

ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº 60

THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

SEP 2023

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AFTER MORE THAN 13 years of planning and two years of construction, the first new residents of Enfield Council's flagship housing project, Meridian Water in Edmonton, are set to move into their new council-owned homes this month. However, prices for the development's private sale homes have recently been slashed as they struggle to sell, "raising questions" over the project's long-term financial viability – read more on Page 2

Hundreds of 'no fault' evictions in Enfield since govt pledge to ban them

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Nearly 500 Enfield families have been evicted from their homes by landlords using the 'no fault' process in the period since the government announced it would ban the practice and "protect" tenants, new figures show.

The latest data from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) show that since April 2019, 477 households in Enfield have been turfed out of their properties following court orders obtained by landlords under the Section 21 procedure, which they can use to evict tenants who don't wish to leave and have not broken the terms of their contract. The landlord doesn't need to provide a reason for eviction and can force tenants out within two months.

DLUHC has proposed a law, the Renters (Reform) Bill, which is now going through parliament and will abolish the 'no fault' eviction process. But housing charity Shelter

says hundreds of families "risk being thrown into homelessness every day" while the practice is legal.

Enfield recently topped the London table for Section 21 evictions, recording 127 possession orders in the second quarter of 2023, more than any other borough. It was also the highest eviction rate Enfield had recorded since the second quarter of 2019, just after the government's ban was announced.

Enfield – and in particular the east of the borough – has become an epicentre for homelessness in the last year, as rising rents, eviction rates, inflation and the borough's small pool of available social housing has combined to create a crisis – with hundreds of homeless families being stuck living in hotels for months on end as Enfield Council has nowhere else left to put them.

All three local MPs have spoken out to slam the government's slow action in dealing with the problem.

Enfield Southgate MP Bambos Charalambous said: "Week after week, my office is supporting constituents

who have been unfairly evicted and are in temporary accommodation.

"These are nationwide issues caused by the lack of affordable housing, spiralling costs and inadequate protections for renters. But we are seeing problems deepen in Enfield, as landlords exit the market locally, with the highest rate of Section 21 'no fault' evictions in the whole of London and insufficient social housing supply to make up the difference.

"I am deeply concerned by the lack of protection for families in our community, especially those in temporary accommodation, and the complete lack of urgency from the government on these issues.

"We urgently need greater protections for tenants, more council housing and social housing and affordable accommodation locally."

Edmonton MP Kate Osamor said: "Four years after the Tories promised to ban 'no fault' evictions it's disgraceful that families in Enfield continue to be evicted at short notice and for no good reason.

"It's clear this government is more interested in protecting the profits of landlords than the families they evict.

"But the housing crisis is a national emergency that requires urgent action. The government must now pass the Renters Reform Bill and the next Labour government needs to make bold decisions to fix the mess they inherit. It's time for a new deal for renters that includes rent controls, unfreezing housing benefit and enhanced rights. Everybody deserves a safe, suitable and affordable home."

Enfield North MP Feryal Clark added: "I have been raising the issues with this disastrous policy with the government since I was elected to parliament. I've demanded the prime minister abolish this unfair, inhumane procedure in parliament. I've also personally written to ministers and demanded action.

"Yet, here we are, four years later, with another broken promise from the government, and families in

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The first new homes at Meridian One have now been completed

Fears over impact of cut-price Meridian Water homes

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Slashed prices on the first new homes for sale at Meridian Water are “massively disappointing” and “raise questions” about the viability of Enfield Council’s flagship housing project.

This is according to a senior Conservative councillor who says it is “insane” the Edmonton housing project has not been developed faster.

The first new private sale homes were put on the market nearly a year ago, in September 2022, but many remain unsold and have now had their prices reduced. The cheapest studio flat available at Meridian One, the first phase of Meridian Water, originally went on sale for £322,000 but is now listed at £299,500 – representing a 7% price drop.

The most expensive flat listed, which has two bedrooms and two bathrooms, was originally listed for £512,000 but is now going for £500,000. There have been at least three other price drops on flats at Meridian One, with the biggest being a reduction of £33,500.

Meridian One comprises 977 homes in total, of which half will be sold on the open market.

The first social rent homes are due to be occupied this month. On the sales website, promoted by the council’s development partner Vistry Partnerships, there are currently ten flats listed for private sale, with four said to be “reserved”.

Lee Chamberlain, the opposition Conservative group’s housing spokesperson, says he is now very concerned about the financial viability of the council-led housing project, where 10,000 homes are slated to be built in total over the next 25 years.

Cllr Chamberlain told the *Dispatch*: “I was involved in the early discussions around the project when the Conservatives ran the council [before Labour won in 2010] and to be in this situation now 13 years later is insane – not delivering a fully-formed project is very disappointing.

“I am very concerned to see this situation [...] they must have badly miscalculated the prices at the beginning.

“These prices need to be reinvested in the next phase of the project, so if they are not forthcoming then it raises questions about the next phase and having to do it with less money.”

The *Dispatch* revealed last month

that Enfield Council’s debt ranked as the tenth-highest in England, with some £400m of the £1.1billion spent on Meridian Water. Work on future phases of the project have been delayed by rising costs.

Cllr Chamberlain said: “Speed is of the essence – you have to get on and get them delivered and they haven’t. The council can spin it however they like but 13 years is an unfeasible amount of time for any development project.

“I was hoping we would see things moving because we have a lot of issues with housing shortages – but they can’t get these homes sold. The price shift raises questions about the whole financing of the project and how viable it is going forward.

“It is massively disappointing to see the prices being reduced.”

Matt Burn, from campaign group Better Homes Enfield, added: “They’ve borrowed huge amounts of money on the expectation (gamble) that both residential and commercial property values would increase, interest rates would remain low, and property would sell fairly easily. They appear to have been caught out on these assumptions.”

Enfield Council and Vistry Partnerships declined to comment.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Enfield are made to pay the price. “In government, Labour will abolish ‘no fault’ evictions as part of our renters’ charter, making renting fairer, more secure and affordable. We will build more homes, including social homes, and support families on to the housing ladder with a comprehensive

mortgage insurance scheme.”

The government launched a new Housing Loss Prevention Advice Service in August, enabling tenants facing eviction to receive free legal advice as soon as their landlord serves them with a written notice, as well as getting representation in court.

A DLUHC spokesperson said: “Our landmark Renters (Reform) Bill

currently going through parliament will protect renters by abolishing Section 21 ‘no fault’ evictions.

“We are committed to creating a private rented sector that is fit for the 21st Century, which works for responsible landlords while giving tenants greater security in their homes.”

Enfield Council was also approached for comment.

Send report

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Special educational needs and disabilities (Send) services in Enfield need to improve as young people experience “inconsistent experiences and outcomes”, inspectors have warned.

Ofsted and Care Quality Commission inspectors raised a series of concerns over the borough’s Send provision following a recent joint inspection, including out-of-date support plans, insufficient information sharing between professionals and “too long” waiting times for mental health services.

Enfield Council has pledged to continue improving the quality of Send support and to boost local provision so that more young people are cared for within the borough.

Abdul Abdullahi, the council’s cabinet member for children’s services, said: “All our special schools are judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding and all our resource provisions and units for children with Send are in ‘good’ or better schools.

“We will continue to improve and deliver the best possible outcomes for children and young people in Enfield.”

Strikes impact

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Strikes have led to more than 5,000 cancelled appointments across an NHS trust – and cost it more than £1million.

A report by North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust says cancellations caused by nationwide walkouts represent a “significant setback on NHS plans to improve the quality of care and the reputation of the service”.

NHS staff have staged a series of strikes this year over pay and working conditions, with the British Medical Association claiming junior doctors’ salaries have fallen 26% in real terms since 2008.

The report reveals 80% of junior doctors and 28% of consultants across the trust took part in industrial action, leading to 5,097 outpatient appointments and 70 elective procedures being reorganised.

It adds: “Clearly these numbers are significant and do not represent all affected, as many more patients are being displaced to create capacity for those directly affected.”

The preliminary cost of the industrial action has been put at £1.09m, most of which is down to arranging cover for striking staff. It takes the trust’s current in-year deficit to £2.8m.

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Celebrating all things apple

BY ANNABEL RUTHERFORD

The community orchard in Broomfield Park is charming. Visiting it feels like I have stepped into a Kate Greenaway illustration.

A lot of thought has clearly gone into creating this space. Situated on the park's former upper bowling green, the orchard is beautifully laid out in a wildflower meadow, with two diagonal avenues of apple trees, dwarf step-overs and espaliers along the sides. A particularly nice feature is an apple tree (a Herefordshire beefing) encircled by a wooden tree seat; another is a group of beehives. Aside from the slight hum of traffic from Alderman's Hill, it could be in the countryside.

The orchard owes its existence to David March, co-chair of the Friends of Broomfield Park, who I arranged to meet and talk about the orchard's Apple Day event. In 2009, he spotted an opportunity in a neglected patch of land and approached Enfield Council with the idea of creating an orchard.

Fourteen years and a lot of hard work by volunteers later and the orchard is well established – it looks like it has always been part of the landscape. There are 47 different varieties of apples grown there, plus quince, pear, medlar and mulberry.

One of the books that David read when planning the orchard was *The Community Orchards Handbook* published by Common Ground, an environmental charity. According to David, "Common Ground were pioneers of the concept of 'local distinctiveness', creating and saving community orchards". They also came up with the idea of holding apple days, a popular annual celebration which highlights the heritage of apples and their importance in our culture and community.

The handbook charts how, since 1900, the United Kingdom has lost most of its orchards, grubbed up to make way for housing and arable farming. As a result, many apple and other fruit trees unique to certain parts of the country have disappeared, along with the distinctive landscape created by



Apple day is an annual event at Broomfield Park Orchard Credit David March

orchards and their biodiversity.

There are other consequences; knowledge about fruit growing is no longer commonplace, communities do not come together to harvest locally-grown food, and orchard customs such as wassailing are harder to keep alive.

Apple day is a chance for people to reconnect with part of our horticultural history and gives growers an opportunity to showcase some of the thousands of varieties grown in the UK. Sadly, most of us only ever taste the limited range of apples in supermarkets because many simply

do not store and travel well.

This year's Broomfield Park Apple Day at the orchard takes place on Sunday, 17th September between 1pm and 5pm and promises to be a lot of fun. Apples will be juiced and many different varieties will be available to taste. There'll also be live music, refreshments and home baking, and pots of the orchard's honey for sale.

For those who enjoy apple day, Broomfield Wassail will take place in January – when we'll wake up the trees after the winter, thank them for last year's harvest and drive away evil spirits!

Empowering Enfield's young voices

Victoria Thompson introduces a new social enterprise aiming to give young people the confidence to shape their local environment

A remarkable not-for-profit organisation has burst on to the scene, driven by the unwavering commitment of three passionate Enfield residents; Jacqui Glover, Joseph Aggar and myself.

Youth Made Place CIC is a trail-blazing initiative aiming to empower young people with the ability to shape their environments. I decided to establish the organisation after my experience as an urban design professional and as a design and technology teacher spanning 14 years propelled me to address the prevailing lack of meaningful engagement with young minds.

We are embarking on a mission to revolutionise the way young people are involved in decision-making processes that impact their communities. As its founder, I was determined to create a platform where the voices of youth would be heard, valued, and seamlessly integrated into the fabric of their surroundings.

Fuelled by a deep-seated disappointment resulting from the absence of genuine engagement



Youth Made Place CIC is run by Joseph Aggar (left), founder Victoria Thompson (centre) and Jacqui Glover (right)

with young individuals, I recognised the immense potential for transformative change. I witnessed first-hand the missed opportunities in planning processes, where the perspectives and insights of young people were often not being achieved.

As a design and technology teacher, I knew that their voices held immense value and had the power to shape environments in innovative and impactful ways.

Youth Made Place represents a ground-breaking endeavour, firmly rooted in the belief that empowering

young minds and involving them in co-design, consultation, and engagement processes will pave the way for inclusive, vibrant, and sustainable communities.

Through workshops, interactive sessions, and design charrettes, Youth Made Place provides a platform for young people to actively participate in shaping their built environment. By involving young minds in the decision-making processes, Youth Made Place cultivates a sense of ownership, pride, and civic responsibility, instilling in them the belief that their opinions

matter and their ideas can shape the world around them.

With our blend of urban design and planning expertise and educational acumen, Youth Made Place envisions a future where the voices of young individuals resonate throughout planning and design decisions. By empowering them to influence the environments of tomorrow, we are seeking to create a legacy of inclusive spaces that celebrate diversity, spark innovation, and nurture a sense of belonging within communities.

As Youth Made Place gains momentum, we are inviting schools, colleges and youth groups in Enfield to join forces in this transformative mission. Together, we can empower young voices, elevate community engagement, and shape a brighter future for all.

Let's unite in harnessing the potential of our young people and build a world where their dreams become reality.

Find out more about Youth Made Place CIC and get involved:
Email hello@youthmadeplace.co.uk
Visit youthmadeplace.co.uk

Why you should join U3A

BY MIKE EPPEL

University of the Third Age (U3A) is a charitable organisation within the UK that provides the opportunity for those who have retired from work to come together and learn for fun.

There are many branches across the country, totalling a membership of over 430,000 people nationwide. It is an organisation for socialising but at the same time providing a forum for developing existing interests or exploring and learning new ideas and skills.

Our motto is "learn, laugh, live". Every year we hold a national U3A Day which celebrates and promotes our organisation. This year we will have an information stall set up in Palace Gardens Shopping Centre in Enfield Town on Saturday, 16th September, between 10am and 3pm.

Our own local branch of Enfield U3A was established in 1994 and has a thriving membership of over 350 people. It continues to grow in numbers. In keeping with the aim of the U3A movement, we bring people together to make new friends, develop their existing interests and learn new ones in an informal relaxed environment. This may be in a member's home, a local church hall or even a pub.

We do not sit any exams; everything we do is purely for fun. At present, we have 32 active groups with varying activities and are adding more groups to our list of activities all the time. The groups range from board games, to language learning, to handicrafts, to theatre visits, to art appreciation and much more.

For example, we have a West End Theatre group who recently went to see the new musical *Bonnie and Clyde*. Another group visited the Chelsea Physic Garden where a well-informed guide told the group about the role plants play in human life. Yet another group donned their finery and took off for Royal Ascot where a fun day was had by one and all betting on the horses.

Our stall in September will feature a number of our groups and give you more information about them. So, come along, have a look and consider joining our organisation.

For more information about U3A Enfield:
Visit u3asites.org.uk/enfield

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*Source: Census 2021

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Local Plan consultation responses published amid Vicarage Farm debate



An aerial view of Vicarage Farm with the proposed residential areas coloured orange and yellow

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

A developer hoping to build thousands of homes on Green Belt farmland in Enfield has refused to comment on whether its scheme could include huge tower blocks.

The original “vision” by Comer Homes for up to 5,000 homes on Vicarage Farm, between Trent Park and Salmons Brook, was published for the first time in June and claims that the “landscape and topography of the site provide an opportunity to create a wonderful place to live” which is “sustainable and adds significantly to Enfield and its environment”.

However, a recent article in trade publication *Showhouse*, which quotes Comer Homes boss Brian Comer, states: “Vicarage Farm in Enfield is currently in the zoning process and comprises over 12,000 individual units planned, making it one of the biggest single development sites in the country”.

The debate over the farm’s future comes two years after Enfield Council proposed the de-designation of the site, as well as parts of Crews Hill and several other smaller plots of land, from London’s Metropolitan Green Belt.

The current version of the council’s draft Local Plan allocates Vicarage Farm for residential development of 3,000 homes. While few specific details of the proposal, dubbed ‘Chase Park’

by Comer Homes, have previously been released, documents submitted as part of the Local Plan consultation in 2021 were made public for the first time this summer – with a higher target of 5,000 homes proposed by the developer.

In its 25-page ‘Vicarage Farm Vision’ document, Comer Homes argues the 140-hectare site is “already surrounded on three sides by development [...] thus reducing the effect on the countryside” and that thousands of new homes there would “expand on [the] existing residential character of Gordon Hill to the east and World’s End and Oakwood to the south”.

Comer Homes also proposes “extending Trent Country Park towards Enfield Town Centre” and “allowing for sustainable drainage systems and flood mitigation” along the course of Salmons Brook and Merryhills Brook, which both flow through the farm.

Comer Homes did not respond to questions from the *Dispatch* about the plan for 12,000 homes mentioned by *Showhouse*.



The publication of the vision for Chase Park forms part of just one of 7,157 consultation responses to the draft Local Plan. As well as thousands of local residents submitting concerns and objections to various aspects of the plan, other responses include supportive comments from local landowners, such as horticultural businesses in Crews Hill. Parkview Nursery, Warmerdam’s Nursery and Woldens Garden Centre all state they are in favour of residential development on their sites.

Other landowners supporting housing on their sites include Berkeley Homes, for land next to Crews Hill Station; Trent Park Equestrian Centre, for its riding stables next to Trent Park; WM Morrisons Supermarkets, for its site in Palmers Green; and Fairview New Homes, for its Green Belt site in Enfield Road which it hopes will “compliment” any housing development by Comer Homes.

Among those opposed to development, however, is Thompsons of Crews Hill, whose director Rod Thompson wrote that residential development in the area will “have an extremely detrimental effect on my family business”.

Crews Hill Golf Club (CHGC), which leases its 18-hole course from Enfield Council, also pointed out that Crews Hill was cited as one of the other places local golfers could play when the decision was made in 2021 to close Whitewebbs Park Golf Course. The club wrote: “It begs the question, where is the logic of LBE [Enfield Council] using CHGC to enhance their reasons for selling-off the lease at Whitewebbs, then in this plan trying to remove the same facility [for housebuilding]?”

A final draft of the Local Plan is expected to be published and consulted on in November.

An “indicative CGI” for new homes on the Ikea site drawn up by Sheppard Robson



Nearly 3,000 homes proposed for Ikea site

Former flat-pack furniture warehouse could be flattened to make way for homes

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Up to 3,000 homes could be built on the site of the former Ikea warehouse in Edmonton, according to a new sales brochure.

CBRE Group, an American commercial real estate services and investment firm, is promoting the sale of the Ikea site to investors as “Pymmes Waterside” with the claim that the area could be used to build 2,830 homes as well as 30,035 square feet of space for shops, offices, schools and a library.

When Ikea closed in August 2022, 450 jobs were lost. The warehouse itself is now being used as a flexible events space, although this is only intended as a ‘meanwhile’ use.

It sits in the centre of the wider Meridian Water housing zone where Enfield Council has long had a target to build 10,000 homes, but previous plans were drawn up when flat-pack furniture and Swedish meatballs were still being sold from the site.

Ikea last year opted to close its Edmonton store instead, citing a shift to online sales as well as the council’s residential project as part of the reason – with the firm likely wanting to capitalise on rising land values thanks to Meridian Water.

While no planning permission or application currently exists for the conversion of the Ikea site into housing, the land is being marketed on the basis that thousands of homes could be built there, championing its position adjacent to Pymmes Brook, which the council has plans to naturalise from its current concrete channel.

The sales brochure states: “As part of the engagement with Enfield Council officers, a masterplan and vision concept has been prepared to determine the potential development capacity of the site.

“The masterplan demonstrates the site’s capacity for delivering up to 3,000 new homes, along with other social infrastructure (two primary schools), a strategy employment building and a range of other service uses.”

It continues: “Award-winning architects Sheppard Robson have explored development options to maximise the site’s potential [...] The masterplan is intended to represent a ‘deliverable’ base case for the development.

“The scheme proposes ten buildings ranging in heights between five and 30 storeys. The scheme also proposes the provision of c.650 car parking spaces and associated open space and landscaping.”

As well as the Ikea warehouse, the site includes its surrounding car parks, which in total extend to nearly ten hectares.

It remains unclear how the potential construction of up to 3,000 homes on the Ikea site would impact total housing delivery across Meridian Water as a whole, since the council has still not made its overall masterplan for the project available to the public.

In the council’s draft Local Plan, published in 2021 before Ikea was closed, 5,000 homes in total were allocated to the western half of Meridian Water, which includes Ikea. The other 5,000 homes are expected to be delivered after 2039.

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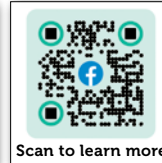


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Students pick up their GCSE results

Year eleven students across Edmonton picked up their GCSE results last month and are now moving on to the next stage of their education – or even in some cases entering the world of work.

All of this year's school leavers will have had to endure a rocky road to get to where they are today, having had their education significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic at a time when they were just preparing to start their GCSE curriculum – forcing many to learn from home for several months.

At Oasis Academy Hadley in Ponders End, principal Zoe Thompson congratulated the school's GCSE students on their success this year, saying: "We are thrilled for our young people who have worked so hard for these results."



Yasmine Kassim was one of many pupils celebrating their GCSE results at Oasis Academy Hadley last month **Credit** Oasis Academy Hadley

"At Oasis Academy Hadley we are passionate about giving our students the opportunities that they need to make great progress and flourish, and this year more of our students than ever are leaving us with the qualifications they need to take the next step towards a fulfilling career."

"Today is also an important testimony and a credit too to our fantastic teachers who are so dedicated to our students, enabling them to do their very best."

At Latymer School in Edmonton Green the

results were described as "amazing" with 40% earning a grade nine and 70% either grade nine or eight. The school posted: "Congratulations to our year eleven students on an amazing set of GCSE results!"

"The Department for Education indicated that results would drop significantly on last year's results. However, in some subjects our results are better than last year, and the vast majority are above 2019."

"The students have done very well, and it was lovely to see all the smiles today."

Nominate your heroes

Dispatch readers are welcome to nominate their own 'Edmonton Youth Hero' – an inspirational young person (16 or under) from Edmonton who has made a valuable contribution to their local community. Simply email your nomination to EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com

Rediscovering Enfield's lost royal palace



How Elsyng Palace may have looked circa 1539 Credit Martin Dearne/EAS

Judith Stones from Enfield Archaeological Society on the progress made this year in uncovering more of Elsyng Palace's secrets

You wouldn't know to look at it, but in what are now the grounds of Forty Hall Estate in the north of Enfield was once a palace owned by Henry VIII and where Elizabeth I spent some of her childhood.

Elsyng, or Enfield House as it was also known, was a large moated palace with royal apartments, large kitchens, a great hall for feasting and an attached service court full of barns, stables and accommodation for at least 100 servants.

Elsyng Palace would have literally been fit for a king (or future queen) and Henry had visited many times with his father, Henry VII, when it was owned by Sir Thomas Lovell, one of the most important



Volunteers help to uncover the inner gatehouse at Elsyng Palace in July Credit Martin Dearne/EAS

One of Elsyng's big attractions was its access to the royal hunting forest of Enfield Chase and, in 1539, Henry acquired it as one of his many palaces. Both the future Edward VI and Elizabeth I also lived in Elsyng at times (indeed Edward was even told he was king there, after the death of his father in 1547).

However, by 1600, the palace fell out of royal favour and was demolished in around 1657 by its new owner, Nicholas Rainton of Forty Hall. The buried remains of the palace were rediscovered by Enfield Archaeological Society (EAS) in the 1960s and, for the past two decades, our community-based team has gradually been excavating parts of the large complex.

The site is so historically important to have been scheduled as an ancient monument, meaning government permission is required for every excavation, and there are also strict laws restricting activities such as metal detecting.

Having previously worked out the plan of most of the palace and excavated one whole wing of the service buildings (including a huge furnace which fired a vat for boiling large joints of meat), in July this year we started to examine a key part of the site, known as the inner gatehouse. Fronted by an impressive moat many meters wide, which will have been crossed by a bridge, this was a four-storey building that restricted access between the service court and the inner court where the royal apartments lay.

Recent excavations have shown that the foundations of the inner gatehouse survive surprisingly intact, allowing archaeologists to reconstruct the grandeur of a building that may have been built as early as 1430 by the palace's first owners, the Tiptoft family.

Though excavations are at a fairly early stage and may continue annually for some years, already sections of very early brick walls (then terribly prestigious) are suggesting just how large the gatehouse was. We have uncovered the upper levels of a cellar, whose roof was supported by massive brick-built, probably eight-sided columns.

Among the debris back-filling the cellar there are also clues to what the upper storeys would have been like, such as high-quality carved stonework from its grand fireplaces. Because the gatehouse didn't just control access to the private royal quarters, it was also where some of the chief members of the royal court would live when the king or queen were using the palace.

“The site is so historically important to have been scheduled as an ancient monument”

along them and, as they approach the gatehouse itself, have an ornamental turret projecting from them.

Following generous grants from Enfield Council's 'Stories of Enfield' project, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and The Enfield Society, EAS has published two new books about Elsyng Palace. *Monarchs, Courtiers and Technocrats; Elsyng Palace, Enfield: Place and People*, written by Dr Martin Dearne, details archaeological discoveries since the 1960s, with research into the extraordinary range of available historical sources, while Neil and John Pinchbeck's *Elsyng: Enfield's Lost Palace Revealed* takes a more condensed approach to the story.



Walls running off the inner gatehouse revealed during this year's dig Credit Martin Dearne/EAS

One of the questions the archaeologists are trying to answer is how much successive owners, including the king, elaborated the gatehouse even further, and a significant discovery has been free-standing walls running off one side of it. These very skilfully and solidly-built brick walls again feature the bases for octagonal columns at intervals

Both books are available from enfarchsoc.org, with the second also on sale at Forty Hall's gift shop and at Dugdale Arts Centre in Enfield Town. The EAS website includes a short film about the 2022 excavations, created by Footpath Films, and make sure to look out for an episode of *Digging for Britain* on BBC2 early in 2024, featuring this year's excavations!

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Why we must protect Enfield's countryside

In our latest councillor's column, Conservative councillor Joanne Laban argues against plans to build on Ridgeway ward's Green Belt

Having served on Enfield Council since 2010, I was elected to represent the newly-created ward of Ridgeway at the local election in 2022. I am grateful to all those who voted for me.

In my opinion, Ridgeway ward is the jewel in Enfield's crown, containing areas of both town and countryside. It stretches the length of The Ridgeway from the western side of Enfield Town all the way up to the border with Potters Bar. Unfortunately, its beautiful landscape is under threat from Enfield's Labour administration.

The future of Enfield's Green Belt is in doubt because of the Labour-run council's draft Local Plan, which identified Vicarage Farm, located between Hadley Road and Trentwood Side, for large-scale housing development in 2021.

That year's consultation on the draft Local Plan showed there was mass opposition to the proposals to build on Vicarage Farm. However, the Labour council has ignored the views of residents and refused to drop the proposals. The plans remain very much



Joanne Laban previously represented Highway ward before being elected to Ridgeway in 2022

on the table as things stand.

I know that there will be some readers thinking that Vicarage Farm should be built on because of the need for housing. How-

ever, I would argue that Meridian Water, Enfield's flagship regeneration programme, has been planned for more than 13 years – while only a small area of the overall site has so far commenced construction.

Why should our countryside be built on due to failures by successive Labour administrations?

What I would like to see is the council visibly putting as much passion and energy into getting industrial areas declassified for residential development as it does for changing the status of Vicarage Farm. If development happened on the industrial estates, it would bring investment into some of our borough's most deprived areas. These areas would thrive given their excellent rail links into central London.

During the pandemic, Vicarage Farm and other areas of the Green Belt were used for people's daily exercise. It highlighted how lucky we are to have open spaces such as Vicarage Farm.

Air quality has recently been in the news due to the London mayor's expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone, which I oppose. One of the reasons outer London has better

air quality than inner London is due to its parks, open spaces and countryside. If we build on the Green Belt, we would be destroying important environmental infrastructure.

"Why should our countryside be built on due to failures by successive Labour administrations?"

All three Ridgeway councillors want to reassure residents that we know how important this issue is for our community. Enfield is a lovely place to live because of its mix of town and countryside. We will continue to oppose any plans to build on Vicarage Farm and the Green Belt.

Joanne Laban is one of three councillors representing Ridgeway ward, alongside Edward Smith and Andrew Thorp (all Conservative). To get in touch:

Call 020 8351 1370

Email cllr.joanne.laban@enfield.gov.uk

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For the borough of Enfield, we distribute 15,000 free copies to readers via local, community venues, and door-to-door, with a total estimated readership of 45,000 people.



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LETTERS

Send us your letters

Got an opinion on something in Enfield? We accept letters of up to 150 words from people and organisations in the borough. Email EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com before the next deadline on **Monday 18th September**.

Slow down

Dear Enfield Dispatch

As a resident of Enfield Chase, I'm angered and dismayed by the number of drivers speeding on our local roads. Far too many people blatantly disregard the speed limit and bomb along narrow roads in residential areas – this is extremely dangerous to pedestrians, cyclists, and other motorists.

It is not just 'boy racers' either; many of these speeders are average drivers who think they are safe because they're 'only going 35 in a 30 zone'. The lack of awareness of more vulnerable road users is shocking as well; I have seen multiple incidents of motorists failing to stop at zebra crossings even when pedestrians are already halfway across the road.

Many people in Enfield drive, however many others use forms of active transport that exposes them to risks from speeding motorists. I implore our local drivers to slow down and take care.

Alice Kay
Enfield Town

That's a rap

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Mr Kelly-King – a home-grown local rapper, singer, songwriter and music producer – gave the people of Upper Edmonton a day to remember on 29th July.

Mr Kelly-King got some young keen bikers to give the community a show that they'd never forget. The bikers were wearing their branded jumpers (OTFB) and they were also wearing their biker gear. They all came with their colourful bikes; a prelude of bike sounds was accompanied with an array of flares.

People from the area came to watch his music video being filmed by local videographer Omari Lee.

Mr Kelly-King kept rapping and the people kept rocking and bikes kept revving. Both young and old generations of the community enjoyed themselves and had a peaceful time. He brought life and happiness to a forgotten part of Upper Edmonton.

As well as the entertainment, Mr Kelly-King also provided the

people with free drinks and tasty barbecue chicken. He is now known as a young pillar of the community.

Big thanks to Harry, the owner of the off-licence at Dyson's Road and Willoughby Lane, where the video shoot took place. Mr Kelly-King had the support of his family, friends and also those who swept up the area prior to the event.

He would like to give a big thanks to those who attended and gave their support.

Sylvia Kelly
Edmonton

Heart help

Dear Enfield Dispatch

My name is Isabelle and I work at British Heart Foundation. I am getting in touch about a project that we are currently working on in Enfield which is offering free emergency first aid awareness sessions until mid-October 2023. Enfield is one of just two areas in England that has been selected to take part in the 'HeartSafe Communities' pilot project run by British Heart Foundation, St John Ambulance and Resuscitation Council UK. This project is focused on helping communities become more resilient so that when an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest occurs there is an increased chance of survival, as eight out of ten cardiac arrests happen in the home and currently the survival rate is less than one in ten.

As part of this pilot, we are calling on Enfield community organisations, schools, businesses, neighbourhood teams and residents to get involved through learning CPR and helping us to locate existing defibrillators in the area. This is a great opportunity to learn basic first aid skills at no cost.

Please register your interest for a free first aid awareness session(s) by clicking on the link below. We are offering face-to-face sessions and virtual sessions to suit your group's needs. The face-to-face sessions would take place at the group's venue and the virtual sessions take place via Microsoft Teams; both would be delivered by St John Ambulance volunteers.

Email kidderi@bhf.org.uk to register for your free session.

Isabelle Kidder
British Heart Foundation

Preparations for Rise Festival



Making mischief at Chickenshed

Susan Jamson from Chickenshed on what the Southgate theatre has in store for audiences this autumn

As autumn approaches, at Chickenshed we're getting ready for this year's festive season when we will be performing two very different shows.

Our main house production is a completely new show called *The Toymaker's Child*. See if the storyline rings any bells when you read this description: "The toymaker lives a simple and quiet life. He has just one child, his pride and joy; but (as all parents do) he worries. They often play alone and rarely bring friends home from school. Worried his child is lonely, the toymaker cooks up a cunning plan..."

"Using a magical 3D printer, he creates an all-singing, all-dancing AI child! However, things don't quite go according to plan when the AI child proves to be a bit too mischievous to handle!"

We guarantee that this brand new Chickenshed theatrical experience will leave you spellbound. It features a captivating cast of colourful characters, big laughs and stunning sets, making *The Toymaker's Child* an unforgettable journey. Our talented cast of over 200 will fill the stage with wonder, beauty, and just a touch of delightful chaos.

The Toymaker's Child opens on 22nd November and runs until 13th January. There are evening

and matinee performances and tickets are priced from £10 to £22.50. Sign language is integrated into every performance, but we also have captioned and audio described shows so that everyone can enjoy it.

If you feel that your children are a little too young to sit through a two-hour performance (with a 20-minute interval) then our second show, *Cinderella in Boots*, could be just the ticket. Every year our Tales From The Shed team performs a shorter show, of just under one hour, for our early years audience. This year we will be reviving our hugely popular *Cinderella in Boots* show. It is more of a winter pantomime for the very young – so expect to see plenty of "they're behind you"

moments and lots of classic panto touches as your children will join in the fun of live theatre where anything can happen.

Cinderella in Boots is bursting with music, dance, puppets and lots and lots of surprises – we guarantee a festive show for audiences young and old.

But if you can't wait until Christmas to see more of Chickenshed, we have our brand new Rise Festival being performed on Friday, 6th October at 7pm and on Saturday, 7th October at 1pm.

Our Rise programme was developed to "rise, inspire, share and elevate" new creative companies at Chickenshed and Rise Festival offers an exciting platform for twelve talented artists to share their brand-new, authentic and bold creative experiences to audiences.

Get ready to be immersed in innovative choreography, provocative film, original writing, fresh music and powerful workshops. It will be a vibrant experience, brimming with a diverse array of exciting performances, plus food, drink and a wonderful atmosphere! Every corner of Chickenshed will come alive during this festival as we unveil nine never-seen-before creative works.

For more information about all events at Chickenshed:
Visit chickenshed.org.uk



The Toymaker's Child premieres in November

Showing why Enfield is open for all

Freya van Lessen from Bloqs on why Enfield is the place to be during this month's Open House Festival

When Bloqs first participated in Open House Festival in 2016, it was among a small handful of participants in Enfield and a trickle of enthusiasts visited the workshop.

Eight years later, Enfield is a thriving hotbed of activity and intrigue for Open House attendees to explore. It's also home to two of the twelve 'exemplar' projects chosen by the Greater London Authority for this year's festival, with Angel Edmonton and Bloqs both proudly selected.

Running UK-wide from 6th–17th September, Open House Festival provides the opportunity to visit locations most often closed to public view, encouraging audiences to explore new places, learn about different communities, and experience diverse architecture first-hand.

Funded by The Enfield Society and running in tandem with Enfield Council's Festival of Industry, many Open House activities will explore Enfield's industrial past, present and future. The UK's first open-access factory, Bloqs, will host a weekend of activity with workshop tours, a guided tour with architect Tom Holdbrook of 5th Studio, courses, machine demos, and an exhibition of Bloqs members' work.

Acclaimed performing arts theatre Chickenshed will also debut its new musical theatre piece, *Woolly Mammoths of Enfield*, and Bloqs Kitchen will serve up delicious food and drinks all day.

Visit Fore Street for a plethora of activities including 'Faith in Industry' at Fore Street Living Room Library, an event exploring Angel Edmonton's industrial past and present.

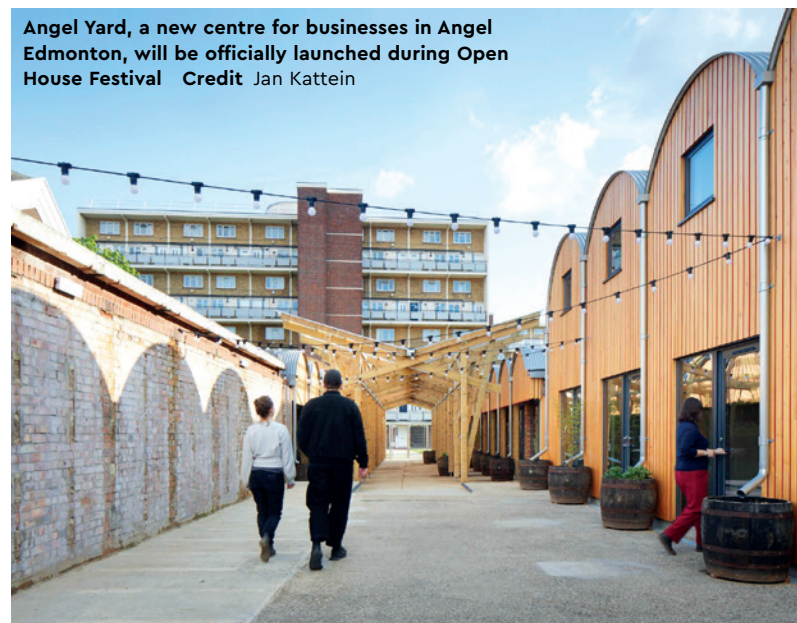
Nearby Angel Yard hosts a collection of 35 workspaces and will be opening its doors on Saturday 16th for visitors to meet its businesses and enjoy art exhibitions at the beautiful new pedestrianised section of Grove Street, where there'll be food, drink and live music. Jan Kattein Architects will host three guided tours of the new Fore Street interventions – the library, murals and school street as well as Angel Yard. Don't miss the ribbon-cutting with music and refreshments at 4pm!

Angel Edmonton Public Art and Poetry Trail is a self-guided tour, including Fore Street's murals, the Our River Lea Poetry Trail celebrating local poet Keith Mowatt, plus recently-installed artworks on shutters and council litter bins as part of the Fore Street Open All Hours Gallery.

Other Open House highlights in Enfield include Forty Hall, a walking tour of Edmonton, The Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield Lock, Christ Church Southgate and Minchen-den Oak Garden, Winchmore Hill Friends Meeting House, Lavender Hill Chapel and King George V Pumping Station.

For more details on venues and events during Open House Festival:
Visit programme.openhouse.org.uk/calendar

Angel Yard, a new centre for businesses in Angel Edmonton, will be officially launched during Open House Festival Credit Jan Kattein



Chicken with grilled vegetables



The new Southgate restaurant that takes grilling seriously

Neil Littman visits newly-opened Zgara and enjoys a feast of grilled goods

I was recently thinking about the pros and cons of eating out on my own. About half the time I manage to find somebody to go with and, as I don't eat red meat, it's good to have a dining companion with different tastes to try other dishes.

It was reported recently that some high-end West End establishments are charging solo diners double for eating on their own. One venue is the two Michelin-starred Hotel Café Royal near Regent Street, which charges £350 to diners who want to eat solo, the same price two would pay for the £175 tasting menu.

Fortunately, nobody in Enfield has thought this a good idea and, in any case, I think you would be hard pushed to spend that amount (even including cocktails) almost anywhere in the borough. Personally, I think solo diners should always be welcome.

I recently decided to check out Zgara, Southgate's new opening (something of a rarity). It is now also one of the few local restaurants to open on a Monday.

Located on the site of a former coffee shop at The Broadway in Southgate, Zgara is a welcome

addition to the area and features a well-designed interior with parquet flooring, copper downlighters and banquettes. Background music on my visit was a mix of europop and Balkan guitar tunes.

On their website Zgara describe themselves as a grill restaurant, so I was expecting meat to take centre-stage on the menu, which it did – but with a catch. The menu is concise with about a dozen hot and cold starters but several of the 20 or so main courses are priced between £45 and £70, with a number in brackets to indicate they are for sharing between three or four people. This made the solo dining experience a little tricky and left me with few options.

While I was happy to order a grilled chicken dish served with peppers and asparagus, I was also surprised to see there were no vegetarian or vegan options. It seems they are serious about their grilled meat.

When I asked a member of staff what kind of restaurant Zgara was, she told me it was 'Mediterranean'. Although, investigating a bit further, I looked up the meaning of the word Zgara

and discovered it is the Albanian word for 'grill'.

My starter of tzatziki was preceded by a plate of three appetisers served with warm sourdough bread, plus a side order of 'roast potatoes' which were parboiled then grilled and dressed with olive oil, lemon and herbs but were very nice, nonetheless. The tzatziki contained chopped green peppers like the ones that accompany Turkish dishes, which added a nice kick.

Both the food and the service at Zgara are good, but there was no drinks menu (their alcohol licence was pending at the time I visited) nor dessert menu (although one dessert was available to order).

The bill for two courses plus beer and service came to a reasonable £29, with a rather quirky touch on the receipt which still has the name of the former coffee shop printed on it! They told me they have been very busy at weekends, so booking may be advisable.

Zgara can be found at 7 The Broadway, Southgate N14 6P and is open 11am–11pm Monday to Saturday, plus Sundays 10am–11pm. For more information and to book a table: Call 020 3751 5534 Visit zgara.co.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 18th September**.

FOOD

Free Sunday Brunch

Sunday 3rd September, 10am–12pm
CRM Agape House, Raynham
Primary School, Raynham Terrace,
Edmonton N18 2JQ

A free Sunday brunch, open to everyone with no restrictions. We provide a hot meal, drinks and sandwiches.

Free entry

Call 07951 881 991

Visit cragapehouse.org.uk

FUN DAY

Celebrate The Green

Saturday 9th September, 12pm–6pm
The Green next to Edmonton Green
Station, Fore Street N9 9DX

Celebrate The Green closes out a summer of events aimed at shaping its future together. We're kicking off with a free Tai Chi class at 12pm, alongside creative workshops, a petting zoo, finger puppets, DJ and MC academy and live performances from Enfield People's Theatre, Enfield Poets, and more!

Free entry

Visit letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/edmonton-thegreen

FILM

Community Film Show

Sunday 10th September, 2pm–4pm
Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane,
Enfield EN2 0AJ

Enfield Over 50s Forum invites older people (and friends of any age) to our third community film showing. We have two main films – a creepy one to make you jump, *The Message*, and a short murder mystery, *The Walk*, which we hope you will find amusing.

£3 for members, £4 non-members
Email eternalechoes2002@yahoo.ie

FUN RUN

Big Fun Run

Sunday 10th September, Trent Park

Big Fun Run is North London Hospice's brand new event. Whether you are looking for a challenge or a fun day out, choose between our family fun 5km obstacle course or a competitive 10km run, both taking place in Trent Park.

Entry £15 for adults, £10 under-16s

Visit northlondonhospice.enthuse.com/cf/big-fun-run

SINGING

The Rowantree Choir

Tuesday 12th and Tuesday 19th
September, 7.30pm
Bush Hill Park Methodist Church,
135 Wellington Road EN1 2RS

Enjoy singing? Has it been a while? Come and join us for informal fun and refreshments at our two open days this month. As a choir we are also making a free 30-minute appearance at St Andrew's Church in Enfield Town at 12.30pm on Saturday, 16th September.

Free entry

Visit rowantreechoir.org.uk

THEATRE

Bread and Roses

Friday, Saturday and Sunday
22nd, 23rd and 24th September
Fore Street Living Room Library,
Fore Street, Edmonton N18 2XF

Enfield People's Theatre presents Bread and Roses, a community play. It tells the story of an inspirational rent strike in Edmonton but also contrasts it with the housing problems people have today.

Free entry, collection for Shelter
Email lyndabrennan18@gmail.com

Diary of a Black Police Woman

Sunday 1st October, 7pm
Millfield Theatre, Silver Street,
Edmonton N18 1PJ

This play for Black History Month tells the story of Jean a black police woman working in London. She uses her diary to remind her of why she joined the police force. The play pays respect to Sislin Faye Allen, the first black police woman of the Metropolitan Police.

First 100 tickets priced at £10

Visit millfieldtheatre.co.uk

DAY CENTRE

EAWA: Your care, our priority

Monday–Friday, 9.30am–3pm
Wheatsheaf Hall, Main Avenue,
Bush Hill Park, Enfield EN1 1DS

Our day care centre service for elderly people was originally for the Asian community but is now open to all communities. In addition, for people aged 50 plus, we offer additional services to improve their well-being, prevent isolation and loneliness.

Free entry

Email info@eawa.org.uk

Visit eawa.org.uk

AROUND THE BOROUGH

BUSH HILL PARK

A10 speeding petition submitted to TfL



James Hockney has been campaigning on the issue for several years

A CONSERVATIVE COUNCILLOR says residents are “utterly sick” of speeding and noise pollution along the A10 – as he submits a petition signed by over 2,000 local residents demanding Transport for London (TfL) take action.

Bush Hill Park ward councillor James Hockney says that despite previous efforts to curb A10 speeding the problem is persisting and even getting worse.

Three years ago TfL installed average speed cameras on half of the route in Enfield, between the M25

and Southbury Road, but not on the southern section that runs between Bush Hill Park and Edmonton.

Cllr Hockney said: “The mayor of London needs to start listening to the residents of Enfield and Edmonton – who are utterly sick of the speeding and noise on the A10 and car parks.

“This latest A10 petition has significantly more signatures than any of the previous petitions and underlines that the call for action is deepening.

“I am so grateful to all the people

that have signed and shared the petition.”

He added: “There was one month where speeding offences on the A10 accounted for 12% of all London speeding offences. Sadly we have seen far too many serious accidents on the A10 and we will not rest until we have all the Enfield/Edmonton A10 corridor covered with average speed cameras.”

A TfL spokesperson said: “We know speeding is a major concern for people in the area and we installed an average speed system on the A10 in March 2020, which is in addition to the spot speed cameras being used to tackle speeding in the area.

“Although we have no immediate plans to install a fixed safety camera system between Southbury Road and Great Cambridge Road roundabout, the A10 corridor is a priority for the jointly-funded TfL/MPS roads and transport policing command, which continues to be deployed to the area to deal with a range of criminal and antisocial driving offences.

“Breaking the speed limit is selfish and reckless and we will continue working with the borough and police to ensure that roads are safe for everyone who lives and works in Enfield.”

FREEZYWATER

‘Makerspace’ launches at library

A NEW ‘MAKERSPACE’ HAS BEEN launched by Enfield Council at Ordnance Unity Centre Library to help residents develop creative projects and learn new skills alongside like-minded people.

Budding writers, music makers, photographers and jewellery makers celebrated the official opening of the space as the council’s cabinet member for public spaces, culture and local economy, Chinelo Anyanwu, joined a bracelet-making workshop and demonstrated her own skills on a sewing machine.

A makerspace is somewhere people can gather to co-create, share resources and knowledge, work on projects and network. The council’s project began earlier this year with

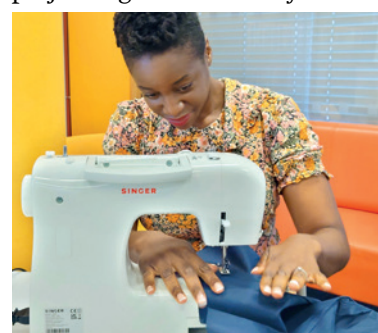
various taster workshops available including sewing, where participants learned how to thread a sewing machine and how to complete different stitches. Other popular activities include workshops on podcasting, photography, coding and writing.

Cllr Anyanwu said: “Libraries are not just about books. They are a wonderful wealth of resources, and the official launch of our fantastic creative Makerspace project clearly demonstrates that libraries provide and offer many fantastic resources for our residents.

“I’m very pleased the council has provided the new Makerspace collaborative workspace for residents to learn new skills and participate in activities where they can develop new friendships. It has been great to see people come together in a creative environment.

“The activities on offer provide technological resources that will empower and improve people’s chances of economic success, job prospects and social mobility.”

Makerspace has been funded through money received from developers via the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).



Cabinet member Chinelo Anyanwu shows off her sewing skills at Ordnance Unity Centre Library Credit Enfield Council

WHITEWEBBS

‘Illegal rave’ shut down by police

AN “ILLEGAL RAVE” AT WHITEWEBBS Park was attended by hundreds of people before being shut down by police.

The event began late on Saturday, 5th August, but continued well into the daylight hours of Sunday morning before the revellers were told to disperse when local residents alerted the Metropolitan Police and Enfield Council.

Loud “thumping music” could be heard across a wide area around the park for several hours and the event left behind a large amount of litter and drugs paraphernalia that had to be cleared up on Sunday afternoon with help from council parks staff.

The Metropolitan Police had received information suggesting

an “unlicensed music event” was being organised at Trent Park and promptly issued a dispersal order for the Cockfosters park on Friday and through the weekend. However, it’s thought that this prompted organisers to switch the event to Whitewebbs Park instead.

Sean Wilkinson, chair of the Friends of Whitewebbs Park group, said: “The park does not have the facilities for opportunist activities such as this rave which disturbs wildlife and leaves behind detritus harmful to the environment and park users.

“I am grateful for the response from council officials and from the police who oversaw the closure of the event and the removal of a large amount of rubbish.”

PALMERS GREEN

Adult gaming centre wins licence

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

ENFIELD COUNCIL HAS GRANTED a licence for a new gambling venue in Palmers Green despite fears it could harm the local area.

The council issued a licence allowing Palace Amusements to operate an adult gaming centre at 369-371 Green Lanes, telling residents it was “compelled by law” to do so in the absence of “valid, relevant representations”.

Planning permission to change the use of the premises is still required before the venue can open as an adult gaming centre.

More than 1,275 people signed a

petition warning the gaming centre would be “totally unsuitable” for the area, which is already home to four betting shops and a Merkur Slots adult gaming centre. Campaigners fear another gambling venue would increase crime and risk harming children and other vulnerable groups.

But in a letter to residents, council licensing officer Ellie Green pointed out that some objections related to planning issues, while others were speculative or had been addressed by the applicant’s risk assessment.

Enfield Southgate MP Bambos Charalambous said he was “disappointed” the licence had been issued, adding that he was “extremely

concerned about what another adult gaming centre will mean for our high street and for residents”.

The MP has written to the government urging it to provide a timetable for the introduction of legislation that would allow councils to take into account the cumulative impact of gambling venues on an area when considering licensing applications.

Giorgia Scaturro, who launched the petition, said campaigners were “extremely disappointed” but were now ready to oppose a planning application.

Enfield Council and Palace Amusements have been approached for comment.

Meet the former international striker in the Towners dugout

Andrew Warshaw interviews Jon Nurse, the new number two of Enfield Town FC's management team



Jon Nurse has six caps for Barbados

Behind every successful and ambitious manager, there is invariably a highly regarded and trusted number two.

None more so than at Enfield Town this season with Jon Nurse providing a crucial extra pair of eyes for Gavin Macpherson. It's a partnership that goes back to their days together at Met Police FC and is one built on trust, mutual respect and an almost intuitive chemistry.

Do they always agree? Absolutely not, but Jon, who played professionally for Stevenage, Dagenham and Redbridge and Barnet, says the key is all about complementing each other's skills – a big part of the reason behind Town's fast start this season in which they won their first three league games.

Having played under a series of managers including Graham Westley, Martin Allen and Dutch legend Edgar Davids when at Barnet, Jon picked up an enormous amount of knowledge about different ways of

winning games of football.

"I was always intrigued by the whole aspect of coaching," says Jon, who recently passed his A licence. "Of course you can never get the same buzz as crossing that white line as a player on a match day but even before I was a pro, as a youngster I had this feeling coaching was inside of me.

"I can't affect the game on the pitch but I can do the work during the week and then trust the players to do what we ask of them."

Notice use of the word "we", meaning the entire management team but specifically the relationship between manager and coach.

"Gav and I are very different. I want things done at 100 miles an hour and am quite headstrong whereas Gav is calm, reserved and thoughtful. That's why he's a manager and I'm a coach. The fact that we're opposites, I can get him to think about things in a different way. He always makes the final decision but he allows

me to have an opinion.

"At step three [of the non-league pyramid] you can't expect the players to be professional footballers. What we ask them has to be realistic; we build a system around the players that we've got."

The fact that Gavin also coaches, unlike many managers, helps rather than hinders their relationship.

"It means we can divide up training and get more contact time with the players, which is difficult if you don't coach," Jon explained.

But they do have their differences. "I was a forward whereas Gavin was a defender, but we try to find a balance. If we always agreed, I'd be a yes man, which is not what Gav wants. We are open and honest with each other."

But can it also mean sometimes giving the ball away? "Yes but we don't jump on people for making mistakes, otherwise they'd never want the football," Jon tells me. "We're trying to get the group to feel comfortable."

Not a lot of people know this, but Jon has six international caps for Barbados, the country of his birthplace – even though his dad is from Guyana and his mum from Jamaica.

"I had a choice when I was younger but I always wanted to play for my place of birth. Having said that I was shocked when the call came through."

One highlight was playing against his brother Chris, who chose to play for Guyana. "It was

"As soon as Gavin told me about Enfield Town and how this club suited who we were as human beings, I immediately trusted his judgement"

One thing they agree on with a passion is trying to play the ball on the ground. Jon fervently believes that just because he is coaching non-league footballers, that doesn't mean they lack the ability to play in a certain way.

"If you keep the football, you control the game. I hear people saying 'oh they're only non-league players', but what does that mean? You turn up to play football, not to crash the ball 100 metres simply because it's the easiest way to get rid of it."



a great moment for the family but the other special moment was playing against the USA in Los Angeles. It was a World Cup qualifier and they had a host of Premier League players.

"Unforgettable."

Like many assistant managers, John is the antithesis of a publicity seeker, but is loving every minute of his partnership with Gavin and working with the rest of the Towners management team. Despite having to travel from South London for training and matchdays, he is relishing the role.

"I like to go about my business quietly but I can tell instantly whether I can work with someone or whether I can't."

"As soon as Gavin got on the phone to me and told me about Enfield Town and how this club suited who we were as human beings, I immediately trusted his judgement."

"It's down to morals, values and ethics. Gav's and mine are very aligned. That's 100% why the chemistry works."

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LICENSING ACT 2003 Notice of Application for a New Premises Licence

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

- Provision of Films: Monday to Sunday between 08:00 to 00:00 hours
- Provision of Indoor Sporting Events: Monday to Sunday between 08:00 to 00:00 hours
- Provision of Live Music: Monday to Sunday between 08:00 to 00:00 hours
- Provision of Recorded Music: Monday to Sunday between 08:00 to 00:00 hours
- Provision of Performances of Dance: Monday to Sunday between 08:00 to 00:00 hours
- For the premises: Southgate Social Club situated at: 6 The Broadway, London, N14 6PH

The public register where applications are available to be viewed by members of the public can be accessed online by visiting <https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/business-and-licensing/> and following the link to the Licensing Register. Email licensing@enfield.gov.uk to request a copy of the application within 28 days from the date of this notice.

Any person wishing to submit relevant representations concerning this application must give notice by emailing licensing@enfield.gov.uk, giving in detail the grounds of the representation no later than: **20/09/2023**

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.

Dated: 24/08/2023

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Eduard Pirvu trading as **EDY INTER TRANS LTD** of 35C Kingsley Road, Maidstone, ME15 7UN is applying for a licence to use **HARBET ROAD, NR COSTCO, HGV ENTRANCE, LONDON, E4 8OB** as an operating centre for **2 goods vehicles and 2 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.

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