision was a good idea, but the council should not have used a personal bank account of a member of staff in order to do it."

An Enfield Council spokesperson said: "In response to the coronavirus pandemic, Enfield Council had to respond swiftly and decisively to meet the needs of the most vulnerable residents in the borough."

"Due to the fast pace the council had to work at during this crisis, a JustGiving page was created, authorising a council officer to use their own account in the first instance. Donations received had to be separate from 'normal' council business, and it was felt that using the mayor of Enfield's charity account was not efficient or appropriate."

"Internal audit is satisfied that the documented procedures around the transfer of funds were followed and that all funds were duly transferred."

"As a result, more than 40,000 food parcels were delivered, and the donations received directly contributed to the food distributed to residents in the borough."

Enfield teacher turns filmmaker

Anti-knife crime film being shot at St Ignatius College



Filming took place at Leo's school, St Ignatius College in Turkey Street

A film about knife crime in the capital is being made by an Enfield school-teacher – and features some of his own pupils as extras.

Backed by the Metropolitan Police, St Ignatius College teacher

Leo Powell's short film *Step Back* addresses gang culture and knife crime among young people and is set to be released early next year.

Leo's drama/sci-fi, which is partially funded by the Home Office, follows the life of Marcus (played by

Top Boy's Xavien Russell), a 16-year-old boy who becomes entangled in gang culture. After attempting to steal trainers on his birthday, Marcus is confronted by a shop assistant where an altercation breaks out and Marcus stabs the assistant, fleeing

and unknowingly leaving him to die.

Marcus is found guilty of murder and is sent to prison, where he himself is stabbed. In the back of an ambulance, dying, Marcus suddenly opens his eyes and realises that he is not dead, but has instead woken up in his bedroom one year earlier as a 15-year-old boy with a second chance at life.

The origins of *Step Back* derive from Leo's work with young people, which began in 2010. Leo's educational work on the so-called 'county lines' drugs trade has gained huge traction, and he has now been awarded funding through the Young Londoner's Fund, set up by the Mayor of London. Leo hopes

the film can be used as a resource to educate children about the life-altering consequences of using a knife.

Leo, currently head of year ten at St Ignatius, said: "I'm hoping this film can be another avenue where seeds of hope can be sown into the hearts of young people."

"[I hope] that it will change the trajectory of their lives and give them a positive hope for the future."

Detective Chief Superintendent Treena Fleming, commander of Haringey and Enfield boroughs for the Metropolitan Police, said: "This film will be a powerful reminder of the tragic consequences of carrying a knife – both for the victim and perpetrator."

"We want people to watch *Step Back* and understand that being involved in gangs and arming yourself with a knife quite literally ruins lives."

Step Back, which will be released early next year, is being produced by Little Drops Production, the company responsible for producing *Amani*, a short film based on a true story of knife-crime which has amassed over 2.9 million views on YouTube.



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Intimate Theatre in Green Lanes hosted UK television's first-ever live play, in 1946



It's curtains for historic theatre

Intimate Theatre set to be demolished despite appeals by arts groups

BY SIMON ALLIN,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

The curtain looks set to fall on one of Enfield's cultural landmarks after councillors gave the go-ahead for its demolition.

The decision means the historic Intimate Theatre in Palmers Green can be knocked down to make way for a new church hall and six two-bedroom flats.

Built in 1932, St Monica's Church Hall was leased to a theatre company in 1935 and, renamed as Intimate Theatre, made history when it staged the first play broadcast live on UK television in 1946.

Richard Attenborough, Roger Moore and David Bowie were among the stars to tread the boards there.

But the church hall's use as a theatre has declined in recent years, and its owner won permission to redevelop the site at a meeting of the planning committee last month.

Enfield Council received a petition with 4,513 signatures objecting to the development, while a second petition in support of the plans gained 1,500 signatures.

Tom Clarke, a planning adviser

for Theatres Trust, told the meeting the decline in theatre was overstated, and options to adapt the existing building to better meet the needs of parishioners had not been adequately explored. He said the trust would appeal to the government to review the planning decision.

A spokesperson for campaign group Save the Intimate Theatre said the Intimate's demolition would mean "the loss of culture in the borough". He added: "It has served as an access route into the arts since 1935."

"There are generations of families who have loved using the theatre, and they want that to

impaired mobility. He added: "We do outreach work with schools and faith groups. We can't do it in the present building."

Under questioning from councillors, planning officers said theatre productions could still be held in the newly built hall – although they admitted the capacity would be reduced and there would be no permanent stage.

Other committee members pointed out that none of the homes would be 'affordable' and claimed this meant they would not benefit the local community.

In response to further questioning, Fr Lowry told councillors the hall is now used as a theatre for only two or three weeks a year. "For the other 50 or 49 weeks a year, it is a parish hall and community building and is not fit for purpose," he added.

Councillor Doug Taylor, a Labour member of the planning committee, asked if the council could retain some of the features of the existing church hall in the new building – but officers told him that would require a different application.

At the end of the debate, seven councillors voted in favour of the plans, with four abstaining and only one, Hass Yusuf (Labour), voting against.

"It has served as an access route into the arts since 1935"

continue for the next generation."

But Colin Smart, planning agent at Kyle Smart Associates, told the committee demand for productions had diminished to the point where it is "no longer used as a theatre in the modern world".

Father Mehall Lowry, parish priest at St Monica's, said half of the hall could not be used by wheelchair users or those with

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 15th December**

MARKETS

Met Police Christmas Market

Sat 5th December, 11am–3pm
Asda Car Park, 1 West Mall,
Edmonton Green N9 0AL

An opportunity to come and support small and local businesses who will be selling a range of different items. There will be a food vendor along with hot drinks cart, sweet stalls, candyfloss and popcorn stall, plus informative stalls by local organisations, Met Police and Enfield Council.

Free entry

Email sm23062157c90@met.police.uk

Forty Hall Christmas Fayre

Sat 12th December 10am–4pm
Forty Hall Farm, Forty Hill, Enfield
EN2 9HA

Wander through the historic courtyard, where there will be a stunning selection of creative stalls and sellers. Visitors can pick up a unique selection of gifts for loved ones ahead of Christmas. Shop local and treat yourself to our mulled wine and barbecue while you enjoy the Christmas atmosphere.

Free entry

Visit fortyhallfarm.org.uk

ART

Enfield Art Circle

Until Thursday 24th December
Held online

At Enfield Art Circle we are inviting you to our first online exhibition, showcasing artistic talents from more than 30 of our members, made up of local painters and ceramicists – 10% of sales proceeds will be donated to Enfield Young Carers.

Visit enfieldartcircle.org/art2020

GROTTO

Santa's Garden Grotto

Fri 18th to Thurs 24th December
Rainbow Softplay and Café,
Bramley Rd, Cockfosters N14 4PE

Children this year deserve more than ever to have a special Christmas. Santa's Garden Grotto will be based in the front garden of Rainbow Softplay & Café for a Covid-safe meeting with the children.

Tickets start at £15 for 1 child

Email santasgardengrotto@hotmail.com

PANTO

Mr Stink

Starting Saturday 5th
December, various times
Chickenshed, 290 Chase Side,
Cockfosters N14 4PE

'Mr Stink' is back at Chickenshed... just in time for a very special Christmas edition. This brand new staging of our original 2018 show will be a treat for all the family. Mr Stink, and the whole cast, bring plenty of festive cheer – with some singing and dancing – guaranteed to lift our hearts this Christmas! Also featuring a special guest appearance from Jeremy Vine!

Tickets from £8

Visit chickenshed.org.uk

Puss in Boots

Starting Thursday 3rd
December, various times
Millfield Theatre, Silver Street,
Edmonton N18 1PJ

All the ingredients you need for another fun packed Millfield pantomime! Audiences can expect a fabulous telling of the famous story, full of laughter, music and dance in the Millfield family pantomime.

Tickets £22.50,

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Call 020 8807 6680

Email ticket@oneenfield.co.uk

WORKSHOPS

Starting Your Own Business

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AROUND THE BOROUGH

ANGEL EDMONTON

Cash boost for Fore Street regeneration

FORE STREET IS SET TO UNDERGO “major regeneration” thanks to a £2.2million investment in public facilities and the local street scene.

Enfield Council signed an agreement with the Greater London Authority to deliver the work and “create a better town centre”. The council decided to match fund the £1.1m it was awarded from the mayor of London’s Good Growth Fund, a £70m programme designed to support growth and community development in London.

It means there is now enough money to create a new community hub with better library services, 30 affordable workspaces to increase employment and skills in the area, public realm enhancements, and a ‘school street’ to help improve air quality.

In further good news for the area, the Angel Edmonton Good Growth Fund project has been named a winner in the New London Awards, in its meanwhile use category, for the proposal to

create a versatile ‘urban room’ on the high street. This scheme will repurpose existing garages as affordable work and studio space for local businesses.

Council leader Nesil Caliskan said: “The Good Growth Fund opens opportunities to build a resilient, vibrant town centre and connects the people of Angel Edmonton to the wider strategic growth presented by the regeneration of the Joyce and Snells estates. “Many people in Angel Edmonton have felt in the past that they have been left behind. This changes now. These measures will provide the boost to help move families out of poverty, support businesses to achieve successful, ongoing economic growth, and will build the foundations for young people to harness their creativity and make meaningful life-changing progress.”

Anyone who would like to be involved in the upcoming engagement and delivery of the Angel Edmonton Good Growth Fund project can email TownCentres@enfield.gov.uk.



Fore Street is set to undergo a series of major improvements

EDMONTON GREEN

Second award for centre

EDMONTON GREEN SHOPPING Centre has scooped a second award win in as many months.

The management team triumphed at the Estates Gazette Awards, beating twelve other organisations to win the ‘Superhero Award’, created this year to recognise those who went “above and beyond” to tackle the coronavirus pandemic.

During the first Covid-19 lockdown, the shopping centre reached out to more than 20 community groups, making donations to those directly in need and to organisations helping the area’s most vulnerable.

Sabri Marsaoui, asset director at Edmonton Green, said: “I’m so incredibly proud of the amazing

team we have. Never before has it been so important for landlords and property managers to work collaboratively in the interests of their local communities.

“We have an extremely hands-on approach, which enables the team to think, decide and act quickly, and their dynamic response to the Covid-19 pandemic meant they remained ahead of the game.”

Marie Kyriacou-Edwards, operations manager, added: “Knowing our efforts during the pandemic had a direct positive effect on so many members of our local community is such a fantastic feeling.”

In October the team also won an award from the Institute of Workplace and Facilities Management, also for its pandemic response.

BRIMSDOWN

Plan deferral

COUNCILLORS HAVE DEFERRED a decision on plans for a 16-storey residential tower adjacent to Brimsdown Station.

Enfield Council’s planning committee wanted more time for local residents to be consulted on the plans for 148 homes in Green Street, half of which would have been designated ‘affordable’.

While six local residents have so far objected to the scheme to redevelop the vacant warehouse site, council planning officers had recommended approval on the basis it would “represent a challenging, innovative piece of architecture that would be transformational in this locality and have the potential to have a long-lasting regenerative impact”.

PALMERS GREEN

Ambulances ‘impeded’ by low-traffic scheme

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Traffic-management schemes and other road changes that could delay life-saving treatments are being monitored, according to London Ambulance Service (LAS).

LAS confirmed it was working with traffic teams across the capital to avoid using physical barriers such as bollards on schemes designed to manage the flow of vehicles. It comes after a series of social media posts showed ambulance crews’ access to streets newly blocked by bollards in Palmers Green.

Enfield Council installed a low-traffic neighbourhood (LTN) scheme in roads between Fox Lane and Aldermans Hill earlier in the autumn, following a consultation held last year. One video posted on Twitter showed a paramedic struggling to remove a bollard in Grovelands Road.

Lakeside Road resident Martyn Rowe said he’d witnessed three ambulances being blocked by barriers installed within the LTN. In one incident in October an ambulance reached a barrier at the northern end of Lakeside Road and had to turn around to find an alternative route.

LTNs are designed to block rat-running motor traffic from using residential roads as shortcuts, while allowing cyclists to still use them. Automatic number-plate

recognition cameras, which can allow access for emergency services but fine drivers who pass through, are an alternative to using physical barriers to close roads.

An LAS spokesperson said: “As the busiest ambulance service in the country, our focus is on achieving the best outcomes for ill and injured patients and ensuring we reach them in response times set by the government.

“Changes to road layouts, traffic management schemes, and road closures all have the potential to impede our response to the most critically ill people and could delay life-saving treatments or conveyance to the nearest emergency department.

“This is why we continue to work with Transport for London (TfL) and local authorities, including Enfield [Council], to ensure emergency vehicle access is properly considered and the impact of any changes monitored.”

An Enfield Council spokesperson said LAS raised early concerns about access to LTNs, which led to the use of camera-enforced closures, but had not objected to the final scheme. They said: “While the Fox Lane scheme has a number of agreed emergency services access points, residents have expressed concerns that LAS should have further access.

“In response to the feedback, Enfield Council has offered to add a further access point at Conway Road, agreed with LAS.”

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LICENSING ACT 2003: Notice Of Application for a Premises Licence

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

- Warehouse Premises Licence to supply of alcohol off the premises including internet sales and online deliveries from Monday to Sunday 8:00 to 20:00 for the premises N.Joy Catering Limited situated at Unit 3 Centenary Estate, Jeffreys Road, Enfield, London EN3 7UD.

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: **16/12/2020**. 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.

Locked down but on the up

Andrew Warshaw on how Enfield Town FC have been managing through another football shutdown

Like thousands of part-time football clubs up and down the country, Enfield Town have been hit hard by weeks of inaction caused by the second national lockdown, which once again decimated non-league teams both financially and in terms of fitness and training.

Just before the *Dispatch* went to press, there was a ray of light when the Isthmian League announced that, subject to wider government guidelines, league games will resume on Saturday 19th December – earlier if agreement can be reached between individual teams – and that the season will be extended into late May.

In addition, teams in steps three to six of the non-league pyramid, which includes Enfield Town, will receive a combined £14million as part of the government's overall but long overdue £300m sports survival package for this winter. The package will be largely composed of loans covering the period of January to March but, while a welcome move, does little to alleviate the financial hardship of the last few weeks.

It still seems grossly unfair that the lower you are in the non-league pyramid, the harder you have been affected by the cessation of part-time and amateur football. While steps one and two – the National League and



Neville Nzembela celebrates his goal for Enfield Town in what was the club's final game before the second lockdown; an entertaining 3-2 win against Brightlingsea Regent. Credit: Tom Scott

National League North/South divisions – have not only been allowed to carry on playing (albeit behind closed doors) but have also received a healthy financial bailout, step three downwards – Enfield Town's level – had to endure both a spectator ban and a total temporary shutdown.

Why on earth step three downwards were made to pay the price for the effect the virus is having on sport is a question that has not been adequately answered, especially given that so many clubs at Enfield Town's level have been doing all they can throughout the pandemic to ensure safety and wellbeing.

It seems almost obscene, when there is so much money swirling around the game higher up the pyramid, that lower leagues should be the ones made to suffer most. There is a strong argument that it should be the other way round, because without proper compensation and having already taken a massive hit last season, how are local community clubs supposed to make ends meet when those higher up the scale have far more resources to deal with the crisis?

Not surprisingly given the suspension of our league, it has been impossible for manager Andy Leese and his support team to plan

properly for the restart, not knowing which players may or may not be available. It's hardly an ideal scenario, but off the field Enfield Town's image goes from strength to strength, carving out a reputation as a favourite media 'go to' non-league club.

"The lower you are in the non-league pyramid, the harder you have been affected"

Within the space of a few weeks, an article about the Towners appeared in the prestigious monthly magazine *When Saturday Comes*, then the club was featured in the esteemed *Financial Times*, no less, under the heading: "UK Covid restrictions leave sports teams fearing for the future". Not only that, but halfway through lockdown, a Finnish publication, would you believe, also ran an article on the club!

The fact that the UK's first fan-owned club can command this kind of exposure says much about its standing in the non-league game, supporter loyalty, and the work being done behind the scenes.

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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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enfelddispatch.co.uk/join

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