

ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº.44 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

MAY 2022

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A FAMILY WHO fled the war in Ukraine after their apartment was bombed have taken refuge at the home of New Southgate resident Andrew Irvine. Pictured on a trip to Paradise Wildlife Park in Broxbourne are, from left, Ukrainian grandmother Galyna, refugee host Andrew, Galyna's daughter Anya with her baby daughter Layla, and Anya's husband Mugga. For the full story, turn to Page 4.

Councillors who missed more than half of meetings revealed

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Enfield councillors who failed to attend more than half of the council meetings they were expected to in the last year can be revealed.

As voters headed to the polls this month to elect a new batch of councillors to represent them for the next four years, a *Dispatch* analysis of recorded attendances over the last twelve months found the average Labour member managed to miss one in five meetings, turning up to 80%, while the typical Conservative attended 87%.

The councillors who recorded less than 50% attendance were all Labour members, although only one has sought re-election. Huseyin Akpinar, who represented Upper Edmonton, is contesting Bush Hill Park ward for the election. His attendance record was 43%, but he did not respond to a

request for comment.

Among those not campaigning for re-election was Katherine Chibah, an associate cabinet member who recorded an average civic centre attendance over the past year of 43%. She also did not comment.

Saray Karakus, who went to 42% of the meetings she was expected to attend, said in her defence that attending meetings was only one aspect of her responsibilities as a councillor. She told the *Dispatch*: "Council meetings are important but looking after vulnerable individuals and doing casework is more important."

Cllr Karakus represented Haselbury but did not stand for re-election. The former Enfield mayor added: "Councillors should respond to resident queries and investigate their concerns, know their patch, and be aware of any problems."

"Most of them [other councillors] don't even know where their sur-

gery sessions are."

A fourth Labour councillor, with a 45% record, cited mitigating personal circumstances in their defence.

The Conservative councillor with the lowest attendance was Clare De Silva, who attended just over 55% of meetings. She has also not sought re-election.

Meanwhile, eleven councillors managed to achieve a 100% attendance record over the 2021/22 period; six were Labour councillors, four were Conservatives and one was a Green member. Both Labour and Conservative group leaders, Nesil Caliskan and Joanne Laban, were among those with spotless records. Another was Terry Neville, the council's longest-serving member, who on Page 8 has written a reflection of his 36 years in office, after deciding to stand down.

The two Green councillors over the past year averaged 93.5% attendance, while the sole Liberal Democrat

councillor prior to the election managed a 71% attendance.

Last year a by-election was triggered when former independent councillor Will Coleshill failed to attend a single meeting for six months. He was originally elected in Bush Hill Park ward as a Conservative in 2018, before later being suspended from the party.

All councillors are paid an annual allowance of £10,570, although those with special responsibilities, such as cabinet members and committee chairs, receive more.

The attendance data in this article was compiled by the *Dispatch* using publicly available printed minutes from council meetings held between May 2021 and April 2022. Informal meetings were not counted.

For full coverage of the local council election on 5th May, check the *Dispatch* website at enfielddispatch.co.uk.



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Enfield records most youth violence victims in London

BY SIMON ALLIN,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Enfield recorded the highest number of victims of serious youth violence in London during the year to January, according to the latest Metropolitan Police data.

The figures show there were 321 victims of serious youth violence in the borough during the twelve-month period – ten more than during the previous year.

The 3.2% rise in victims was higher than the average increase across London of 0.4%. Croydon recorded the second-highest number, with 309.

Enfield has the fourth-largest youth population in London, with young people aged between one and 19 making up 26% of the borough. This means there were four serious youth violence victims per 1,000 young people in the year to January.

The figures were set out in a report to Enfield Council's safer neighbourhood board, which revealed some crime levels across the capital appear to be returning to numbers last seen before the Covid-19 pandemic. Total notifiable offences in Enfield were up by 4.4% in the year ending January 2022, which was slightly below the London average increase of 5.2%.



Credit: Max Fleischmann/Unsplash

Theft or taking of a motor vehicle saw the highest increase in Enfield, climbing by more than a third compared to the previous year, to 1,732 incidents. Sexual offences increased by 27.8% to 856, with a 27.9% rise in the number of rape offences bringing the total to 335.

In contrast, gun crime offences fell by a third, anti-social behaviour calls were down by 37.8% and robbery of personal property offences dropped by 11.7%.

Detective Superintendent Marco Bardetti, from the Metropolitan Police's north area command unit, said officers had sought to counter the reported crime rise with a "refreshed and renewed crime reduction strategy for the new year" involving "smart deployment of police officers, renewed working arrangements with [Enfield Council] and [...] additional police officers to Enfield".

Candidates debate key issues

Six local election candidates standing in Edmonton Green ward attended a hustings-style event at Community House to answer questions from voters.

The event was held in April as part of an ongoing project funded by the Public Interest News Foundation (PINF), which seeks to boost democratic engagement in specific communities.

Local residents were invited to attend the event, with 25 local people taking the chance to quiz the candidates in attendance, which included three Labour candidates, one Green, and two independents. The six remaining candidates for the ward – three Conservatives and three Liberal Democrats – were invited but declined to attend.

The 90-minute event centred around debates on three key local issues that had previously been identified from discussions with voters – housing, crime and the environment – although the six candidates began by introducing themselves and their own core election pledges.

Oktay Cinpolat, one of the two independent candidates, said he had seen how the Edmonton Green

area had "deteriorated" over the years from "the lack of services the council has provided" and that if elected he would "challenge" the council to do much more.

Ergin Erbil, a Labour candidate who has served as a councillor in the ward for the past four years, said Edmonton Green was "one of the most deprived neighbourhoods" in London and that the key to changing the area's fortunes was "pressing the government" for more support, highlighting that the Conservatives at Westminster had slashed the council's government funding by more than half since they came to power in 2010. However, he noted that the council had nonetheless increased spending on street cleaning by £500,000 and was building more social housing.

"The area has deteriorated"

Gunes Akbulut and Abdul Abdullahi, the other two Labour candidates, echoed what Ergin said, adding that building more social housing was crucial but that the choice at the election was between a Labour-run council that was invest-

ing in services or a Conservative administration that "does not care about Edmonton Green".

Telesha Reid, the second independent candidate, said the council needed more independent voices that could "challenge" decisions such as the scheme to build a new, larger waste incinerator in Edmonton Green ward. Together with Oktay, with whom she shares a policy platform, Telesha said: "We are 100% against the burning of waste – we want to challenge NLWA [North London Waste Authority]."

Peter Krakowiak, the Green candidate, said he was also against the expansion of the incinerator – "thanks, but no thanks" – but that he supported the creation of more low-traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) which he said "create safe streets" and help tackle pollution. He added that the Greens would oppose any new homes on the Green Belt, blaming the government's 'Right to Buy' policy for worsening the housing crisis in London.

To read a full account of the Edmonton Green hustings event, visit enfielddispatch.co.uk, where the election results for all 25 wards in the borough will also be available on the morning of Friday, 6th May.

Tory suspended over Nazi pic

A senior Conservative Party member in Enfield originally lined up to stand in Oakwood for this month's local election was suspended after a photo emerged appearing to show him wearing Nazi uniform.

Colin Davis was chair of Enfield Southgate Conservative Association and had been earmarked as the candidate for Oakwood ward a few weeks before the offending photo was made public in April. The party has now suspended him, pending an investigation.

Colin did not deny that he was the person in the photo wearing the uniform, but said he "could not recall" dressing up as a Nazi and also denied having any association with far-right politics. The photo was reportedly taken in the 1980s but had resurfaced after being discovered in a property Colin had previously lived in.

Joanne Laban, the Conservative group leader at Enfield Council, said the party "takes allegations of this nature extremely seriously and the swift action taken reflects this".

Confusion over cllr's status

A former Labour councillor in Enfield said she did not realise she had become an independent – just weeks before the local election.

Yasemin Brett, who chose not to stand for re-election in this month's poll, represented Bowes as a Labour councillor for 28 years but fell out with the current Labour administration in Enfield over issues including her opposition to Edmonton incinerator. Council leader Nesil Caliskan was also found to have bullied Yasemin following a council conduct probe in 2019.

An Enfield Labour spokesperson said Cllr Brett "expressed that she was leaving the Labour group and communicated this via email" and the national Labour Party "subsequently informed her she was unable to remain a Labour Party member".

But Yasemin told Simon Allin, Local Democracy Reporter, that she hadn't been informed she had become an independent. "I found it bewildering," she said.

The full story can be read on the Dispatch website, while a piece by Yasemin reflecting on her time as a councillor can be read on Page 9.

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Yarn storming

Janice Nunn from Enfield Dementia Action Alliance on the group's latest awareness-raising campaign

Enfield Dementia Action Alliance is asking people, groups and organisations across Enfield borough to knit or crochet as many forget-me-not flowers as possible ahead of Dementia Action Week this month.

Organisations including Women's Institute, Mothers Union and Trefoil Guild have taken part so far, along with the 'Knit and Natter' group at North London Hospice. Stitch! in Palmers Green is also running a class to learn to knit or crochet a forget-me-not, while Forty Hall will be running a trail of forget-me-nots around the hall. They will be displayed on post boxes and railings around the borough during Dementia Action Week, which takes place from 16th-22nd May.

The forget-me-not flower represents remembrance and is long associated with dementia and Alzheimer's Society. To spread awareness of dementia the flowers will be accompanied by five key messages, including "dementia is not a natural part of ageing".



People are being encouraged to knit forget-me-not flowers to symbolise the dementia campaign

There are currently around 900,000 people in the UK living with dementia and, while it mainly affects people over 65, it can affect younger people too. This is often called young-onset dementia. Around one in 20 people with dementia are younger

than 65. There are more than 42,000 people in the UK under 65 living with dementia.

Enfield Dementia Action Alliance is a group of organisations and individuals from the local community working towards making the borough a dementia friendly community. One of our key goals is for those living and working in Enfield to have a better understanding of dementia and how to support those people who are living with the disease. We do this by raising awareness through events such as yarn bombing but also by providing free 'dementia friends' sessions. This session can be arranged in your business, organisation or club, either online or face-to-face.

We would encourage local businesses and organisations in Enfield to take part in your local Dementia Action Alliance and work towards making Enfield dementia friendly.

Find out more about Enfield Dementia Action Alliance:

Email janice.nunn@hotmail.com

Email venetta.hunt@ageukenfield.org.uk

Providing a home for Ukraine refugees

Andrew Irvine offered his spare bedroom to a family fleeing the war



From left to right; baby Layla with grandmother Galyna, Galyna's daughter Anya and Anya's husband Mugga, with New Southgate refugee host Andrew Irvine

I have followed the stories in Ukraine and, like many watching from the UK, I briefly fantasised about getting a gun and travelling to fight with them.

Then I got real and realised that what I could do best to help would be to use the spare room in my house for housing refugees. I registered to accommodate two people and spread the word among my friends to find out if anyone knew any Ukrainians that were fleeing the conflict.

The next evening, I received an emergency text asking me to take a family of four that were arriving at Luton the next morning,

with nowhere to go. I was told that If I didn't take them, they would have to be split up.

Just twelve hours later, mother Galyna, daughter Anya, and her Azeri husband Mugga with their 20-month-old child Layla were helping me move furniture around to fit them all in for a four-week stay.

The local vicar provided a cot, a friend provided a bed, and all was well! The next day, I told the family they were welcome to stay for at least six months, if they wished. The support from neighbours has been great; gifting weeks of food on the doorstep, a big fridge-freezer to put it all in, baby car seats,

a stroller, a rocking horse and more clothes and toys for Layla than she has ever owned.

Enough money has come in to cover the family's Oyster cards for a while and even some local shops have given things free. The government has issued the family with work permits and, despite being able to apply for benefits, they are all keen to work. Within a week, they had their first job!

I carefully asked no questions about their experience of the war back home, thinking that I didn't need to know, but after ten days Galyna suddenly opened up and told me that a missile hit their apartment and blew out all the windows – they packed three bags and left Lviv immediately.

As the war might last for years, Galyna accepts that they might not be going back. I just want them to feel safe and secure and I'm going to do everything I can to set them up here in London so they can have choices and freedom to live their lives.

I have been writing a little channel on Facebook for two years called Home-foodUK, which was all about me living by myself and trying to get by with a minimum of shopping. Now instead you can read all about my new life with my new family, with Ukrainian cooking and all the complications of suddenly living in a family of five with a screaming child. It's the best thing I've ever done!

Sowing seeds for success

Abi Colthrust introduces a local educational charity

I was lining up dominoes in the sunshine with a crowd of six excited children and Amir's joy at his breakthrough moment was palpable: "I didn't think that would work – but I'm glad it did!"

Seven-year-old Amir (not his real name) is one of more than 120 children we welcomed to our Easter projects last month as part of the government's holiday activities and food (HAF) scheme.

As the newest recruit to Success Club, I'm fast learning that it's a privilege to be involved in this amazing work in Enfield! Success Club is a children's charity, which exists to support schools to empower children and promote their achievement, not only academically but socially. With a mission statement of "no child left behind", the charity dedicates itself to the personal development of children and young people, paying particular attention to mental health and wellbeing.

Founder Tony Dallas explains: "I do this work because I want young people to understand they have a story to tell and a voice to tell it. I want to see change in the world and the only way we see change in the world is to change ourselves."

Success Club only launched a charity in 2018, but Tony's experience with children and young people is extensive. "I aim to have people thinking differently within five minutes," he says.

Success Club partners with a number of local schools in Enfield and beyond. We run a flexible range of interventions, which can take the form of small group work or one-to-ones, right through to workshops for entire year groups and whole school assemblies.

Our Easter projects this year were hosted by Suffolks Primary School and Kingfisher Hall Academy. It included an action-packed programme of drama, sports, arts and crafts, dance and even gardening and DJ skills – to name just a few! The programme was offered free of charge to all families entitled to free school meals and was fuelled by delicious hot, nutritious food provided by local caterer Smokey Okey.

Jude Ollivere, a member of Success Club and an English teacher at Wren Academy, added: "While we particularly target our clubs at vulnerable students at risk of underachieving, the personal development that Success Club offers is for the benefit of the whole community. We equip the community to support itself better."

For more information about Success Club:

Email info@successclub.org.uk

Visit successclub.org.uk

Broomfield Park Conservatory contains many exotic plants



Right on Kew

Volunteer Elizabeth Dobbie on how Broomfield Park Conservatory has become a small haven for plant lovers

A term often used by visitors to describe Broomfield Park Conservatory is “mini Kew”.

The conservatory has been open, in its current incarnation being run by volunteers, for more than ten years. We hope having read about it you will want to visit, or even join us to help maintain our exciting plant collection.

Set within Broomfield Park’s 18th Century walled garden, the conservatory was built by Messrs W Richardson in 1934, to a late Victorian design. It was a much-loved feature of the park for many years, but by the early 1990s had fallen into disrepair and had to be closed to the public. The building was eventually refurbished by Enfield Council and reopened in 2010. Since then it has been managed by a group of volunteers from Friends of Broomfield Park.

The first job for the volunteers when they took control of the conservatory was to clear the thousands of pieces of broken glass from the central bed and rebuild the rockery. Then work was carried out to strengthen the surrounding staging which holds our specialist collections. Over the years we have sought to build up the number of plants

on display and to organise them into distinct zones.

The conservatory now comprises a central bed with a rockery, pond and waterfall. The plants are mainly sub-tropical species from various parts of the world and need to be kept at a minimum temperature of 15C. The toughest plants in the collection include *Strelitzia* (bird of paradise), which has become our signature plant, and Yucca, which has survived neglect and being exposed to London winters. They still form the backbone of our collection.

Other plants featured are orchids, aroids, cacti, succulents, bromeliads and carnivorous plants. We have a good number of food plants, such as coffee, citrus, bananas, papaya and, outside on the newly installed arch, kiwi plants. There is, also, a changing display of flowering, scented and sculptural plants, giving something new to see every month of the year!



Strelitzia (bird of paradise)

We have a dedicated team of volunteers who visit the conservatory every day to check the plants and water as necessary.

The conservatory is open to the public on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons from 2.30pm–4.30pm, when our friendly stewards are on hand to show off the plants and answer any questions. Visitors reminisce about visiting the conservatory as it was previously, but most comment that it is “better than ever”.

Broomfield Park serves a diverse community and people from warmer climes love to see plants they knew as children before coming to live locally. As well as our regular openings we host school visits, gardening and walking groups and also occasional art or photographic sessions and guitar concerts. Funds are raised from visitor donations and plant sales, with specialist sales of tomatoes and chillies in May and indoor plants from our collections in July. Please come and visit us and see our mini Kew!

For more information about Broomfield Park Conservatory:

Facebook facebook.com/BroomfieldParkConservatory
Visit friendsofbroomfieldpark.org

Return of the classic cars

As Enfield Pageant of Motoring gets set to return, Robert Haydock from Enfield and District Veteran Vehicle Society explains how it all began

The 43rd Enfield Pageant of Motoring takes place this month at Enfield Playing Fields.

Many people don’t realise the event is organised by volunteers from Enfield and District Veteran Vehicle Society (EDVVS), as the primary fundraising event for Whitewebbs Museum of Transport.

The society was formed in 1961 by a group of like-minded people interested in saving and preserving old vehicles. In the first few years, three vehicles were saved from the scrapyard. With so many early commercials being scrapped, it was a tribute to members that these were saved. The cost of owning and preserving vehicles was high and to meet the expense, small events were staged.

Through donations at fetes, public entry fees and rallies, a small fund was built up to help restore the club vehicles. The club held a rally on a farm in Buckhurst Hill, Essex. Rain fell and fell, and the takings were small. The farmer then decided to sue the club for severe ground damage. The solicitors involved advised the club that members and officers were liable. A settlement was reached and the club formed a society, constituted under the Friendly Societies Act, to protect its officers. The society took over the running of the events, but with a major disadvantage; the taxman wanted 45% of the profit!

In the mid-1970s, EDVVS reached an all-time low. Rain fell on every event and funds to keep the vehicles going were not sufficient. Dry, safe storage was also vital as the vehicles were stored under tarpaulins. A new committee emerged at the society’s annual meeting in November 1976 and a proposal to create a museum by funding a bigger event was adopted. The status of the society was also enhanced, and the tax problem solved, by the formation of a charitable trust to operate alongside it.

But a bigger event needed more funds to stage it. A recently discovered Armstrong Siddeley 20-horsepower limousine was put on a trailer and taken to Alexandra Palace. A beer festival was in progress and Camra, the organisers, were kind enough to allow the vehicle (with its door hanging off) into the hall, where tickets were sold in



The pageant was last held in 2019

a draw. Huge support was given by the public and a profit of £685 was made after the prizes were paid. With money in the bank, the pageant was launched.

Enfield Council was supportive and granted permission for Enfield Playing Fields to be used. The only condition imposed was that the event must be held in May and have ‘Enfield’ in the title. Around 500 vehicles and 50 stalls were expected to attend the first two-day event. Over 100 stallholders booked in and more turned up on the day. Six hundred exhibitors attended, with a wide range of vehicles. The weather was hot and the public attended in huge numbers. At the end of the weekend the first Enfield Pageant of Motoring had taken more money than the previous 20 years of the old society. No rain, no tax, and a good event now enabled the dream of a museum to become reality!

So what can punters expect at this year’s event, the first since the pandemic? In addition to the great vehicles, there are motorcycle stunt displays, an ‘auto-jumble’, trade and food stalls, vintage village, bar and fairground. New this year is a demonstration from the Brentwood Radio Controlled Car Club, racing high-speed models. Cars from the movies will be displayed on the Saturday. There’s also live bands and a DJ, playing rock’n’roll on Saturday and swing on Sunday.

Enfield Pageant of Motoring takes place on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th May, starting at 9am each day. Entry is £10 for adults, £5 children aged between six and twelve. For more information and to enquire about bookings:

Call 020 8367 1898
Email office@whitewebbsmuseum.org
Facebook /Enfield-Pageant-Of-Motoring-178083448913929
Visit whitewebbsmuseum.co.uk



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ENFIELD COMMUNITY HEROES

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Keeping older people active

Mark Huggard has been running fitness classes for Age UK Enfield for nearly two decades

Mark Huggard has been working to keep Enfield's older people fit and healthy since 2003.

Mark was born and raised in Enfield and runs Age UK Enfield's 'Fit for Life' project, with classes ranging from gentle exercise for people who are quite frail, to really long and challenging walks, cycling classes, zumba gold and line dancing. According to colleagues, he approaches each class "with the same level of dedication, energy and fun".

During the pandemic lockdown, Mark was forced to move these classes online, where he created video tutorials, but he also provided printed exercise packs which he delivered to people's homes. This meant that people who are digitally excluded – who cannot access online videos or Zoom – were still able to



Mark Huggard

exercise by following a step-by-step illustrated guide.

Clare O'Driscoll, who nominated Mark as an 'Enfield Community Hero', said: "Mark really makes people feel welcome and knows all his participants, which is incredible given how many different people attend the various classes and walks, and demonstrates the level of his commitment and positive attitude.

"Mark is always looking out for people and referring [them] to other services when he feels people may need more support, whether other Age UK Enfield services, or other organisations across the borough.

"People really enjoy coming to Mark's classes, often enjoying a cuppa and a chat afterwards. Many friendships have bloomed through the classes; sometimes people attending have been lonely, or have lost a loved

one; so these new and often-long lasting friendships have often been a lifeline and given people a new lease of life."

Making exercise sessions so enjoyable means people stick with it longer, helping to reduce loneliness, keep people fit and healthy, and can also mean they stay able and independent for longer too.

Find out more about Age UK Enfield's 'Fit for Life' exercise classes:

Visit ageuk.org.uk/enfield/our-services/fit-for-life

Nominate your heroes

Dispatch readers are welcome to nominate their own 'Enfield Community Hero' – someone who you think has gone above and beyond to help support the local community. Simply email your nomination to EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com

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Looking back on a long career in local politics

Enfield's longest-serving councillor looks back on his 36 years at the civic centre, before standing down this month

BY TERRY NEVILLE

After 36 years as a member of Enfield Council, I decided not to stand for re-election this year. It has been an honour and privilege to represent residents of both Winchmore Hill for twelve years and then Grange, where I live, for the past 24 years.

As you can imagine, people ask me about the changes to the borough that I've seen over that period. Unsurprisingly, they are many and varied. In 1986, when I was first elected, Enfield was seen as a pretty typical outer London borough; leafy, green and relatively prosperous.

The biggest single change has undoubtedly been the significant population growth over the years, coupled with the growth of multiculturalism. Any comparison of the borough's profile in 1986 with its current profile amply demonstrates this, and with that change has come many new challenges for the council, especially in the field of housing and education. They are challenges with which successive administrations have grappled, but with varying degrees of success.

The lack of sufficient housing is still a major problem, but this is not a problem peculiar to Enfield – it's London-wide. The bigger population and the inexorable growth in car ownership and use has put significant demands on our transport and road infrastructure. This has led to a growth in parking controls and traffic management schemes, but improvements to the major routes serving the borough – the A10, A1010 (Hertford Road) and A406 (North Circular Road) – have barely kept pace with traffic growth.

People often ask what drove me to spend so much time as a councillor and what I achieved in that time. My answer is always the same – to bring about improvements in the efficient provision of public services. I think the public generally underestimate what good councils can achieve, and sadly many fail to fully appreciate the responsibilities that councils have, and the effect they can have on people's daily lives.

In my view, an effective councillor has to have one or more of the following qualities; a caring nature, initiative, gumption and, perhaps above all, a 'can do' attitude, coupled with determination to achieve results. My career I think demonstrates that I am fortunate to possess those qualities, but ultimately that is for others to judge!

When I'm asked what is my most memorable achievement, it is indisputably my appointment as an OBE in the 2010 New Years Honours List "for services to local government in Enfield and London". That was not only a complete surprise to me, but also reflected the teamwork of many colleagues, both members and officers, without whose



Terry Neville, a Conservative councillor for Grange ward, is standing down this month

efforts some of the successes which led to that honour could not have been achieved.

I should say that before becoming an elected councillor in Enfield I served in professional local government for almost 25 years in London boroughs as diverse as Islington, Haringey and Westminster.

On appointment as city solicitor at Westminster and parliamentary officer to the London boroughs,

I was immediately given a challenge to devise "a legally watertight" policy to deal with what was then an inexorable growth – principally

within the Soho area – of various kinds of sex establishments, at the expense of a decline in the hospitality and niche food retailing industries. I was aware that at various times there had been piecemeal attempts to amend existing relevant national legislation, for London purposes, via private bills promoted on behalf of borough councils which had simply

not worked, because the industry was always ahead of the regulators.

My answer was a comprehensive and discrete licensing package to deal with the problem, including crucially the ability of the council to specify the maximum number of licences it would grant, which could specifically be "nil", coupled with maximum fines that were more in keeping

with the amount of money earned from these premises. The provisions were published and, following a clamour by MPs representing other

major cities, was adopted by government for national application.

After this became law in 1982, I was responsible for its implementation in Westminster and, within three years, we had reduced the number of sex establishments from 106 to twelve, despite legal challenges in the House of Lords. This was very high profile, and was

one of my proudest achievements.

Following my election in 1986, and being a lifelong asthmatic, I soon became aware – literally – of the 'smoke-filled meeting rooms'. This shouldn't go unchallenged, I thought, so I persuaded the then council leader to agree to my bringing a motion to ban smoking in the chamber and other meeting rooms. This happened at my third full council meeting, when the motion was passed by majority on a free vote. Enfield was the first London borough to so act at that time.

By 2003, I was a cabinet member for environment and was representing Enfield at London Councils, the umbrella organisation responsible for promoting London legislation. Having secured our cabinet's blessing, I took a proposal to them to include in their next bill a ban on smoking in pubs and restaurants. The bill containing the provisions was published, and history repeated itself because the then Labour health secretary, Patricia Hewitt, decided to introduce national legislation which became law in 2006, thus ushering in one of the biggest social changes in recent memory.

Other memorable achievements were the introduction of a comprehensive door-to-door recycling scheme, which more than doubled Enfield's recycling rate, while simultaneously setting up a climate change board, two years before national legislation, to audit the council's own buildings and recommend necessary investment to reduce our carbon footprint.

I'm also very proud of tackling a declining street scene through establishing an 'enviro crime unit' by merging a number of different enforcement units into this branded team, which conveyed a clear message in its title that the endemic of carelessness towards our environment was indeed a crime! In so doing, coupled with a hands-on approach to my wider brief, we achieved two stars from the independent Audit Commission for our environment policies – up from a ranking of 'poor'.

I've thoroughly enjoyed my time at Enfield, and have made a number of friends over the years within all political groupings. I take this opportunity to thank all those who've worked with me past and present over the years for their dedicated and unstinting support and for tolerating my own less than tolerant approach to getting things done.

Do I have any regrets? As Sinatra sang; "I have a few". The biggest is my failure to persuade colleagues that local government and democracy in Enfield would be better served by a smaller council headed by an elected mayor so that Enfield could enjoy some of the fruits of those London boroughs which have adopted that model. The second is that we are still a long way from true accountability in Enfield.

"As a lifelong asthmatic, I persuaded the then council leader to agree to a ban smoking"

Yasemin Brett (centre) helping to create a 'bug hotel' in Boundary Fields



Doing my bit for Bowes

Yasemin Brett reflects on her 28 years as a local councillor

Firstly I want to wish all Enfield residents well with the ongoing pandemic and salute the brave efforts of the community in the face of this challenge. I also want to thank residents for electing me in successive elections since 1994, as a Labour representative for their area, and to the Labour Party for putting me forward.

Any achievements have been team efforts. My ward councillor colleagues and I have worked closely to bring improvements to the local area over the years; one notable one being when we fought for, retained and enhanced all green space in Bowes. Our Enfield Council officers deserve our particular praise too for helping us facilitate improvements.

Bowes was a trailblazer for green walls. The image accompanying this piece was taken with residents helping to build a bug hotel over by Boundary Fields.

Serving previously as the borough mayor and in several cabinet positions has been a privilege and the Labour group has put its trust in me, which I have tried to live up to. There have been

"I feel very sad to say cheerio to our residents"

differences of opinion over the Edmonton incinerator, but I continue to share many of the values of the Labour Party on the need to improve life chances for people.

I feel very sad to say cheerio to our residents and cannot believe I am not knocking on doors

before the election, but there is a time and a place for everything. Everyone should have a chance to serve the public. I also feel very saddened that so many of us were separated from one another and thank my former Labour colleagues in Community First for continuing to promote the welfare of Enfield residents.

I am now standing down as a councillor but remain actively engaged with other areas of political life. I would like to thank the press and the many charities and organisations, which have made important contributions to people's lives, for their support and contributions. I would also like to thank my Conservative colleagues who I have worked alongside in scrutiny committees and other areas of common interest.

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 **Monday 16th May**.

We need more rubbish data

Dear Enfield Dispatch

It was depressing to read that there is a problem with Enfield recycling, that our bins were "massively" contaminated during the pandemic, as if to say we are so incapable that we cannot perform the simple task of putting some waste items in a blue bin. Were we so distracted by the pandemic that we just forgot?

It is also puzzling to read that although our recycling bins were "massively" contaminated, we still had the same recycling rate as the year before, when they weren't. So our recycling rate stays at 33%, which is still ten whole percentage points below the national average.

While the rest of the country created more waste during the pandemic because they were at home a lot more, we in Enfield apparently created a lot less – enough to fill a few million bags, and to have the government put us on a list of notable councils for reducing our waste.

Can we please have some information on this important topic that makes sense, so we can get it fixed?

Tim Behean
Old Park Ridings

Garden waste charge unfair

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Enfield Council's £65 one-off charge for a year's service of bi-monthly garden waste collection is upon us once again. Unlike any other charge (TV licence, council tax, rent, energy, insurance etc) the council refuses to offer monthly payments or apportion the full year's charge, whether or not you were using the service from 1st April.

To make this policy even more illogical, the council already apportion/pro-rata this charge if you are blessed enough to move between properties that both require this service! This nonsense should be sorted out and the charge apportioned in line with actual usage. I can help you with the calculation if that helps!

Catherine O'Brien
Galliard Road

New CPZ unwanted

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Recently Enfield Council put leaflets through doors in my area of Ponders End in regards to turning it into a controlled parking zone (CPZ). Over the last three years new redevelopment in the area has increased housing for new residents but also reduced parking facilities for existing residents and commuters as well.

The councils planners basically never put enough parking spaces into their schemes to accommodate those that live in the area. So now they plan to ease the parking pressure through a CPZ. This would result in residents having to pay to park their cars where they live, or face a fine. To park a typical medium-sized car could cost as much as £250 per year. Local residents have petitioned to get this scrapped as anger rises. It's a disgrace.

Trevor Docherty
Ponders End

Providing food for all

Dear Enfield Dispatch

The Feed My Sheep Foundation is a busy and well-supported independent outreach programme in Upper Edmonton, providing free groceries every Saturday and Sunday to the homeless and people in need. Since 2021, we have been receiving fresh groceries which are delivered on Saturdays, consisting of mainly meat, poultry, fish, salad, fruit, vegetables, sandwiches and dairy products. With a core team, and some faithful volunteers each week, we have built a needful organisation that provides healthy and nutritious food, beverages, clothing, and friendship for the homeless, elderly, lonely, vulnerable and families throughout Edmonton and surrounding areas.

I'm committed to helping the helpless without judgement or prejudice. The goal is to support families and individuals struggling with poverty and hunger. I'm extremely grateful to all of our amazing volunteers and supporters for making this possible!

Pastor Sandrene Daniel-Joel
Fore Street, Edmonton

Southgate's Spanish sensation

Neil Littman returns to his favourite local haunt



The bar at La Paella

One of the reasons for starting a food column in the *Dispatch* last summer was the uncertainty regarding how the hospitality industry was going to emerge from the pandemic and a desire to promote the borough's best venues.

Food critic Giles Coren recently claimed that major news events were making him feel guilty regarding eating out. To make up for this, he reviewed five restaurants in one column without saying anything too specific about any of them and, a week later, drank so much at a new opening that he couldn't remember what he ate.

I hope to avoid such influences but, having said that, the atmosphere at La Paella in Southgate is conducive to drinking a jug or two of sangria! Family-run since 1995,

and now run by the founding owner's son Miguel Mota, this place has a great vibe. I am convinced most of the regulars have just returned from a Mediterranean holiday and want to continue their vacation experience. Live flamenco music and dancing have even featured at times.

La Paella is located on Southgate Circus, opposite the tube station, and is the only surviving Spanish restaurant in Enfield. Its menu is mainly geared towards tapas dishes gathered from various regions in Spain. I have eaten here more than anywhere else in the area because it caters for both a quick lunch and a leisurely dinner. On one occasion I visited with my girlfriend who was eager to practice her Spanish speaking skills and engaged with our waiter who replied in the language until she asked him which part

of Spain he was from and he said "Albania"!

The interior is traditional with a bar taking up the front of the restaurant, where you can feel transported to Spain. It's a nice touch. The menu is divided equally between vegetarian and meat or fish tapas. They also serve single portions of paella, which normally would be ordered as a main course between two or three people. In addition, they have a main course menu offering a wider range of paella dishes as well as steak or fish but, so far, I have preferred the variety and sociability of sharing several tapas plates.

I went there with two friends and we ordered olives (which tasted of anchovy), fish croquettes, wild boar with chips, homemade bread, chicken and prawn paella, patatas bravas, king prawns with garlic and a selection of cheeses with membrillo (quince paste).

La Paella stocks a range of Spanish beers

such as Estrella, Galicia and Mahon Cinco, which you may not find elsewhere, as well as a selection of sherries – sangria doesn't appear on the menu, though most people who eat there seem to know it will appear on request! We finished with crema Catalan and coffee. No matter how many times I have been to La Paella, it surprises me how filling the small plates are.

Our bill for eight dishes, dessert, coffee and a bottle of wine, plus service, came to just over £100. Individual tapas dishes are between £5 and £9.

La Paella is open Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 12-3pm and 6-10pm; Fridays and Saturdays, from 12-3pm and 6-11pm; and Sundays 1.45pm-9pm. Booking is advisable on Friday and Saturday evenings. For more information and to book:

Call 020 8882 7868

Email lapaellatapasbar@gmail.com

Website lapaellatapasbar.com



Patatas bravas



Paella



Sign up to the ED newsletter

Our weekly newsletter keeps readers up-to-date with the latest news, features and comment from the Enfield Dispatch website

Sign up: eepurl.com/dIDKNH



OPEN EVENT

Wed 18th May | 4pm - 7pm
Register now at waltham.ac.uk

☎ 020 8501 8501 ✉ myfuture@waltham.ac.uk

📍 707 Forest Road, Walthamstow, E17 4JB

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Songs for the masses

Chris Kaufman introduces Enfield in Song, a welcoming choir for the whole borough



The Enfield in Song gang, including budding songwriter Charles Jaffrey (back row, far left)

Move over Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lennon and McCartney; we've discovered a star songwriter in our very midst.

Enfield in Song, the community choir that has been performing to delighted audiences in churches, care homes, memory and visually-impaired clubs, has a new anthem

written by unsung hero Charles Jaffrey.

Scotsman Charles was unsung because he had never penned a lyric before. But, responding to musical director Laurence Payne's challenge to choir members to have a go, the stirring strains of Enfield in Song now rattle the rafters in halls, homes and clubs across the borough – raising spirits in

the gloomy face of the pandemic.

"The theme rattled around my head for a while," says Charles, "until the words clicked into place with the basic tune."

Mary Horsfield, the choir organiser and former art and drama teacher who has sung professionally in the past, said: "We're lucky to have musical director Laurence. He's a talented pianist who creates his own unique arrangements, which get the audience tapping their feet and singing along."

The choir is very welcoming and looking to recruit more members. I myself am an example of that; for years I would belt out *Glory Hallelujah* at White Hart Lane, but I never thought I could sing. They hadn't even put me in the school choir. Then I thought I'd give it a go, picked it up with the rest of the choir, and now I can sing four-part harmonies!

Enfield in Song choir members, who range in age from 40 to 80, from Palmers Green to Aberdeen, by way of Germany, Argentina, Australia and Wood Green, are a varied bunch. They include former teachers, cab drivers, education support staff, artists, a police inspector, trade union officer and

journalist. Among them are people who have met Nelson Mandela, Danny Blanchflower, Alfie Bass, the Queen Mother and Prince Monolulu. Now the choir wants to pull in more people from all round Enfield. There are no auditions, nor a need to read music; you just need to sing in tune.

"The choir is very welcoming and looking to recruit more members"

If you want to give it a go and have a try out with Enfield in Song, just join our Monday morning rehearsals at Holy Trinity Church in Winchmore Hill. And if you'd like to hear us in action why not drop in to St Andrews Church in Southgate at 3pm on Saturday, 14th May? You can listen to a mix of show songs and popular and nostalgic melodies inside a beautiful church.

For more information about Enfield in Song:
Email enfieldinsong@pgweb.uk

New book celebrates Windrush generation

Roy Edwards from Enfield Caribbean Association on the launch of the charity's first major publication

Enfield Caribbean Association (ECA) has launched its first major publication, promoting the voices of people who came to the UK from the Caribbean and Africa.

Windrush Voices – 20 Stories of Determination and Triumph encompasses the life stories of 20 individuals who came to live in this country because of the British government's call for workers in the transport system, postal service, and health service following the Second World War.

Those who answered the call came not just to help to rebuild Britain, but ultimately to build a better future for themselves and their children.

The book shares the individual stories of their lives in their home countries before they left, their journeys to the UK, their early experiences, the difficulties they faced and their successes in life.

According to Oveta McInnis, chair of Enfield Caribbean Association: "It is an important historical document which has recorded the lives and contributions that African and Caribbean people made to the UK."

A documentary film has been produced alongside the book and was shown at a launch event last month at Millfield Theatre.



Margaret Obomanu, a Palmers Green resident who emigrated from Nigeria in 1963, is one of the people featured in the new book

Human rights activist Sir Geoff Palmer also gave his verdict: "The book contains historical stories that movingly recalls the lives and work done by members of the Windrush generation. The aim of this excellent book has been realised."

ECA is a charity established in 1986 and

works to eliminate racial discrimination and for an inclusive, fair and equal community, in which people of African and Caribbean origin can develop their full potential as visible, positive contributors and participants in Enfield and beyond.

At the heart of our core values are working

for racial equality, valuing diversity and building good community relations.

For more information about the book and about Enfield Caribbean Association:

Call 020 8373 6388

Email info@theeca.org.uk

Visit enfieldcaribbeanassoc.org.uk

Stitch! will be making a jubilee collage with the help of local residents and community organisations



Creating a community collage

A Palmers Green social enterprise is running a project celebrating the Queen's jubilee year

Stitch! Crafts and Classes in Palmers Green has been awarded a £9,650 grant from the Arts Council to produce a community collage celebrating the Queen's platinum jubilee year.

From puppetry and story creation, through to making crowns, carnival and art trails, the local social enterprise will ensure there is a range of exciting activities for people of all ages and backgrounds to get involved in.

Suzanne Kelly, manager of Stitch!, said: "We are so pleased to be working with local people to create this platinum jubilee commemorative piece. To be part of this creative project at an important moment in this country's history is really exciting."

Stitch! provides sewing and crafting workshops from its shop in Green Lanes. It is now working with embroidery artist Jill Kipnis from inspirationalembroidery.co.uk to create a historic mixed-media textile collage piece for the jubilee.

Jill Kipnis is a textile artist fascinated by the power of stitch and textile mediums. She put together the heroes quilt project during the first year of the pandemic and is looking forward to helping guide people to create an artistic collage of imagery to celebrate the Queen's jubilee year.

Community organisations lined up to be involved in the project so far include West Grove Primary School, Broomfield Secondary School, St. John's

Evangelist Church and Azalea Court Care Home, in addition to regular members of the local stitching community.

The grant supporting the project was made possible thanks to National Lottery players and is administered by UK Community Foundations. Darren Henley, chief executive of Arts Council England, said: "The Let's Create Jubilee Fund is a wonderful example of our ambition to give everyone the opportunity to participate in and experience the arts, culture and creativity – made possible thanks to National Lottery players."

If you would like to be involved and to creatively contribute to the collage, Stitch! would like to hear from you:

Email hello@stitch.org.uk
Visit stitch.org.uk

LISTINGS

Submit your listing

We can include low-cost community events taking place in Enfield. For next month's listings, email the details of your event to enfielddispatch@socialspider.com by **Monday 16th May**.

MARKET

Forty Hall Farmers Market
Sunday 8th May, 10am–3pm

Local food producers and street food stalls with a focus on local, organic produce. Come ready to fill your shopping baskets with feast of tasty morsels, including the farm's own organic meat, veg and wine.

Free entry
Visit fortyhallfarm.org.uk

COMEDY

Friday Night Funnies
Friday 20th May, 7pm
Chickenshed, Chase Side,
Southgate N14 4PE

This exciting night will be hosted by a super-special guest, so get ready for big laughs galore as Resistance Comedy brings some of the best and brightest comedy performers around to Chickenshed's Rayne Theatre.

Tickets £15
Visit chickenshed.org.uk

JAZZ

Steve Taylor Fusion Phew at Ziggy's World Jazz Club
Friday 20th May, 7.30pm
The Kings Head, 1 The Green,
Winchmore Hill N21 1BB

Led by drummer and arranger Steve Taylor, this ace band has collaborated with Mica Paris, Omar, Ian Shaw and, in its augmented line-up Big Band Explosion, was the first to tribute legendary drummer Buddy Rich at Ronnie Scott's club. With luscious vocals from Josie Frater and the hottest horns and rhythm around, playing Taylor's trademark take on Gil Scott-Heron, Al Jarreau, Zero 7, plus jazz-groove flavoured originals.

Tickets £20 in advance
Visit ziggysclub.com

VOLUNTEER

Bush Hill Park Community Litter Pick
Sunday 29th May, 2pm–3.30pm
Bush Hill Park, Lincoln Road EN1 1PS

Monthly community litter-picking session organised by Carole Stanley from Friends of Bush Hill Park. Equipment supplied.

Turn up and go
Email carolestanley@ymail.com

FITNESS

'Nifty Fifties' aerobics class
Wednesdays, 10am
St Aldhelm's Church Hall, 2 Windmill Road, Edmonton N18 1PA

This is one of several classes running as part of Age UK Enfield's new 'fit for life' programme, encouraging older people to get out and get active this spring time, with the first class offered free. This particular class varies from week to week, challenging the group with different exercises. Suitable for all levels, from age 50 upwards.

Free entry for first-timers
Call 020 8375 4120
Email mark.huggard@ageukenfield.org.uk

WALK

Pymmes Brook discovery walk
Sunday 22nd May, 10.30am–4pm

Join the Pymmes Brookers for a free walk-and-talk along the Pymmes Brook! We will help you discover some of the secret stretches of this urban waterway. Priority booking for residents of Upper Edmonton and Edmonton Green.

Free, registration required
Email pymmeswalks@gmail.com
Visit bit.ly/3Lh31r1

CHOIR

Mum Sing Choir
Every Monday, 10am and 7pm
Stephen's Church Hall,
56 Village Road, Enfield EN1 2EU

Join our child-friendly choir for mums who love to sing. An evening class from 7.30pm is also held on the same day at Enfield Baptist Church in Cecil Road.

£15 a month
Visit vocallysound.co.uk

BRIDGE

Bridge Club
Every Tuesday afternoon, 2pm–4pm
Vita Pax Church, Bramley Road,
Cockfosters N14 4HE

Bridge is such a lifesaver for many who find themselves alone in later years. It gives people something to do and is so good for socialising. Please join us!

Call 020 8245 2587
Email malcolmroberts72@hotmail.com

AROUND THE BOROUGH

BOWES PARK

Two jailed for enslaving woman

TWO MEMBERS OF A FAMILY WHO enslaved a Polish woman and forced her to sleep in their garden shed have been jailed.

Four family members in total were sentenced at Reading Crown Court after they had all been found guilty over their roles in holding the victim captive at their home in Tottenham Road, following a seven-week trial last December.

The court heard how the victim, a woman aged in her 40s, came from a poor family in Poland. In 2014, she was approached with a promise of work in England and in October 2014 was brought over by minibus on the understanding she would work as a paid carer for Izabela Dytlow.

The victim worked for the family for more than five years, in conditions which amounted to modern slavery. These included being made to work long hours without pay or days off. She was made to sleep in a garden shed, or under a blanket on the floor, sometimes in unsanitary conditions. She was kept isolated and was not allowed to use a phone. Her Polish identification card was kept from her,



the only documentation she had. Izabela Dytlow, 47, was convicted of one count of trafficking a person into the UK for exploitation, three counts of holding a person in servitude and four counts of fraud by false representation. She was sentenced to nine years' imprisonment.

Andrzej Kasparowicz, 63, was convicted of three counts of holding a person in servitude, two counts of fraud by false representation and one count of money laundering. He was sentenced to nine years' imprisonment.

Szanel Dytlow, 19, was convicted on one count of holding a person in servitude and was sentenced to 16 months in custody, suspended for two years, plus 180 hours of



unpaid work. Kamil Wesolowski, 22, was convicted of one count of holding a person in servitude and was sentenced to twelve months in custody, suspended for two years, plus 120 hours of unpaid work and 15 days of rehabilitation activity.

Detective Constable Petra Williams said: "The victim comes from a poor background with both parents deceased. She hoped coming into the UK would offer her a better life and one can only imagine the disappointment she must have felt when she was made to face those unacceptable conditions."

"The family clearly exploited the victim and took advantage of her vulnerable state."

EDMONTON

Hospital car park plans

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

A MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK planned for North Middlesex University Hospital has won approval in a scheme designed to free up land for housing development.

The four-storey building, containing 452 parking spaces, will be built on the site of an existing surface-level car park at the northern boundary with the A406 North Circular Road.

It will offset the loss of parking spaces in the south and east of

the site, where the Greater London Authority plans to build 220 homes after buying up a parcel of land three years ago.

In a report presented to Enfield Council's planning committee, officers wrote that the new car park caused "less than substantial" harm to nearby Pymmes Park and the setting of the Grade 2-listed former garden wall within it would be outweighed by investment in the hospital and new affordable homes.

The application for the car park was unanimously approved by the committee.

COCKFOSTERS

Help for hedgehogs



Merryhill Primary School pupils attend the workshop with WRAS



CHILDREN FROM MERRYHILLS Primary School took part in a hedgehog awareness workshop at the Wildlife Rescue and Ambulance Service (WRAS)'s animal rescue centre in Trent Park.

The pupils gathered in the wildlife classroom on site – constructed and donated to the charity by Trent

Park developer Berkeley in 2019 – to hear WRAS founders Barry and June Smitherman explain how to help protect hedgehogs in the wild.

The pupils made hedgehog awareness posters and found a good spot to place a new hedgehog house. They also enjoyed a visit to some of the rescued animals who live at the centre.

ENFIELD HIGHWAY

Council rejects 100% affordable scheme

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

A PLAN TO BUILD 106 AFFORDABLE homes in Enfield Highway was turned down after councillors agreed it would cause harm to neighbours.

Developer Social Capital Partners wanted to build a nine-storey block of flats on the site of the former Moorfield Family Centre in Moorfield Road, with all of the homes marketed at London Affordable Rent levels.

But the proposal was rejected by Enfield Council's planning committee, as members backed officers' judgement that it would be an over-development, lead to significant loss of sunlight and daylight, and add to congestion.

It was the second time the developer



Credit HTA Design LLP

has had a 100% affordable scheme rejected by Enfield councillors this year. In January, the committee threw out plans for 110 flats in an 18-storey block proposed for the site of the Gilpin's Bell pub in Fore Street, Angel Edmonton.

Planning officer David Gittens explained that the height of the Moorfield Road development was

a "particular concern", adding that the scheme would have a "significant negative impact on light levels" reaching the windows and gardens of neighbours.

Julian Carter, of estate agent Savills, told councillors: "We think we have a high-quality scheme which will make a positive contribution to the area, replacing an eyesore attracting anti-social behaviour [...] and delivering fantastic affordable homes."

Although he acknowledged there would be locations where daylight and sunlight levels would be reduced, Juilan claimed the impact would not be unusual for developments in urban areas.

Ten committee members voted to refuse the development, with chair Sinan Boztas abstaining.

GORDON HILL

Station's tribute to Queen

A MOSAIC CELEBRATING THE Queen's platinum jubilee will be created at Gordon Hill Station after The Enfield Society was awarded £10,000 from the Arts Council, using National Lottery money.

The Friends of Gordon Hill Station (FOGHS) will create and install the permanent mosaic on the London-bound platform. Patients

from a hospital ward and local residents will work with a professional mosaic artist, Alex McHallam, to create the artwork.

The jubilee mosaic will be unveiled as part of a community celebration event that will include poetry performances, a historical photographic exhibition and a film night.

Enfield Town's season ends in heartbreak

A late comeback sealed the club's play-off defeat in front of a record crowd, but there were still plenty of positives

BY ANDREW WARSHAW

So near, and yet so far. In front of their biggest home attendance since the club was formed 21 years ago – a crowd twice as big as any seen since the club moved to QE2 Stadium in 2011 – Enfield Town's promotion hopes ended in heart-breaking circumstances.

On the biggest night of their footballing lives, Town led twice through Jerry Gyebi and Mo Faal and dominated for most of the game, only for Hornchurch to level on 87 minutes and then snatch victory three minutes later with a stunning long-distance goal, just as the clock had been ticking towards extra-time. It sealed a 3-2 win for the East London side, who were due to compete in the play-off final as the *Dispatch* went to press.

Crestfallen Town players who had left everything on the pitch slumped to the ground in abject disappointment at the final whistle, before regrouping for a squad huddle with the management staff to reflect on what had still been the club's best-ever season – having finished third (above Hornchurch) in the Isthmian Football League Premier Division table.

Players, management, fans and directors were collectively left shell-shocked as the borough's



Top scorer Mo Faal restored Town's lead in the second half, before a late Hornchurch comeback saw Enfield defeated 3-2 Credit: Phil Davison

biggest club were just three minutes away from the play-off final, with promotion to the 'holy grail' of National League South within touching distance. Victory would have also given Town a home final against local arch-rivals Cheshunt, who had upset Bishop's Stortford in the other semi-final, making Hornchurch's late comeback a gut-wrenching double-whammy for Enfield.

It was nonetheless an incredible atmosphere and a very special occasion. "Football can be a cruel mistress at times and so it proved," said Enfield manager Andy Leese afterwards. "A devas-

tating end to the game and our hopes, which I just didn't see coming. We gave it our all.

"It's been an exceptional season in so many ways and we shouldn't lose sight of that."

It was entirely fitting that after a memorable campaign, the team were given a rapturous send-off by the majority of a bumper crowd of almost 2,000 – 1,948 to be precise – that had the QE2 Stadium packed to the rafters and bursting at the seams.

Despite the agony of defeat and a summer of 'what-ifs' ahead, the entire squad can look back with pride. The play-offs were

always the goal from day one of the season, something clubs with far greater resources than Town – English football's first fan-owned club – also aspired to but never achieved.

A record points tally and biggest-ever average home gate speaks volumes about the commitment and camaraderie of a unique group of players, some of whom may decide their future lies elsewhere – although it is too soon to speculate as, at time of writing, the players are still absorbing the reality of defeat.

Enfield Town chairman Paul Reed told the *Dispatch* that everything will be done to make the squad equally competitive next time around. He said: "It was hugely disappointing to get so close to our first play-off final at this level, but when the dust settles we will look back and feel very proud.

"To have a crowd of that magnitude shows the inroads we've made in the local community and how our support base is growing. Hopefully we can carry that forward.

"We will have a catch-up with [manager] Andy and the players in the coming weeks and make sure we are in the best shape to start next season, to give us every chance of going one better."

Advertisement

LICENSING ACT 2003 Notice of Application for a New Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that Fine Food Service Limited has applied to the Licensing Authority of London Borough of Enfield for a Premises Licence to permit:

- **Supply of alcohol (on sales): from 12:00 to 20:00 everyday for the premises Trent Park Cafe**
- **Situated at Trent Park Cafe, Trent Park, Cockfosters Road, Enfield EN4 0PS**

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: **24/05/2022**.

Representations received by post will not be accepted. Representations must include your full name and address. 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.

Signed: 26th day of April 2022

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Support independent local journalism

What we do

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

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

How you can help

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

You can do this by becoming a member either as an individual or as an organisation. See the rewards opposite and once you've decided what package you would like, visit our website:

enfelddispatch.co.uk/join

Individual rewards

£3 per month upwards:

Name in print and online, pin badge

£5 per month upwards:

Name in print and online, pin badge, tote bag, paper posted to you every month

Organisational rewards

£10 per month:

Name in print and online, 10% discount on advertising

£20 per month:

Name and logo in print and online, 20% discount on advertising

£50 per month:

Name and logo in print and online, 40% discount, six free small adverts per year

Members

Derek Grant, Michael Dickinson, Young Notes, Ed Balleny, Natasha Boydell, Elizabeth Crosthwait, Richard Stones, Philip Ridley, Suzanne Beard, Chris Kaufman, Martyn Stogden, Susan Cook, Rupert Price, Meryn Cutler, Andrew Irvine, Basil Clarke, John Naughton, Right at Home Enfield, MumSing Choir, Lloyd Tew-Cragg, Andrew Warshaw, Neil Churchill, Karl Brown, Anthony Fisher, Dan Wright, Kay Heather, Julia Mountain, Jerome O'Callaghan, Carole Stanley, Mervyn Maggs, Aditya Chakraborty, Norman Bennett, Vivien Giladi, Greg Andrews, The Old Enfield Charitable Trust, Matt Burn, Martin Russo, Marilyn Hamilton, Laura Davenport, Mick Wood, Helen Osman, Enfield Over 50s Forum, Francis Sealey, Caroline Banks, Bill Linton, Joe Hickey, William Yates, Petr Mitterbach, Gianni Sarra, Tracy Hughes, Kristiana Heapy, Neil Bachelor, John Crowther, Hannah Salvidge, Sean Wilkinson, Janice Nunn, Julia Daniel, Deborah Dalglish, Philip Foxe, Phil H, Dána Roberts, A Cleary, Stephen Evans, Julian Rhys-Williams, Steve King, Robert Pite, Lauri Clarke, Anne Cullen, Ross Cunningham, Diana Goforth, Kirsten Lowe, Seton During, Aurora Yaacov, Sylvia Collicott, Paula Lamont, Liz Wright, Elsie Rigden, Sangeeta Waldron, David Mickleburgh, John Machin, The Enfield Society, Joe Studman, Ryan Hebbs, Adam White, Sue Grayson Ford, Matt McLaren, Bush Hill Park Residents Association, Zoe White, Carol Fisk, Harriet Ray, Hannah Dyson, Peter Krakowiak, Friends of Hillyfields, Julie Nedza, Lynda Dyson, Phil Gooch, Chris Skilbeck, Peter Campling, Alison Shepherd, Chris Graham, Lindsay Rawlings, Harri Ramanathan, Per Hansen, Carlo Rimini, Jean Christou, Bhasmank Mehta, Sheila Spooner, Harry Redmond, Marcia Jane Chamberlain, Anita Jena-Smol, Pat Kane, Ben Sulaiman.

Member organisations



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