

ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº.47 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

AUGUST 2022

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YOUNG PERFORMERS FROM Chickenshed Theatre last month helped launch the revamped Fore Street Library in Angel Edmonton, which now boasts flexible space that can be used for live performances, workshops and classes – read more on Page 13 Credit Natalie Gee/Enfield Council

Call for investment in children's services

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Enfield Council has cut spending on early help services for children by 57% following years of government funding reductions, a new report reveals.

Early intervention spending by the council on initiatives such as children's centres, youth clubs and tailored support for substance misuse fell by £14.6million in real terms between 2010/11 and 2020/21. Alongside that came a 31% increase in late intervention spending such as support for children in care and child protection, which climbed by £10.2m.

According to the figures, total spending on the borough's children's services department fell by 13%, to £54m, during the ten-year period. Early intervention spending per child dropped by 59% to just £94.27.

The *Stopping The Spiral* report was commissioned by The Children's Society, Action for Children, Barnardo's, National Children's Bureau and NSPCC, and is based on research by Pro Bono Economics. It reveals investment in early intervention support by English councils fell from £3.8billion to £1.9bn over ten years.

At the same time, government funding available to councils for children's services is estimated to have dropped by 22%, from £10.4bn to £8.1bn, and spending on crisis and late intervention services soared by more than a third, from £6bn to £8.2bn, driven by a 24% rise in the number of children in care.

The report warns of a "vicious cycle" in which councils are forced to spend more on crisis support. The charities are calling for the next prime minister to invest a minimum of £2.6bn in children's social care, as recommended by the Independent Review of Children's Social Care.

Imran Hussain, director of policy at Action for Children, said: "Town halls are being placed in an impossible position [...] the government has to give local authorities the resources they need to stem the tide of children coming to harm before they're helped."

Abdul Abdullahi, cabinet member for children's services, said: "Enfield Council has unwavering commitment to do everything we possibly can to protect children and young people. We have invested in additional staff and services in response to rising demand. In fact, we have managed a cumulative increase in investment in children and family services since 2018, which has resulted in a number of transformational initiatives for the borough's young people."

"In 2019, an Ofsted report said vulnerable children are well cared for and protected by Enfield Council, after awarding the local

authority a 'good' rating, and the council invested an additional £600,000 that year in children's social services to increase the number of social workers and improve standards of practice.

"While these initiatives help to support our young people, [we] would welcome an urgent review of core funding so interventions can reach our most vulnerable residents as early as possible."

A government spokesperson said: "We've made an additional £3.7bn available to councils this year alone to help them deliver key services and support families. We're backing families with better and earlier access to services that keep them safe and healthy, by expanding a network of family hubs all over England and increasing investment in the supporting families programme, helping to keep up to 300,000 families together safely and provide loving homes for children."



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Developer slammed over 'inelegant' tower

Councillors defer decision on 21-storey tower amid concern it has no fire safety strategy and breaches multiple planning policies

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

A decision on a proposed 21-storey tower block next to Brimsdown Station has been deferred after planning committee members were given twelve reasons why it shouldn't win permission.

The redevelopment of The Station Tavern pub in Green Street, which has been closed for five years, would include 100 flats, of which 40% would be classed 'affordable' and more than half would be family-sized, three-bed units. Eight offices, three shops and two restaurants also feature in the plans.

But at a committee hearing last month an Enfield Council planning officer reeled off a long list of reasons why the so-called "Tepe Tower" should be rejected, several of which he described as "fundamental" – adding that the developer had failed to provide details of what type of affordable housing would be provided, undermining the scheme's "single benefit".

Among the reasons listed for refusal were that the tower had an "unsympathetic architectural approach" constituting an "inelegant" and "gross overdevelopment" of the site; that it would intrude on neighbours' privacy; had no fire strategy; had no "adequate" sustainable drainage strategy despite being in a flood zone; failed to provide a legal agreement to "secure policy-compliant contributions"; omitted an inclusive design statement and therefore breached multiple planning policies; and didn't provide either enough parking spaces nor enough children's play space.

Salvio Daniele, acting on behalf of developer Yen of London Ltd, told the meeting: "This project from the start has been a challenging opportunity to contribute to the area and benefit



The plans for the 21-storey tower next to Brimsdown Station
Credit Yen of London Ltd

the community. It is something our client feels strongly about.

"Our client expects the scheme to become a catalyst to improve the area. The area needs to be regenerated."

Salvio added the scheme would provide "hundreds" of local jobs and insisted it was "compliant with all fire regulations".

There was further support from two local residents, including Cynthia Otseh-Taiwo who said: "The pub is an eyesore [...] This project will bring a new lease of life to the area and will create more affordable housing for young people like me who are trying to move out of their mum's house."

"The reasons for refusal are fundamental. It's not possible to mitigate them"

However, planning committee members expressed their frustration the scheme had even been brought before them. Significant issues are typically addressed in the pre-application stage when developers discuss their plans with council officials, and councillors demanded to know what

talks had taken place.

Planning officer Gideon Whittingham said talks started in 2019 and that the developer had since reduced the scale of the tower from 24 to 21 storeys. However, Gideon said officers "did not consider the issues had been addressed" and that "we have been minded to refuse the application for some time". He added that the council was "willing to work with the applicant" but at present "found the scheme too deficient".

Labour's Doug Taylor responded: "I can't understand how a pre-application process begun in 2019 could end with these reasons for refusal being made, which are more comprehensive than I have ever witnessed."

The debate among committee members took an unexpected turn, however, when Bektas Ozer proposed a motion to approve the plans. Cllr Ozer is not a regular committee member but had been substituted on to the committee temporarily, in the absence of Gunes Akbulut. He was newly-elected in May to represent Brimsdown.

Cllr Ozer said: "As a representative of Brimsdown, I am quite excited by it. My view is, if the ambiguity over the affordable housing tenures can be resolved, then that benefit would outweigh the twelve shortcomings. We need a vibrant Brimsdown and this development meets this need."

The motion prompted one of the council's legal advisors to step in, warning councillors not to "blindly go into it". Gideon added: "The reasons for refusal are fundamental. It's not possible to mitigate them."

Cllr Ozer subsequently withdrew his motion and proposed instead the application be deferred, allowing time for more information to be provided by the developer and for council officers to draw up reasons why it could be approved. The motion was passed unanimously.

Cop paid for sex

A Metropolitan Police officer has quit the force after being caught soliciting a prostitute in Edmonton.

Tristan Downing was arrested during a police operation in Edmonton in January. Plain-clothes officers watched as he drove up in a hire car, solicited and paid for the services of a prostitute, before receiving oral sex in a nearby cul-de-sac.

Downing pleaded guilty at Westminster Magistrates' Court in February. He resigned from the force on 14th July, a day before a misconduct hearing at which deputy commissioner Helen Ball found the allegations proven as gross misconduct.

Commander Andy Carter said: "We expect the highest standards of behaviour from our officers both on and off duty and this officer's actions fell way below these expectations."

Free swimming

Children aged under 16 will be able to swim for free at leisure centres across Enfield borough during the summer holidays, the council has announced.

Two one-hour sessions are on offer each day from Monday to Friday at Albany, Edmonton and Southbury leisure centres; one one-hour session will be available each day from Monday to Friday at Southgate Leisure Centre; and further one-hour sessions will be provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Arnos Pool.

Eligible children can book their free sessions via Fusion, which runs the council's leisure centres. Up to 10,000 children are predicted to take up the free swimming spaces.

To book a session go to campaigns.fusion-lifestyle.com/enfield-free-swimming.

Restaurant fire

A Turkish restaurant was destroyed in a fire on the busiest day for London Fire Brigade (LFB) since the Second World War.

A blaze took hold at Aksular Restaurant in Green Lanes, Palmers Green, shortly after 9am on 19th July and was not brought under control for eleven hours despite being tackled by ten fire engines and 70 firefighters.

It was the hottest day in the UK on record and LFB was dealing with multiple large conflagrations all over the capital. Station commander Sami Goldbrom said: "The fire started in the restaurant's ducting and spread.

"Crews worked hard in incredibly challenging conditions due to the hot weather."

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Volunteers work on installing the mosaic at Conway Rec in Southgate



Mosaic made with a little help from park's friends

How the Friends of Conway Rec were inspired to create a colourful mosaic

BY KEITH WELLER

As volunteers from the Friends of Conway Rec we have worked hard to keep this small park green, attractive and safe since 2010, when a flood caused by collapsed pipework ruined the pond and its surroundings.

A number of projects have been completed since then, including the building of nesting islands, the planting of trees, hedges, shrubs and flowers, and the design and installation of information panels. The work has been made possible through a combination of grants and kind donations from the local community.

In 2019, two of our number walking along the Thames Path spotted a piece of striking mosaic artwork and wondered whether something similar could be created to grace Conway Rec. The idea emerged of a 'learning circle' that would embody information in an artistic way, while acting as a muster point for local schoolchildren and

families wanting to explore the rec.

We contacted Tamara Froud, the artist responsible for the installation by the Thames, and were delighted when she agreed to take on the project. Tamara was keen to involve pupils from our closest primary school, St Monica's, in the design, and help them to discover more about the way mosaic artwork is created.

She started a series of workshops at

of the Rec to produce a beautiful circular mosaic design. The volunteers constructed a concrete base – which puzzled passers-by for some time – then completed the circle with stone sets ready for the mosaic to be installed.

Finally, in June, it was possible first to create the mosaic off-site and then install it as the long-awaited learning circle, featuring trees, insects, flowers, birds, lifecycle clues and a representation of the pond. The mosaic also contains the initials of three volunteers who, sadly, were lost over the period of the pandemic.

Shortly after the learning circle was installed, St Monica's children visited and studied the artwork that they and fellow pupils had helped to create. The mosaic is a wonderful addition to Conway Rec and well worth a visit and time spent studying the fine detail. If you'd like to know more about this project, or the other work that goes on in the park, do get in touch.

For more information:
Email friendsofconwayrec@gmail.com

"The mosaic is a wonderful addition to Conway Rec"

the school, but the pandemic meant those activities had to stop. Tamara resolutely found ways to stay in contact with the pupils and encouraged them to produce and share drawings of the plant and animal life they had seen in Conway Rec.

Over the next three years, work continued as circumstances allowed and Tamara drew on the children's contributions and ideas from the Friends

Shopping with a conscience

Phil Barnes introduces his retail-focused social enterprise, Philanthropy London

Imagine a shop that spends its profits on good causes, similar to a charity shop but with the money only benefiting your community instead of being returned to a national charity.

Do you believe certain social issues can be addressed more efficiently locally, rather than through huge national organisations? With profits delivered directly to a local cause rather than being filtered through the large overheads of a big organisation?

This is the basis of our new community interest company (CIC) shop, Philanthropy London, which has recently opened in Green Lanes, Palmers Green. Our business model is to return profits in the form of wages, for up to eight hours work per week in the shop, to adults suffering from mental health issues or who have learning disabilities.

destination shop selling a great selection of curated, pre-loved adult clothing, homeware and upcycled furniture in a bright, spacious and upbeat environment. Since opening the shop on 2nd June we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from customers, both regarding the shopping experience and our business model.

We've also partnered with the equalities team at Enfield Council, which helps people with learning disabilities to find voluntary and paid positions, and we have made a good start at growing our volunteer team and in receiving donations.

If you are interested in expanding your shopping options and supporting a local initiative that benefits your community, come and check us out at 248 Green Lanes, follow us on social media, and think of us when you make a donation.



Esther Phelpotts and Phil Barnes of Philanthropy London CIC

Not everyone can fulfil a complete job description, but we believe everyone can do something of value and should have the opportunity to contribute to society through fulfilling employment. As a CIC we are mandated to return greater than 65% of our profits to our chosen community, which is the borough of Enfield.

Our goal is to create a

If you are also interested in volunteering for whatever reason – perhaps you are a whizz at marketing, social media, love clothes and merchandising, or are looking to learn new skills and meet new people – then pop into the shop to find out more!

For more information about Philanthropy London:
Instagram @philanthropylondon

Making cycling a family affair

David Hilliard talks to Luke Balnave about his plan to open a family bike club in Enfield

Local resident Luke Balnave struck a chord with the local cycling community when he recently shared his ambition of having a “family bike library” here in Enfield.

Luke has since set up The Family Bike Club as a community interest company, with the aim of supplying bikes and accessories to facilitate families to make more local journeys together. The crowd-funding appeal that launched the project was a big success, raising over £10,000, with generous contributions from the local public, Aviva Community Trust, plus two grant funds.

“I’ve always been a keen cyclist,” explains Luke, “but it was when I introduced my kids to cycling that I really experienced new levels of satisfaction and enjoyment.”

Using a bike for short journeys was always important for Luke, who has a strong personal interest in environmental issues. “When my kids were young the bike was the go-to option for us for local journeys,”

he said. “I’d bring them everywhere by bike. Initially it was using a child seat on my bike and later we started using a trailer. As they grew they progressed to balance bikes and then to pedalling independently.”

Besides the importance to Luke of choosing sustainable transport options, there was a social aspect to cycling for the children that they did not experience when making the same journey by car.

“I loved watching the general engagement with their environment and with passers-by as we cycled along. Inevitably we’d stop for the odd chat along the way, making each journey unique – and uniquely enjoyable.

“I’m really keen that other families are given the opportunity to experience the same joy for ordinary journeys. In current times particularly, the cost of acquiring each item for the different stages of a child’s growth, not to mention family cargo options, can be prohibitive for many families even if the desire exists to make these choices. We



Luke Balnave's children Caolainn and Molly outside the Enfield Chase Station unit he hopes will become home to The Family Bike Club

intend, via affordable hire, to positively offer a bridge to overcome this barrier.”

The Family Bike Club’s plan is to go further than just offering equipment. Luke wants to create a community hub, one where local residents can visit to get cycle

training; join group-led rides; find the most friendly local routes; and feel part of a community.

He says: “Starting cycling with children locally can sometimes feel a bit daunting and we want to provide all the support possible to reduce any initial anxiety.”

The club also aims to offer tandem and piloted cycles that can accommodate those who struggle with ordinary cycling, or just prefer the option of a more social form. They will also offer cargo bike and trailer options. The project could even empower local residents by providing them with the ability to track, via an app, their own carbon savings with every journey made locally.

With a proposed base at Enfield Chase Station, Luke is currently putting together a collection of bikes, trailers, tag-alongs and accessories for the bike club’s launch. Watch this space!

To find out more and to get involved:
Visit thefamilybikeclub.com

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Campaigning to reform the care system

Author and campaigner Chris Wild is determined to help children live fulfilling lives

When Chris Wild was eleven his father died, leaving him to grow up in the British care system – at that moment, in his words, “my childhood came to an end”.

Chris witnessed the “inequities of life” with children being subjected to abuse by the professionals who were supposed to keep them safe. Several friends Chris had during this turbulent period later took their own lives.

But Chris says he was “one of the lucky ones” who was able to “change my negative experience into a gift”. It became a catalyst for the work Chris does now; helping vulnerable young people all over the country.

The Freezywater native has used his own personal trauma to bring about change. He started as a youth coach and slowly made his way into management. In under five years he was managing



Chris Wild lives in Freezywater, Enfield three houses for young people in semi-independent care. This, he says: “Gave me an insight into the dangers young people face on a day-to-day basis, such as county lines [drugs gangs], child

sexual exploitation, homelessness. It also taught me about politics and running a business.”

But it was when Chris decided to start writing books about his life and campaigning for change that he really felt he was making a big difference. His first book from 2018, *Damaged*, focuses on his personal story of growing up in care. His second, *The State of It*, was published last year and looks at the “broken care system” and how it has affected some of the young people he works with.

Chris said: “I have worked on many campaigns for young people in the care sector. I became a national advocate in this sector and my voice has resonated with professionals in central government.”

In an appearance on the BBC’s *Newsnight* programme three years ago, Chris gave an emotional account of

some of the issues he had been dealing with, including the case of a 15-year-old boy “treated like a stray dog”. The appearance helped spur a change in the law, so that no young person under the age of 16 can now be placed in a home that is unregulated.

Chris is now a patron of many charities working in the sector and in 2020 was appointed a board member for the survivors working group set up by former minister Sajid Javid and campaigner Olivia Robey, through which he was actively involved in looking at ways to prevent children being groomed online.

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

Councillors debate council spending, debt and Boris Johnson

BY SIMON ALLIN,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Councillors rowed over civic centre finances and Boris Johnson's resignation during a fractious full council meeting last month.

Conservatives slammed council debt and spending levels, while Labour members called for the prime minister to leave Downing Street immediately rather than stay in office until September, claiming the public had "lost confidence" in him.

The meeting saw the discussion of a report showing the council spent £198.6m in 2021/22 and planned to roll forward £26.6m that remained unspent because of delays. A further report showed the council's borrowing stood at £1.015bn – up £85m since March last year.

Tim Leaver, cabinet member for finance and procurement, told the meeting the council's spending included £3.38m on school programmes that would provide additional capacity for special educational needs places, £41m on the Meridian Water regeneration scheme and £3m on healthy streets programmes.

He added: "You will find investments across our borough, in our communities and in your wards, for all Enfield residents."

But James Hockney, the Tory shadow



Boris Johnson has ignored calls from Labour councillors in Enfield for him to quit as prime minister immediately
Credit: 10 Downing Street

cabinet member for finance, said budget rollovers meant "non-delivery of projects", leading to increased costs as a result of delays, and criticised the lack of a plan to deal with inflationary challenges in the construction sector.

Cllr Hockney said taxpayers' money was being spent on "loss-making" energy company Energetik and slammed spending on office

furniture, which he said had risen almost tenfold in the last two years, arguing the cash should be invested in frontline services.

Conservative group leader Alessandro Georgiou said the £24.5m being spent on debt interest was a "clear waste of taxpayer money" due to "financial negligence". He also raised concerns over "£61m of loans outstanding under one year and the lack of clarity in the number of loans outstanding between one and five years", warning that rising interest rates could put the council at risk of bankruptcy.

Labour councillors defended debt and spending levels, including the refurbishment of the civic centre. Leader Nesil Caliskan said the council needed to support its staff and update "a 1960s building that doesn't meet the needs of residents".

Cllr Caliskan said inflationary pressures had been built into financial planning and that Energetik was "doing better than its own predicted business plan", adding that investments in the firm would help deliver future profits.

On borrowing, the council leader said the investment it funded meant residents in Enfield "will see the 'levelling up' that their government talks about but only Labour councillors deliver". She pointed out that the council was borrowing at low interest rates

and was "nothing like" other local authorities that had suffered "financial instabilities".

During the second half of the meeting, councillors debated an urgent motion tabled by Cllr Caliskan calling on Boris Johnson to leave Number 10 immediately. The prime minister has pledged to go after Conservative members elect a new leader, with the result due on 5th September. The council leader said the prime minister "should just leave Downing Street now" and added: "He is corrupt, he is entitled, he is the worst prime minister this country has ever had."

But the Conservatives refused to support the motion. Cllr Georgiou listed Johnson's achievements, including Brexit, the Covid-19 vaccine rollout and supporting Ukraine in its war with Russia. He pointed out that the Enfield Labour group had lost seats during the local elections in May, adding "we gained the west [of the borough], and next time we're coming for the rest".

Chris Dey, who represents Grange Park, said councillors "should be talking about matters in Enfield". After Cllr Caliskan accused Johnson of being a liar, Cllr Dey said: "Do you think our voters did not know he was a liar? They knew that. They voted for him because they liked him, they voted for him because he was funny, they voted for him because he would get Brexit done."

Fears over local impact of bus route changes

Cuts proposed for whole network as Transport for London seeks to plug funding gap

BY SIMON ALLIN,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

A proposed shake-up of bus routes has sparked concerns it could "further distance" Edmonton from central London.

Transport for London (TfL) is considering changes to the 259, 279 and 349 routes serving Enfield under plans for a 4% reduction in bus kilometres, drawn up following the collapse in ticket revenue caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

If the moves go ahead, the 349 bus route between Ponders End and Stamford Hill will be scrapped, with a re-routing of the 279 service from Waltham Cross designed to compensate for its loss. It means the 279 would terminate at Stamford Hill and would no longer run between Seven Sisters and Manor House Station.

In addition, the 259 service would terminate at Holloway Road instead of continuing to King's Cross and would be extended northwards from Edmonton Green Bus Station to serve Ponders End, with an increase in the frequency of buses.

Committee members from Enfield Transport User Group (ETUG) said the changes would lead to a "further distancing [of] Edmonton and Tottenham from the central London bus network".

TfL has also proposed cutting the 476 that serves Northumberland Park from Kings Cross to Newington Green. The ETUG members said they were "disappointed" this was not being used as an opportunity to allocate more buses and routes to Meridian Water by extending the 476 and W3.

ETUG welcomed the extra capacity north of Edmonton Green, which would serve new housing developments in Ponders End and Southbury. But they added: "We feel there is a missed opportunity that an extension to Enfield Retail Park could have been achieved to support the planned Colosseum housing developments at the retail park. Edmonton Green is planning redevelopments to its shopping centre, where new links established can support the redeveloped shopping centre from linking the new homes."

One ETUG member also raised concerns over TfL's consultation, claiming it had "failed to provide most information on most frequency changes, as well as some renumbering".

According to TfL, the routes that would be affected by the proposed cuts are ones where there are very similar existing services or where passengers can use the 'hopper' fare to keep costs low.

Geoff Hobbs, director of public transport



Bus routes from across London could be cut by TfL amid its ongoing financial crisis

service planning at TfL, said: "TfL's reliance on passenger fares for the majority of its income means the effect of the pandemic on its finances has been devastating, requiring government support to keep public transport in London operating."

"The government set a number of conditions before it would provide emergency funding to enable TfL to keep operating, including requiring us to produce a plan to set out how we would achieve signifi-

cant financial savings. This plan included reducing the extent of our bus network.

"We have carefully studied our network in order to only propose changes to areas that already have a high provision of buses. The bus network is critically important to reducing car use, congestion, road danger and pollution."

The TfL consultation on the proposed bus route changes is due to run until 7th August. To take part: Visit haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/busreview



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This summer's heatwave is a wake-up call

Francis Sealey from Enfield Climate Action Forum on what needs to be done to adapt to our hotter weather

In July we had two days when temperature records were shattered.

In Enfield we reached temperatures of 39°C and in the UK more than one place exceeded 40°C, with 39 weather stations exceeding the previous record of 38.7°C set in 2019.

It was unprecedented but it was not totally unexpected. Recent research at Imperial College London found that every heatwave occurring today has been made more likely by climate change. Climatologists have been sounding the alarm for decades, warning of the increasing frequency and intensity of heatwaves and droughts.

And it has cost lives. At the time of writing, at least 1,000 people have died across Europe from excess heat this summer. When a heatwave engulfed France in 2019, around 1,500 died – with half of those being aged over 75.

Such high temperatures are a public health emergency and must be a part of any climate emergency that has been declared by local councils. How we avoid it getting worse and how we adapt to what is already there because of existing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are critical questions.

Enfield Climate Action Forum (Encaf) is a network of 130 civil society organisations. We have expressed concern at Enfield Council's climate action plan because it has excluded proposals for how we can adapt to a warming climate – with public health not being mentioned at all.

We understand the council is now addressing this issue as part of its climate emergency strategy, and we welcome that.



Forty homes were destroyed by fire as the UK's heat record was smashed on 19th July, with London among the places surpassing 40C for the first time Credit Sky News

We now need to responsibly manage the problems facing our environment by taking sensible steps toward protecting human health and safety. Whether measures are meant to reduce future climate change impacts or address the health impacts of climate change that are happening already, early action provides the greatest health benefits. It makes sense to invest in creating the strongest climate-health adaptation and preparedness programmes we can.

EnCaf is now developing a programme with Enfield Racial Equality Council, supported by health authorities, to examine the impact of

climate change on public health – especially in the east of the borough where there is more overcrowding and lack of green space.

With communities there we have made video stories of many of those concerned and affected and we are building up a knowledge base of webinar interviews. We are also in the process of running two focus groups to help us develop our approach to this issue.

But the main focus of the project will be two community panels being held at end of September and beginning of October at Artist Hive and Forest Road Health Centre, when we will invite local citizens and groups

to join activities around the lack of green space, air pollution, poorly-insulated homes, social isolation, healthy eating and more. We will use these events to listen to local people about their concerns.

"Such high temperatures are a public health emergency"

In addition, we are developing a number of ancillary events around this, with a live podcast in Edmonton Green and a mini hub at Chickenshed Theatre for young people. We want to work with some housing associations around the pressing issue of social isolation and we hope that at the end of this we will be able to produce a report that will be useful for developing preparedness and resilience in local communities.

Preparing for a future of heat excess will mean looking at our infrastructure in energy, housing and transport, but it will also mean looking at how we can live healthier lives and how communities can aid each other. To achieve this requires working together in partnership from this moment forward, whatever our differences, because the climate emergency is real and immediate.

The temperatures of this July must be a wake up call for all of us.

For more information about Encaf:
Visit encaf.org



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Visit enfelddispatch.co.uk/join

Paul Pratt has been a Conservative councillor for Arnos Grove since May this year Credit: Enfield Council



Sticking up for Arnos Grove

In our first councillor's column since May's poll, newly-elected Arnos Grove councillor Paul Pratt discusses the key issues affecting his ward

Adrian Grumi and I are both newly-elected Conservative councillors to the brand new Enfield Council ward of Arnos Grove.

Firstly, let's address the elephant in the room: low-traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs)! In our manifesto, we pledged to remove them, but to do this we needed to bring the council into overall Conservative control. Instead, we are now at an impasse.

Having listened to residents and business owners in the ward, it is clear that LTNs remain a contentious issue and a matter of much distress and concern. It is our objective, along with the wider Conservative group, to effectively communicate this to the council. It will then be better positioned to consider how to engineer modifications and offer concessions with respect to LTNs across the borough.

Adrian and I stood for election to represent the people

living in Arnos Grove, who are also our neighbours. It is our aim to hold the council to account and secure the services for which the residents and business owners pay their council tax and business rates. Arnos Grove deserves better!

As new councillors, we are keen to get to work and as such have picked up a significant amount of casework which we are relentlessly working our way

an extension of this, where matters of all kinds can be brought to our attention.

Our surgeries and forums will be commencing from September, with dates and locations to be published soon on our councillor web pages. Even if you can't attend these, we are always available by appointment to attend to issues in Arnos Grove as they arise. To keep up to date with what we're working on please check out my Twitter feed, @ttarpluap.

Other key issues in Arnos Grove which we will be looking to have oversight of, and intervene where necessary, are anti-social behaviour, crime, support for local businesses, public safety and wellbeing, and planning and development.

We look forward to serving you over the next four years and hopefully beyond!

Paul Pratt is a Conservative councillor for Arnos Grove, alongside Adrian Grumi who is also Conservative. If you are a ward resident you can get in touch:

Call 0204 534 2697

Email cllr.paul.pratt@enfield.gov.uk

"It is clear that LTNs remain a contentious issue"

through. With the help of local businesses, I have been assisting a person in need with food and access to welfare facilities, as the council's out-of-hours service hasn't been able to get to them. Outreach work with local communities is something that has always been of great importance to both of us. Ward surgeries are

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 15th August**.

Constructive view on Ulez expansion

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Feryal Clark hit the right notes in her comment piece [We need better alternatives to car travel, Page 8, Issue 46]. Rather than simply rejecting the scheme, as one of your readers suggests, we should use the Ultra Low Emissions Zone (Ulez) consultation to further promote better, greener alternatives to discourage numerous, wasteful car journeys.

By commenting on what positive outcomes Ulez can bring we can focus on improved rail and bus routes, improved cycling routes, greener spaces and reduce our reliance on cars. In doing so we can change this clichéd narrative that green is anti-business and deliver a better Enfield for us all.

As I type, I'm sitting in another extreme weather event; surely we can all agree we need to change now before it's too late. A constructive approach to Ulez gives us this, simply dismissing it out of hand does not.

Jerome O'Callaghan

Ladysmith Road, Enfield

Wonderful opera

Dear Enfield Dispatch

What a wonderful evening we had recently at Southgate Opera's performance of *Nabucco* at Wyllyotts Theatre [Potters Bar]. Many congratulations to everyone involved; the superb singers, orchestra, costumes, staging and front-of-house all made for an unforgettable evening of accessible music for all. We can't wait for the next production! Thank you Southgate Opera.

Also, I want to thank all involved in keeping the flowering hanging baskets looking so pretty in the town. It does make such a difference. Would it be possible to clean up and restore the working fountain in the centre as well?

Margaret Hume & Anne Luciani

Enfield

Green support

Dear Enfield Dispatch

More than £2million has been awarded to projects in Enfield and Haringey from City Hall green funding initiatives since 2016. Enfield was awarded £1,352,769, while Haringey received £815,980 to improve or create green spaces for people and wildlife – a combined £2,168,749.

The most recent round of investment went towards two projects in Enfield and two in Haringey, through the £600,000 Rewild London Fund.

In Enfield, the funded projects will create a multi-functional reedbed habitat on the Lee Navigation and introduce large animal grazing to improve grassland management at three country parks, while in March Enfield Council released two beavers into wetlands [editor's note: one has since died].

It's wonderful that both Enfield and Haringey are receiving this much-needed boost to biodiversity and I have been delighted to see my constituents benefiting from investment to improve local green spaces. Restoring and protecting nature in our capital is an essential tool to encourage habitats and native species in London and enrich the lives of everyone in our community.

The pandemic has reaffirmed the importance of having better access to green spaces – highlighting how this can be an important measure in addressing London's deep health inequalities. There is clearly still a lot of work to do and I hope to see City Hall continuing to take a leading role in this with future rounds of green infrastructure funding, backed by fair allocations from the government's Levelling Up Fund."

Joanne McCartney

London Assembly member for Enfield and Haringey

Advertisement

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Van Duijn Transport Ltd of 11 Garden Court, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 1BH, is applying for a license to use Pinetops, Theobalds Park Road, Crews Hill, Enfield, EN2 9BH, as an operating centre for 10 goods vehicles and 10 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

More than just sushi

Neil Littman samples the variety of Japanese cuisine at a popular venue in Southgate

One of the big changes in eating out over the past 20 years has been the proliferation of different cuisines.

Japanese food has often been perceived as expensive or exotic and this wasn't helped by the design of some restaurants; often hidden behind shutters or screens. For some diners their first experience was chasing plates on a carousel at Yo Sushi.

My own first taste of Japanese food was lunch with the illustrator Brian Grimwood in Covent Garden in the 1980s. I left the ordering to him as I could not decipher anything on the menu. When I was working in Japan several years later, I knew what a 'sushi set' was but still wasn't sure how many you could eat or how many pieces would arrive.

There is more to Japanese food than sushi, however, as demonstrated at Tonnbo in Southgate. Here they are dedicated to changing perceptions, offering a dining experience taking on influences that represent other areas of Asian cuisine from kimchi (Korean) to laksa (South-East Asia) as well as sushi, with some Thai and Malaysian dishes added to the mix.

Opened in 2019 by Simon, an international food consultant and chef, Tonnbo survived the pandemic and is back open six days a week. Simon says that some customers make the journey to the restaurant from other parts of London – giving Enfield at least one 'destination' restaurant.

Temaki with avocado and salmon



Salmon with miso and rice



Mixed vegetable tempura

Tonnbo has been my go-to place for some time. It's where I am happy to eat both at lunchtime and dinner. The space is cool and understated with formal seating at the back and a front section with a mix of tables and bar stools alongside an open-plan kitchen.

Across a couple of recent visits I ordered vegetable tempura, miso soup, grilled salmon with miso and rice, temaki rolls with tempura prawn and avocado, sashimi, fried noodles with chicken, katsu curry and chilli pepper squid. The sushi arrived with generous amounts of wasabi and pink ginger.

Out of curiosity, I also ordered Japanese lemonade but had to ask for assistance to open the bottle. It turned out there was a plastic grommet hidden in the removable clear plastic wrapper around the top of the bottle and you had to bang it into the cap to break a seal, displacing a glass marble! I could not work out if this was a ritual or just a piece of clever packaging.

Service at Tonnbo is efficient and friendly and Simon, or other waiting staff, are happy to explain dishes to customers or how much to order, which is one of the conundrums I still experience. Ultimately, they serve great food at good value.

Tonnbo is at 7 Dennis Parade, Winchmore Hill Road, Southgate N14 6AA. It is open Monday to Friday (except Tuesdays when it is closed) between 6pm-10pm, and at weekends 12pm-10pm. Set meals, including sushi sets, cost from £11-£29. For more information:

Call 0208 882 4996

Email tonnboorders@gmail.com

Advertisement

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Support ground-breaking theatre that changes lives.
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CAN YOU SING IN TUNE?
If yes, then come and join our friendly choir, Enfield in Song. We sing show songs and popular melodies, and perform concerts locally.
All voices are welcome, no auditions.
Daytime rehearsals 11am on Mondays in Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill.

CONTACT MARY:
maryhorsfield@yahoo.com

LICENSING ACT 2003 Notice of Application for a New Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that **Mr Md Anwar Hossain** has applied to the London Borough of Enfield Council for a new premises licence for Veri Peri, 133 High Street, Enfield, EN3 4HZ to permit:

- The provision of late night refreshment from 23.00 to 02.00 the following day all week. (Service will be by customer collection & home delivery only.)

The address of the Licensing Authority where the register is kept and the application may be inspected during normal business hours is: Licensing Team, London Borough of Enfield, PO Box 57, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, EN1 3ES or on the Council's website: www.enfield.gov.uk

Any representations by any other person or responsible authority must be received in writing by the Licensing Authority by 16th August 2022 stating the nature and grounds for making such representation. 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. The maximum fine on summary conviction for this offence is an unlimited fine.

DISCOVER YOUR INNER ARTIST 14 WEEK ART COURSE

We are offering a great £15 discount per person if you sign up for Autumn Term and bring a friend.

As we run small classes our spaces get filled quickly so if you are interested get in touch and leave your details for our office to call you. Our friendly classes run 10am to 1pm or 2pm to 5pm every Wednesday for 7 weeks and then every Thursday for 7 weeks (14 in total).

We will cover Drawing, Oil Pastels, Water Colour, and Acrylics ending with an exhibition in week 14. Beginner or not this is a great way to learn improve your skills, have fun and make friends along the way. Visit our FB page for more info and to see some of the work we have created: The Seasons Art Class, Cockfosters, and Enfield.



TO CONTACT US YOU CAN CALL US 0204 542 7606 AND LEAVE YOUR DETAILS. SOMEONE FROM THE OFFICE WILL CONTACT YOU WITH FURTHER INFORMATION

Offer only applies when 2 people sign up together





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The 'Children's Festival of Fun' programme at Chickenshed runs for two weeks in early August



Summer of fun at Chickenshed

Susan Jamson from Chickenshed invites children to get involved with the many events taking place at the Southgate theatre this month

As the schools start to break up for the summer holidays and we are all wondering what we are going to do to keep our children occupied through the long days and weeks ahead – we at Chickenshed believe we've got the solution.

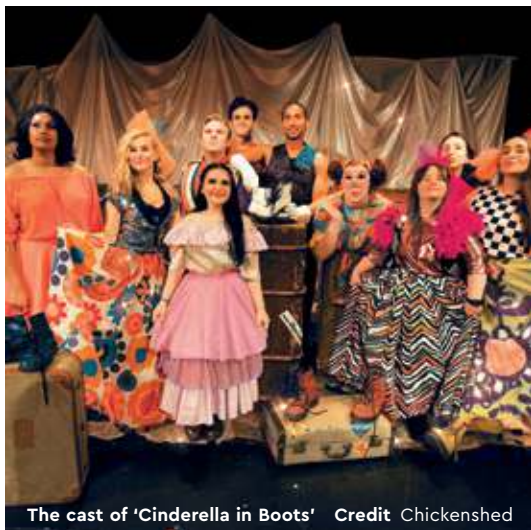
Our 'Children's Festival of Fun' programme includes two weeks of activities, events, performances and plenty of fun! The festival is kicking off on Sunday, 31st July with *Tales Big Day Out*, a carnival day for children and their families – it is like Glastonbury, but without the mud!

Children aged up to eleven can enjoy a year's worth of shows all merged together in two hours of bite-size bursts. The tales team takes over all of Chickenshed's indoor and outside spaces and fills them with song, dance, action, performances and workshops.

Other events during the two-week programme, which concludes on 14th August, include 'Storyworld Yoga', a mix of movement and storytelling, where well-known children's books are told through the beautiful power of movement and yoga. We also have Storyworld without the yoga, where we will be telling

stories from local writers and authors, including *My Crown* by Erina Lewis – and a different mystery story at each performance. Children can even come and tell their stories, as theirs are the stories of tomorrow.

During the festival programme we also will be taking children on a sensory journey, exploring two forms of communication – singing and signing! We aim to support the development of language and communication for early years through fun and colourful singing, while using British Sign Language. Signing and singing isn't just for little ones, however. We will be showcasing many more signs in an interactive performance workshop for older children, aged from seven to eleven years.



The cast of 'Cinderella in Boots' Credit: Chickenshed

Performance is a huge part of our festival. From Wednesday, 3rd August we will be presenting our first-ever summer family panto, *Cinderella in Boots*. We have taken the original story of Cinderella and turned it upside down and inside out to tell the story of a very unique *Cinderella*, a smashed slipper, a shoe shop, lots and lots of boots – and very pretty sisters but a not very nice king. See how many fairytale favourites you can spot as our heroine marches on the city to reclaim her crown!

Between the many festival activities, our Tales from the Shed team are proud to bring their theatre version of Keilly Swift's hugely popular and brilliant manual, *How to Make a Better World* back to the stage this summer. It is a colourful,

musical show full of song, dance and interaction with the audience. We will take ideas and activities from Keilly's book and, with some assistance from the cast, our audience will create a manifesto packed with ways that we can all use to make our world a better place. You can get involved between 6th and 13th August.

To find out about the many events happening at Chickenshed during the school summer holidays: Visit chickenshed.org.uk

Celebrating local railway heritage

John Cole from Friends of Gordon Hill Station on how the group is commemorating its heritage

It was a dark winter night in February when 40 people were standing watching a 35-minute short film projected, guerrilla style, from the back of a white van, on to Gordon Hill Station.

Train buffs and local families had left their warm homes to watch – alongside unsuspecting commuters – a series of filmed trains flying through the station.

Matthew from Great Northern, the rail company which operates the line and manages the station, was impressed. He challenged the newly-formed Friends of Gordon Hill Station (FOGHS) group to show a "real movie". Around the same time FOGHS was having discussions with staff at Chase Farm Hospital to work with a group drawn from a unit of a psychiatric patients based at Somerset Villa.

Meanwhile, FOGHS realised mosaics and train stations had become a feature of the Hertford Loop railway line, with installations recently at both Palmers Green and Enfield Chase stations.

The Queen's platinum jubilee was the catalyst to bring these strands together. FOGHS, with support from Great Northern and The Enfield Society, applied for and received a £10,000 grant from the London Community Foundation via Arts Council England. The only previous experience FOGHS had of seeking grants was for the previously-mentioned short film, which formed part of Enfield Council's Winter Lights Festival.

On 25th June, East London arts group Stow Film presented the classic

1952 musical *Singin' in the Rain* on a large screen in the car park at Gordon Hill Station. The evening began with Enfield poet Mary Duggan curating several sessions of readings by local poets. The Four Hills Brass Band London, conducted by Martyn Stogden, also performed.

The June event included a sneak-peek of the station's almost-completed jubilee mosaic, which has since been finished and installed. Mosaic artist Alex McHallam had held eight workshops during April to June, transferring new skills to a group of regular volunteers from Chase Farm, Great Northern and FOGHS.

The mosaic was designed from ideas discussed at these workshops. The final mosaic features two trains from different eras that are associated with the line; a British Railways steam-hauled commuter train and the latest Class 717 electric train. It also features Enfield's landmark Rendlesham Viaduct, a lavender border representing Lavender Hill, nature, figures watching the train pass and smoke filling the air, buffeting the bunting.

Pupils from St Michael's Primary School and art teacher Jenny Mayho have helped us celebrate as well, creating a colourful and joyous painted window for the waiting room, home also to a Gordon Hill Station history exhibition.

For more information about Friends of Gordon Hill Station: Visit facebook.com/groups/1304751616651144



Pictured from left: artist Alex McHallam, and John Cole and Alison Yates from FOGHS, with the new mural at Gordon Hill Station

Cutting the ribbon at the launch of Fore Street Living Room Library were (from left) Chinelo Anyanwu, Enfield Council's cabinet member for public spaces, culture and local economy; Jules Pipe, City Hall's deputy mayor for planning, regeneration and skills; and the council's deputy leader Ergin Erbil. Credit: Natalie Gee/Enfield Council



Library transformed into 'living room'

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Fore Street Library has been transformed into a "living room" as part of wider plans to "rethink" the high street and offer more opportunities for young people.

The "innovative" refurbishment of the library in Angel Edmonton has seen movable shelving units and flexible spaces introduced to allow room for community workshops, consultations, training and cultural activities to be hosted at the venue, alongside improved library facilities.

The revamp forms part of a wider £2.2million joint investment from Enfield Council and the Mayor of London to support new facilities and initiatives in Angel Edmonton, one of the most socially-deprived parts of London. A £1.1m grant from City Hall's Good Growth Fund was matched by the council, with other ongoing projects including the development of 35 low-cost business units on a disused garage site on nearby Snells Park Estate, for use by local entrepreneurs.

Shortly before cutting the ribbon at a launch event last

month, Jules Pipe, City Hall's deputy mayor for planning, regeneration and skills, said: "This just shows what we can achieve when we bring creative people together who can commit their time and energy to the community."

"The 'living library' is an example of how we can use local assets so much better, and address the needs of the local area. You have met all the objectives we set [for the Good Growth Fund]."

"It is about transforming the area for people who live here"

"The fund was all about enabling a resilient economy – a local high street has to be about more than just shops. We have got to totally rethink the high street. There has got to be more experiences for people and it has also got to bring people together."

Another key player in Angel Edmonton's recent revival is a newly-established community interest company, Fore Street For All (FSFA), which aims to

develop an arts and culture programme for Angel Edmonton.

The council's deputy leader Ergin Erbil said: "Community groups and residents felt that the area lacked essential spaces to host events, workshops and essentially, no central place where they could find out about the significant regeneration plans in the area."

"I am delighted that the Fore Street Living Room Library delivers on these aspirations. I am especially pleased to learn that

Fore Street For All will be regular users of the library hosting creative enterprise and cultural events for the community."

Speaking to the *Dispatch* at the launch event, Chinelo Anyanwu, the council's cabinet member for public spaces, culture

and local economy, said: "Growing up round here I never had things like this. The way FSFA is investing, it is allowing the community to come together."

"I know the impact that this is having for people. Instead of hanging out in an alleyway, there is now a safe space for them to enjoy, discover and be inspired. It is about transforming the area for people who live here."

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 15th August**.

ART

Enfield Art Circle exhibition

Until Saturday 13th August, 10am–5pm
Floristry Barn, Capel Manor Gardens, Bullsmoor Lane, Enfield EN1 4RQ

Enfield Art Circle will be hosting its 90th annual exhibition. We're delighted to be able to return to Capel Manor for a live event this year, after having to run the exhibition online since 2020. More than 170 original works from local artists will be on display, with many for sale.

Free to visit with a ticket for Capel Manor Gardens
Visit enfieldartcircle.org

LAUNCH

'Evie's Garden' book launch

Thursday 18th August, 6.30pm–9pm
Waterstones, 26 Church Street, Enfield Town EN2 6BE

Giovanna Cicero worked in banking for 30 years, but seeing her little niece exploring the garden in her North London home, watching everything growing and changing with the seasons, motivated her to create her first children's book.

Free entry
Visit olympiapublishers.com/authors/giovanna-cicero

MUSIC

Lazy Sunday Afternoon in Hilly Fields

Sunday 21st August, 3pm
Hilly Fields Bandstand, Hilly Fields, Clay Hill EN2 9AJ

Our third event of 2022 features Bazooka Joe giving us Eighties party vibes! Bring the whole family, a picnic and enjoy free music in beautiful surroundings.

Free entry, suggested donation of £3 to St John Ambulance
Visit hillyfields.info

LITTER PICK

Bush Hill Park community litter pick

Sunday 21st August, 10am–12pm
Bush Hill Park, Lincoln Road EN1 1PS

Monthly community litter-picking session organised by Carole Stanley from Friends of Bush Hill Park. Equipment supplied. Accompanied children and dogs welcome.

Turn up and go
Email carolestanley@gmail.com

CHILDREN

Edmonton Green Goes Green

Every Thursday in August, 11am–3pm
Edmonton Green Shopping Centre, 62 Smythe Close, Edmonton N9 0TZ

This summer, Edmonton Green Shopping Centre is inviting all local children to join in with their mission to go green, reduce waste and support wildlife. The team will be hosting a free weekly event to allow children to get crafty, have fun and learn all about the importance of going green.

Free entry
Visit edmontongreencentre.co.uk

BLUES

Broomfield Blues

Every Sunday afternoon in August, 2pm–5pm

St Harmonica's Blues Club, in association with Friends of Broomfield Park, present 'Broomfield Blues', a series of blues gigs at the bandstand in Broomfield Park. Featuring The Customtones, The Blues Chapter and Debbie Bond. Come along and eat, drink and listen to the music.

Free entry, suggest donation of £7 per adult
Visit friendsofbroomfieldpark.org/broomfieldblues

YOGA

Chair-based yoga exercises

First three Saturdays in August, 10.30am–11.30am
Wheatsheaf Hall, Main Avenue, Bush Hill Park EN1 1DS

Chair-based exercises organised by Enfield Asian Welfare Association.

Free entry
Call 020 8443 1197
Email info@eawa.org.uk
Visit eawa.org.uk/membership

VOLUNTEER

Forty Hall Farm Orchard

Every last Sunday, 11am
Forty Hall Farm, Forty Hill, Enfield EN2 9HA

We are always looking for people to join us to help look after the organic community orchard based at Forty Hall Farm. If you are interested please come along.

Free to sign up
Email FHFOrchard@gmail.com
Facebook /FHFOrchard

AROUND THE BOROUGH

RIDGEWAY

Pledge to protect pedestrians at speeding hotspot



The point where the increasingly popular London Loop footpath meets The Ridgeway

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

ENFIELD COUNCIL HAS PLEDGED to introduce safety measures at a speeding hotspot following fresh calls to protect pedestrians.

At present walkers using the increasingly popular London Loop footpath are forced to cross The Ridgeway without any help from traffic calming measures. Last year the council laid a new section of the footpath to guide walkers through the woodland planted as part of Enfield

Chase Restoration Project and many more people now use the route.

John Cole, chair of Friends of Enfield Chase, told the *Dispatch*: “The preference is for a safe pedestrian crossing with lights [...] it is somewhere cars are often speeding.”

A senior Labour councillor has now said the council will install safety measures “later this year”. Rick Jewell, cabinet member for environment, said: “It’s extremely positive to see lots of people accessing the woodland using the new, improved pathways and entry points.

“We are planning to implement safety measures at this location which will include signs, a gateway feature and rumble strips to prompt drivers to reduce their speed.

“The council is also looking at longer-term solutions which could include a traffic island.”

Another problem is that walkers are currently forced to negotiate a stile over a fence, making the route inaccessible for anyone with mobility issues – John said people sometimes had to be “carried over” it.

Cllr Jewell said: “The stile has been left in place until the first phase of safety measures has been implemented later this year.

“In addition, the redevelopment of the Royal Chace Hotel involves a financial contribution of £52,000 towards improving sustainable transport infrastructure.

“A number of options are currently being explored, including an additional crossing between the former hotel and Hadley Road.”

PALMERS GREEN

Plea to refill park’s boating pond

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP LOOK after one of the borough’s historic parks are calling on the council to repair a boating pond that has remained empty for more than two years.

The pond at Broomfield Park – once popular with model boat enthusiasts – has been left dry since 2020 when blocked pipes prevented it from being refilled from a borehole that had been keeping it topped with water for decades.

A further problem was subsequently discovered with the pump that had been extracting water from underground, and a third issue has also added to the rising costs of restoring the pond.

The council is now warning that fixing all the problems with the pond will require “significant investment” after an inspection found that its

The boating pond at Broomfield Park has been dry for more than two years. Credit: Friends of Broomfield Park



concrete surface was badly cracked.

Kim Lumley, co-chair of the Friends of Broomfield Park voluntary group, told the *Dispatch*: “It seems the pump needs to be lifted out with a crane and you have to replace the pipe, which is another big job. And we don’t know whether the pond will still hold water because it has been exposed for two years.”

Broomfield Park boasts four separate ponds, with three dating to the 18th Century when they were part of the grounds of Broomfield House, before the park had opened to the public. The boating pond is newer,

having been installed in the years after the park first opened in 1903, but is a popular feature of the park.

Kim said: “It is an important historical feature in the park, but it is now an eyesore rather than a feature. There has always been a model boating club there and they are very frustrated by it all [...] If the council is not going to fix it, we need to know so we can do something.”

A council spokesperson said: “We have reviewed the condition of the boating pond in Broomfield Park and the facility will require significant investment to restore it into a serviceable condition.

“This is partly due to cracks in the concrete structure and also due to the pump being broken.

“There are a number of options for repair and reinstatement that we will consider before consulting with the friends groups and other park users in the autumn.”

ENFIELD WASH

River project recognised

A PROJECT TO RESTORE AN Enfield river’s natural flow, reduce flood risk and create a new wetland wildlife habitat has been named runner-up in a national competition.

The Albany Park River Restoration Project was a finalist in the UK Rivers Prize, which celebrates the achievements of people and organisations working to improve the “natural functioning and ecological integrity of our rivers and catchments”.

The new wetlands at Albany Park were created last year by breaking the Turkey Brook out of its previ-

ously straight concrete channel and instead allowing it to naturally wind its way through the park, in turn creating a new natural habitat.

As well as providing a new home for wildlife, the restored river created a flood storage area that can hold over 50,000 cubic metres of water and reduce flood risk to more than 400 properties.

Dr Matilda Biddulph, from the Environment Agency, said: “It is very rewarding to be recognised with Enfield Council for seven years of hard work on the project.”

CREWS HILL

Green Belt homes plan

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

A DEVELOPER PLANS TO BUILD 58 affordable homes on Green Belt land in the north of Enfield.

Lansdown Land wants to develop a 2.67-hectare site currently used by Anglo Aquatic Plant Company in Strayfield Road.

As well as new homes, the application proposes five “live-work units” and the refurbishment of an existing building to provide “flexible, serviced office space”. The

brownfield site currently includes homes, offices, glasshouses, and storage and distribution sheds. Some of these buildings would be knocked down to make way for the new scheme.

Although national planning policy broadly protects the Green Belt, there are exceptions for certain types of previously developed (brownfield) land. There are also restrictions on the amount of development allowed on previously developed sites to ensure its impact is not greater than the existing development.

MERIDIAN WATER

Plans for 16-storey tower

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

DETAILED PLANS TO PROVIDE 274 ‘affordable’ homes at a Meridian Water regeneration site have been submitted to Enfield Council.

The scheme would see four blocks ranging from ten to 16 storeys high built at the former gasholder site in Leaside Road. It would provide 131 homes for London Affordable Rent, 48 for shared ownership, and 95 for London Living Rent. There would be 67 one-bedroom units, 123 with two bedrooms and 84 three-bedroom homes.

Phase two of Meridian Water,

which was granted outline planning permission by councillors in 2020, is expected to provide around 2,300 homes in total.

Developer Vistry Partnerships said the proposals “reference the industrial character of the wider area” and “represent an exciting opportunity to deliver high-quality, affordable housing”.

In addition, the development includes plans for 3,260sqm of commercial space on the ground and first floors of the buildings. There would also be a communal podium and public realm around the edge of the development, which is bordered by Pymmes Brook to the east.

Squad takes shape ahead of new season

BY ANDREW WARSHAW

Players come and players go but Enfield Town manager Andy Leese believes the squad being built for the new season that begins in mid-August will be just as competitive as during the last campaign – when the Towners finished third.

The core of the team that so nearly reached the Isthmian League Premier Division play-off final in April have committed themselves for another campaign, including skipper Scott Thomas, player of the year Sam Youngs and strikers Jake Cass and Adam Cunnington.

They have been joined by a raft of new signings, including – at the time of going to press – much-touted defender Juevan Spencer, Wynford Marfo, Dequane Wilson-Braithwaite, midfielder Scott Shulton (his second spell with the club), prolific goalscorer Marcus Wyllie, and experienced ex-professional winger James Dayton. Versatile defender Josh McLeod-Urquhart, a fans’ favourite who has missed virtually an entire year because of injury, makes a welcome return.

“While we are sorry to lose certain players the key is to focus on what you’ve got,” said Andy ahead of the eagerly-anticipated



opening fixture at home to Folkestone on Saturday, 13th August.

“Dequane and Wynford, both defenders, came in on trial and have done really well and have a great future,” said Andy. “Josh is like having a new signing. He’s a fantastic footballer. Marcus is a terrific young prospect who has shown up really well in pre-season.”

The start of the season could not be much tougher, with Folkestone at home followed three days later by a trip to Hornchurch

who, of course, ended Town’s promotion hopes last season with that gut-wrenching semifinal defeat at QE2 Stadium.

Andy said: “Those two will be top-five contenders, no question, and it couldn’t be much more difficult.

“But maybe it’s a good time to play them.”

At the time of going to press, ace marksman Mo Faal, whose contract ended in May, was still seeking to turn fully professional at a higher level. With or without Town’s top goalscorer, there are goals across the pitch, and Enfield fans look certain to once again turn out in their droves, both home and away.

Home attendance last season was up by 40% as the club achieved its highest-ever position and points per game at step three of the non-league pyramid. “The support we get wherever we’ve been has been nothing short of fantastic,” said Andy. “The players love it and so do I. I always tell the players about us being owned by the supporters and what that means. They all have a stake in us.”

What are the ambitions for the season? “We want to do at least as well and try and go one better. We’ve got the nucleus of players and are again a top-five team. Which of those places we take, I don’t know. It’s going to be hugely competitive again. We also want to

go deep into the cup competitions, which brings both prestige and revenue.”

Team spirit, of course, counts for a lot – and Town had it in spades last time round. Supporters’ player of the season Sam Youngs said: “There are teams who spend a lot more money, but player for player, every time we go on the pitch we think we can win. We may not necessarily always be favourites on paper but we have kept the core of the team. And the biggest thing we’ve got in our favour is our togetherness.”

Enfield Town FC’s opening league fixtures

13th August	Folkestone Invicta (h)
16th August	Hornchurch (a)
20th August	Kingstonian (a)
27th August	Bowers & Pitsea (h)
29th August	Potters Bar Town (a)
10th September	Horsham (h)
13th September	Brightlingsea Regent (a)
17th September	Bognor Regis Town (h)
20th September	Canvey Island (h)
24th September	Margate (a)
1st October	Corinthian-Casuals (a)
15th October	Lewes (h)
22nd October	Cray Wanderers (a)

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