

ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº 63

THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

DEC 2023

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PRIME MINISTER Rishi Sunak and Chancellor Jeremy Hunt met students at The College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London, part of the Capital City College Group (CCCG), last month. The visit to the Enfield Highway college included tours of the construction and engineering departments, featuring a hands-on rail maintenance track and carriages, plus a newly-launched wind operations training centre, with equipment to train a new generation of wind power specialists. The PM also gave a speech reiterating the government's commitment to innovative education and skills development in green and renewable technologies. Angela Joyce, CCCG chief executive, said: "We're delighted Rishi Sunak and Jeremy Hunt visited our Enfield centre to see the excellent work of staff, students and apprentices." Credit 10 Downing Street

Labour and Tories blame each other as £267m slashed from council's capital budget

BY JAMES CRACKNELL
& SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL
DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Big cuts to capital spending by Enfield Council – equivalent to a reduction of nearly 15% – have been described as a “reality check” for the borough.

Mounting borrowing costs and a £39m hole in the budget now being drawn up for 2024/25 have led finance chiefs at Enfield Civic Centre to agree to cuts to capital investment worth a total of £267m.

The council's ten-year capital strategy, agreed earlier this year, originally included spending plans of £1.8billion in areas such as housing and highways, with 44% of this

financed by loans, but this has now been revised down to £1.53bn, with 38% funded by borrowing.

The council's 'core' capital programme will be slashed from £306.7m to £246.5m – a cut of £60.2m – and spending on housing will be cut from £945m to £898.9m, saving £46.1m. The budget for Meridian Water is being reduced by £29.2m.

A series of other investments – worth £95.5m in total – are being moved to “pipeline”, which means they will be removed from the capital budget until they can be supported by a “financially affordable business case”. This includes £28.4m of spending on the council's highways and street scene programme, £16.3m on the Energetik district heating network,

£15m on the next phase of the Montagu Industrial Estate regeneration project, £9m on digital services and £1.8m on flood alleviation works.

Debating the spending cuts during a three-hour full council meeting at the end of November, councillors on each side of the chamber clashed in a series of angry exchanges. The Labour administration blamed the Conservative government for “crashing the economy” and causing inflation and interest rates to soar, making capital projects far more expensive to finance.

But the Tories in turn said Labour councillors had been “reckless” by borrowing so much and that Enfield residents were “now paying the price”.

Tim Leaver, the council's cabinet

member for finance, said: “We think long-term for this borough, not just short-term [...] wider economic circumstances have necessitated we review our capital strategy to ensure it remains prudent and affordable – this report ensures it does both.”

“We aim to invest £1.5bn in Enfield over the next ten years. We are clearly ambitious, but our plans must be affordable.”

Tory councillor Julian Sampson responded: “This comes as a reality check for all of us in the chamber. The strategy of ‘borrowing to invest’ was always subject to interest rate rises and that risk has now crystallised – and it is something residents are now paying for.”

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Chamberlains Estates – turn to page 3

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Angel Edmonton town centre is being revamped



Government awards £12m 'levelling up' cash to Edmonton

The grant to support Angel Edmonton town centre is the first time Enfield borough has received any money from the Conservative government's flagship Levelling Up Fund

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

The government has awarded nearly £12m to support town centre improvements in Angel Edmonton as part of the latest round of 'levelling up' funding – the first time Enfield Council has been successful in bidding.

Recipients of a share of £1 billion in government cash – as part of the third round of money dished out by the government's Levelling Up Fund – were announced last month by Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Michael Gove.

Despite failing in its initial bid for Angel Edmonton as part of round two at the start of the year, Enfield Council has now been awarded £11.9m to "provide better places for businesses, community facilities, and enhance the cultural offering".

Local authorities were asked to submit bids for cash, with Enfield now being revealed as one of only two London boroughs receiving funding from this third round. A total of 55 "transformational projects" were successful in total.

London was awarded £30m from the £1bn funding pot this

time around, while Yorkshire and the Humber got £169m and the Midlands got £171m.

Enfield Council says the £11.9m for Angel Edmonton will be used to "build on the hard work" already being done to improve the area thanks to funding from the Mayor of London – with projects such as Angel Yard, where 35 new business units have been created for local young entrepreneurs.

Leader Nesil Caliskan said: "We are investing in Upper Edmonton to increase opportunities for our residents, particularly for younger people and to create an area that people are proud to be a part of."

"This funding award will build on the hard work of this council to transform one of the more

deprived areas in the country and bring about real change.

"While we were disappointed that this funding did not come earlier in January's funding round, we will waste no time in getting our plans into action. This will include job creation, skills and training, creating a better environment for leisure and wellbeing and investing in the local economy."

The final scope of the works to be paid for by the levelling up money will be "reviewed and developed in the coming weeks" and delivery is expected by March 2026.

Gove said: "Levelling up means delivering local people's priorities and bringing transformational change in communities that have, for too long, been overlooked and undervalued."

"Today we are backing 55 projects across the UK with £1bn to create new jobs and opportunities, power economic growth, and revitalise local areas."

"This funding sits alongside our wider initiatives to spread growth, through devolving more money and power out of Westminster to towns and cities, putting in place bespoke interventions to places that need it most, and our long-term plan for towns."



Michael Gove
Credit: parliament.uk

£70k cafés rent debt

The former operator of four park cafés across Enfield owed tens of thousands of pounds in rent to Enfield Council when they were forced to close.

Cafés at Trent Park, Whitewebbs Park, Town Park and Oakwood Park all closed on the same September day when enforcement action was taken against the leaseholders following a "contract breach".

Although four different companies were running the four cafés, Companies House records show they were run by the same person – Ozgur Celebi. A Freedom of Information Act request to Enfield Council has now revealed the total rent owed by Celebi's companies to the civic centre was £69,541.51.

Questions are now being asked about why this level of debt was allowed to accumulate before the council took action. Edward Smith, a Conservative councillor and the opposition group's spokesperson for parks, told the *Dispatch*: "I supported the council's action [to close the cafés] but I was not happy about how long it had taken. This issue [of unpaid rent] had been allowed to run for some considerable time."

A council spokesperson said: "We have a responsibility to our residents and taxpayers which is why we have taken the necessary, legal steps to recover the money owed to the council. In this case, Enfield Council has taken the necessary steps at the appropriate time."

Ozgur Celebi could not be reached for comment.

Centre sold

An Enfield community centre has been sold to a Romanian church group and its users given until 10th December to find alternative premises.

St Paul's Centre in Church Street, Enfield Town, was first put up for sale last year with a guide price of £2.2m, after the United Reformed Church admitted it was "no longer able to run and maintain the building".

Notice has now been given that it will no longer be available for use by community groups from the middle of December.

In a statement, the Thames North Synod of the United Reformed Church (URC) said: "Following the decision to sell the St Paul's Centre building [URC] can now confirm that contracts for sale have been exchanged and should complete on 15th December."

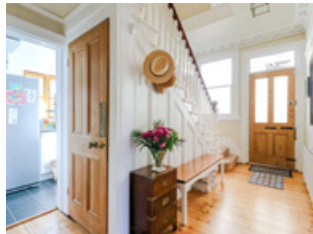
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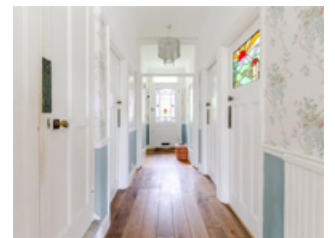
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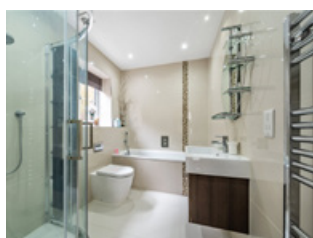
5 BEDROOM VICTORIAN SEMI-DETACHED THREE STORY HOUSE – EPC F
Chase Green Avenue, Enfield EN2
£1,150,000



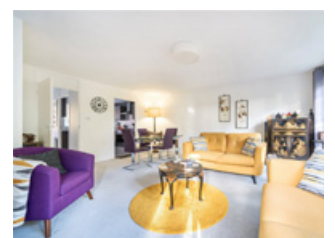
5 BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW – EPC E
Walsingham Road, Enfield EN2
£1,100,000



3 BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR FLAT – EPC B
Athena Court, Chase Ridings, Enfield EN2
£600,000



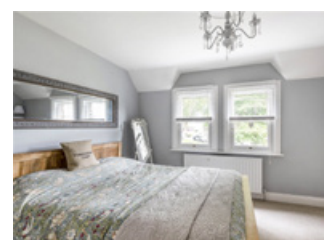
3 BEDROOM TERRACE HOUSE – EPC C
Badgers Close, Enfield EN2
£595,000



2 BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR FLAT – EPC C
Salmons Brook House, Windmill Hill, Enfield EN2
£450,000



2 BEDROOM VICTORIAN COTTAGE – EPC D
Chase Side, Enfield EN2
£425,000



An Enfield green space hidden in plain sight

New Southgate Millennium Green Trust founder Andrew Irvine on how residents are helping the space to thrive

In the south-west corner of Enfield borough is a gem of local initiative and community.

New Southgate Millennium Green is a small open space owned and entirely run by its own charity. Started (obviously?) at the turn of the millennium, it has been striding forward with a growing collection of interesting trees, community art projects and music events.

A determined team of volunteers is working towards creating an arboretum worth the name, and we never stop looking for new ways to connect with the community.

At the New Southgate Millennium Green Trust we are very grateful for the assistance of Enfield Council, most notably a decade of strong support each from local councillors Vivien Giladi and then Daniel Anderson, and which now continues through current New

Southgate councillor Josh Abey. However, all the team are clear that the buck stops with the volunteer trustees, and we strive to run the green as independently as possible.

The trust has always had a policy of working for the future, not just the present – all our volunteers automatically get trained towards certificates – and the team has trained first-aiders, qualified gardeners and written proper health and safety policies, ensuring that newcomers feel they have a purpose, a goal, and belong to something substantial.

For over a decade now, we have been supported by our business neighbour, construction firm Mulalley, which is building a large site of flats and houses next door and which has sponsored the green's events, hi-vis vests, and insurance, with plans for more.

As founder of the trust, I remain heavily involved and still walk around New Southgate Millennium Green every day. But we also have some younger trustees, such as Aurther Honour, who is taking control of the trust.

Explaining his vision, Aurther explains: "As we own the land forever, it is no good muddling through in a volunteer's front room. We have pushed for an office space, a quality set of equipment, and established routines.

"We offer all our volunteers a meaningful reference once they have completed our certificate, a wide selection of worthwhile jobs to do, and a great place to do it.

"Our green is a remarkably tranquil, pretty space, 'hidden in plain sight' and surrounded



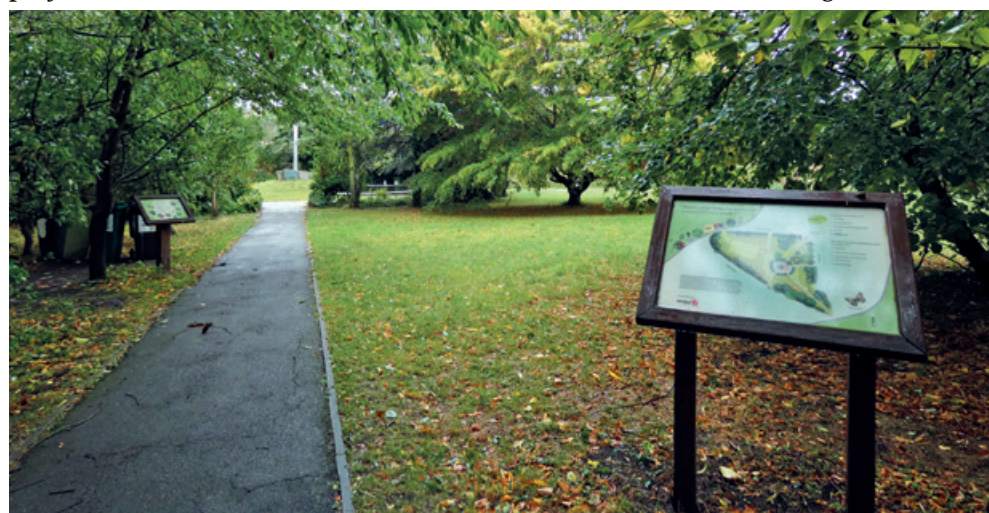
Construction firm Mulalley has helped sponsor various projects by New Southgate Millennium Green Trust

by urban traffic. We get lots of compliments from the public and the team is growing in numbers, with the members feeling more confident to take on roles, knowing they will be supported by experienced colleagues."

Right now, the trust is working on cutting the huge 300-metre hedge, treating all the timber and installing a 'little free library' in the new year. We've also been given a petrol mower that doesn't work! So if you can help with any of these big projects, please get in touch.

You can meet our voluntary team at one of our sessions or one of our evening barbecues/bonfires on the first Saturday of every month. And remember, the green is open 24/7!

Get involved with New Southgate Millennium Green Trust:
Call 07786 303 440
Email NSMG.Trustees@Gmail.com



New Southgate Millennium Green is a small open space near the North Circular

Supporting homeless people this winter

George Dunstall from All People All Places on how you can help support homeless people in Enfield

Last year All People All Places (APAP) launched its first-ever winter campaign, which sought to flip perceptions of homelessness from stereotypical imagery and stories towards a celebration of those who had overcome their housing crisis. We used the iconic blue plaques to highlight the positive stories of just some of our clients.

This year, sadly, we have continued to see an exponential rise in homelessness and rough sleeping across Enfield and Haringey. Moreover, with interest rates remaining high, the crisis has been compounded by increasing rents across the capital as a result of landlords selling up and shrinking the supply of affordable rental properties. According to the Office of National Statistics, in the twelve months to June 2023, private rental prices increased by 5.3% in London; the highest annual rise since September 2012.

Rising rents and frozen Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates led to a London

Councils report finding that only 2.3% of available property in the capital was affordable under LHA rates. Make no mistake, this is no longer just a crisis. This is, to ape just some of the language of the previous home secretary, Suella Braverman, a "hurricane" of homelessness happening on our doorsteps.

Homelessness is no longer limited to single-person households being priced out of the market. It is whole families moving from one short-term tenancy to the next, until they simply cannot afford to pay any more. This year was a turning point. For the first time, a longstanding housing crisis developed into an evictions crisis.

Our campaign this year will seek to focus on homelessness in the context in which it is unfolding on our doorstep and which we see in our work every day across Enfield and Haringey. Homelessness is never a lifestyle choice (to coin a phrase) for those at the acute end of it. It is never the choice of the

individual or family to be left with nowhere to go; to have nowhere to store their belongings; to have to make impossible choices about what belongings to take, because they simply can't take them all.

The equivalent of 140 households in London faced eviction every week in the first quarter of 2023. It could happen to any of us, it could happen to you. Do you know what you'd take with you to survive?

APAP have been providing shelter, supporting people and preventing homelessness

in Enfield and Haringey since 2010. We already know this winter is likely to be the toughest yet in so many ways.

This year's campaign will launch and run throughout December, so please keep an eye out and support us if you can. As a small, local charity, we rely on the generous support of our community to continue to support those most in need in Enfield and Haringey.

For more information about All People All Places and the charity's winter campaign:
Email info@allpeopleallplaces.org
Visit allpeopleallplaces.org



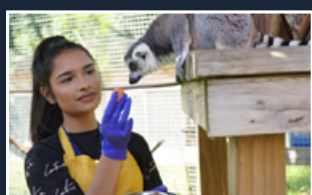
All People All Places is highlighting homelessness in Enfield using blue plaques



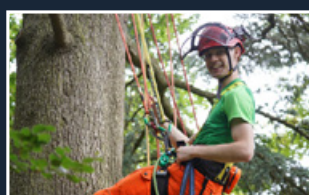
Turn your passion into purpose at London's environmental college



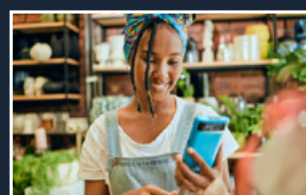
Agriculture



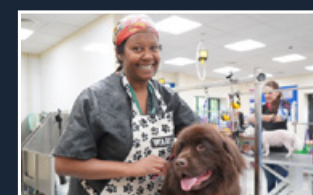
Animal
management



Arboriculture
and forestry



Business and
digital skills



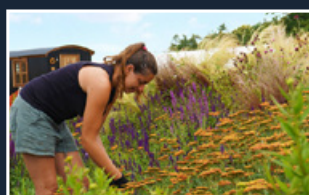
Dog grooming



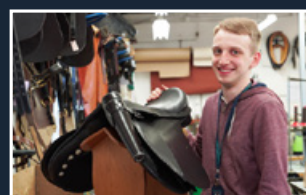
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Decision to lease Whitewebbs to Spurs set for judicial review

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER



The first detailed plans for Tottenham Hotspur's takeover of Whitewebbs Park were revealed last month, including this map of the proposed women's football academy

Enfield Council's decision to lease part of Whitewebbs Park to Tottenham Hotspur is set to be challenged in the High Court.

A judge granted permission for a judicial review of the authority's decision to award the 25-year lease to the Premier League football club, which wants to set up a new women's football academy on the site of the park's former golf course.

A hearing is expected to take place early next year, where parties will present evidence before a judge who will then rule on whether or not the council acted lawfully.

Friends of Whitewebbs Park chair Sean Wilkinson, who is mounting the legal challenge as a local resident, said getting the green light for the judicial review represented a "major advance" for the campaign against the council's decision.

He added: "I am delighted, and the supporters of the campaign are absolutely delighted."

The council agreed in October 2021 to hand a 25-year lease to Spurs if its proposals for the parkland win planning permission. It sparked a backlash from local residents, with multiple protests being staged. The football club wants to create new training pitches in the north-eastern corner of the site close to its existing training complex in Whitewebbs Lane. The lease also includes land to the south of this, where Tottenham Hotspur plans to restore "areas of historic parkland".

Earlier this year, campaigners from Enfield RoadWatch and the Friends of Whitewebbs, together with the London branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, revealed plans to take the council to court over its decision. In a letter to the council, they claimed proposed restrictions on public use and access "inherent" in Spurs' training academy plans would go against legislation under which the land is held in trust for the public's use.

They also stated that plans to use rental income from the site to invest an extra £100,000 per year in grassroots sport would be an "unlawful use of profits from public trust land", as the money would be spent outside the park.

Granting permission for the judicial review request brought by Sean Wilkinson, a judge said the claimant had "raised arguable grounds which merit consideration at a full hearing".

Sean said that once a date for the judicial review hearing had been set, campaigners would start fundraising to cover the costs.

Last month, Spurs revealed the first details of its plans for Whitewebbs Park, including proposals to erect a fence nearly two metres tall surrounding the proposed football academy, which will occupy 18% of the overall park. There are also plans to remove 102 trees and plant 3,000 new ones, create a biodiversity corridor, upgrade footpaths and bridleways, and transform run-down Conduit House into a birdwatching platform.

An Enfield Council spokesperson said: "The lease of part of Whitewebbs Park is set to bring significant benefits to the local community including the protection and enhancement of the park and woods, further investment in a new on-site café, toilets and other facilities, as well as preserving open public access to over 80% of the park for all residents."

"A claim for judicial review has been submitted and the court has granted permission for the claim to be heard in due course. Enfield Council is confident that proper legal processes and procedures have been followed at all times leading up to the award of this lease and will defend the judicial review robustly."

Tottenham Hotspur FC declined to comment.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"He calls it a 'pipeline', I call it a tin can being kicked down the road."

Cllr Sampson then introduced a metaphor to illustrate slashed spending, comparing it to a "horror movie" and describing Labour's finance boss as "Leaver the cleaver".

Last month's council report setting out the cuts warned that failing to make changes to capital spending would lead to "significant unfunded revenue budget pressures" that could only be managed by "further depleting reserves and reducing revenue budgets".

The report acknowledged that "the proposed reductions [...] do carry inherent risk" including "increased risk of asset deterioration from reduced capital investment in highways infrastructure".

Tory councillor Reece Fox was scathing. He said: "Labour has made a lot of manifesto plans that they simply don't have the money for [...] My inbox is full of residents complaining about potholes and these decisions will make that worse."

Deputy council leader Ergin Erbil put the blame for the cuts back on to the Conservatives and the government. He said: "While comedians laugh, real families feel the full brute force created by this government."

"Sunak and his mates have bankrupted councils up and down the country – and it is not a laughing matter. But despite these financial difficulties, caused by the Tories, we are investing in this borough."

"Come the next local election, we will see who is laughing."

Joanne Laban, who was the leader of the Tory opposition group at Enfield Civic Centre until 2022, said: "I have spent many an hour in this chamber and a recurring theme has been the council borrowing too much – and what happens when interest rates rise. Well, now we know. And I'm afraid to say that I told you so."

Cllr Laban provoked howls of derision from councillors sat opposite her, however, when she claimed that "a compassionate Conservative government" had "delivered".

Labour cabinet member for the environment Rick Jewell responded: "This debate is a farce. The government blows a hole in the boat and they blame us for letting it sink."

Cllr Jewell added: "There won't be any tin cans being kicked down the road because my street cleaning team

will pick them up straight away."

Edward Smith explained that the jokes being made by Conservative councillors reflected the "relief" they felt that the council's borrowing was being reduced. He warned: "We fear that

reckless borrowing will throw the council off a cliff. It [the cuts] need to go further, but at least it's a start."

"We wouldn't be in this situation if they hadn't been so reckless. We warned you that something would happen and that there was a need to be more prudent. Now the chickens have come home to roost."

Lee Chamberlain, another Tory, said: "There will be a firesale – it's going to be horrific."

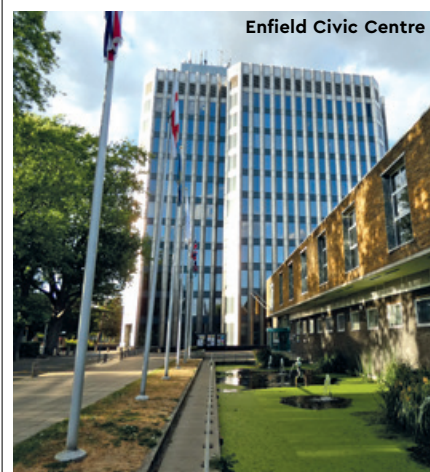
Council leader Nesil Caliskan wrapped up the debate by accusing the Conservatives of hypocrisy. She said: "What they haven't told us

is what their capital spending plan would look like. They have opposed every bit of long-term spending that this borough deserves – they always vote against it – and now they have the audacity to ask us why we are not delivering the things they have voted against in the first place."

"There are things they could have critiqued, but instead they have chosen to stand up and defend an economically illiterate government."

The council's debt cap, which was previously set at £2bn, is also now said to be "no longer affordable", while the changing economic climate means the authority is now only prepared to take "minimal financial risk". The council's current total debt level is £1.3bn.

The cuts are just the latest spending reductions announced by the council as it seeks to keep on top of mounting financial pressures. Earlier this year, it revealed plans to cut council tax support by £12m and began to move homeless families outside London and the south-east to reduce spending on temporary accommodation.



Enfield Civic Centre



Tim Leaver, Labour's cabinet member for finance



Conservative councillor Julian Sampson

Waltham Forest College



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Inflated Green Belt housing plans slammed

The revised version of the borough's Local Plan looks set to raise the number of homes allocated to Enfield's Green Belt from 6,430 to over 9,000



Green Belt land at Vicarage Farm in Enfield that the council wants to designate for housebuilding

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER & JAMES CRACKNELL

The leader of the opposition group at Enfield Civic Centre has slammed revisions to the council's Local Plan which are set to increase the number of homes allocated to the borough's Green Belt.

Enfield Council's housing target in its Local Plan is expected to be inflated from 25,000 to 35,000 – with at least 9,000 now being allocated to the Green Belt.

The latest version of the document is due to be published on 6th December, after which it will need to be approved by councillors before going out for a final round of public consultation next spring.

It includes proposals to release around 13% of the borough's Green Belt land for development, including large sites at Crews Hill and Vicarage Farm in World's End.

The original version of the document – published in 2021 – was designed to deliver 25,000 homes across the borough up to 2039. But the new version, which will be examined by a planning inspector, significantly increases the housing target to 35,000 homes up to 2041.

Alessandro Georgiou, the Conservative group leader in Enfield, told the *Dispatch*: “It is no surprise that the council has ignored many thousands of residents and is ploughing on with their dogmatic and environmentally destructive plans to destroy our Green Belt.

“Not only have they not listened, they now plan to increase the number of properties built on the Green Belt to nearly 10,000.

“We as Enfield Conservatives will fight against this Labour council's approach to destroy everything of value in our borough. When we win the council in 2026 there will be no building on the Green Belt.”

The Green Belt currently covers around a third of Enfield borough and protects previously undeveloped land from being built on. Under policies set out in the London Plan, which was approved in 2021, de-designating the Green Belt is only justified in “exceptional circumstances”.

Commenting on the council's plans the same year, London mayor Sadiq Khan branded them “unjustified” and “premature”.

When questioned on the issue at a regeneration and economic development scrutiny panel meeting last month, Brett Leahy, the council's director of planning and growth, said the Local Plan involved balancing various elements, including housing need, employment and economic growth. He insisted urban sites alone could not deliver the number of homes, affordable units and family-sized houses needed by the borough's residents.

Council leader Nesil Caliskan said that while the London Plan was “really critical”, the authority also had to “work within the framework of national requirements”. She added that ultimately a “national [planning]

inspector” would “determine whether our draft Local Plan is adequate or not”.

Under further questioning from panel members, Brett revealed the new plans for Crews Hill involve building 5,500 homes on a 270-hectare site. He added that 50% of the site would be developed, with the rest being made up of open space.

Vicarage Farm, dubbed ‘Chase Park’ in the draft Local Plan, is set to deliver 3,765 homes over 167 hectares, he added, although landowner Comer Homes has itself suggested building 5,000 there.

“They’re ploughing on with their dogmatic and environmentally destructive plans to destroy our Green Belt”

This would mean more than 9,000 being allocated to the Green Belt by the Local Plan in total, up from 6,430 in the previous version of the draft published two years ago.

These numbers will be confirmed when the revised Local Plan is published this month.

Brett told councillors that building on Green Belt sites would allow for greater provision of family homes. He said 37% of homes at Crews Hill would be three-bedroom and 16% would be four-bedroom, with a target of providing 50% affordable housing across the whole scheme.

The council received 7,267 responses to the 2021 public consultation on the Local Plan. Conservative panel members asked for the numbers who were for and against

building on the Green Belt but were told a breakdown was not available because it was “not a yes-or-no-type question”.

May Hope, the council's placemaking manager, revealed there are plans to “enhance and improve access to the northern part of the borough” and to encourage “development for recreational uses and leisure activities”.

Money raised from housing schemes would be used to fund the projects, which could include local food production, forestry initiatives, landscape restoration projects, eco-tourism, sporting opportunities, natural burial grounds, and education and recreational pursuits.

But council chiefs denied there were plans to reduce the amount of farmland in the borough in favour of other land uses and said initiatives such as tree-planting could take place alongside farming.

Under further questioning from Conservative panel members, the council leader refused to accept that removing a percentage of green space for development would lead to an “overall reduction”. She said the housing would not be “private estates”, and some would be built on land currently occupied by businesses such as garden centres.

Cllr Caliskan said one of the reasons why delivering a Local Plan for Enfield is so challenging is that it has “the most amount of Green Belt in London but also one of the highest amounts of strategic industrial land (Sil)”.

Sil is protected by the London Plan, and council bosses said any that was lost to housing development would have to be reprovided elsewhere in the borough.

The next version of the Local Plan, the so-called Regulation 19 document, will be examined for twelve weeks before it is debated during a full council meeting on 6th March. If approved, it will then undergo a six-week consultation period ending on 17th April, before preparation for its formal examination begins in May.



Conservative group leader Alessandro Georgiou



Enfield Council leader Nesil Caliskan

Hadley Wood residents agree 'neighbourhood plan'

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Hadley Wood has officially adopted a 'neighbourhood plan' that enshrines a number of key planning policies drawn up and agreed by residents.

In a first for the borough of Enfield, a referendum was held last month in which Hadley Wood residents voted "overwhelmingly in favour" of endorsing a 150-page planning document that has been nine years in the making.

Under planning law, communities can draw up and agree their own neighbourhood plan which, if backed by voters in a referendum, becomes an official policy adopted by the local authority for that area. It provides an extra layer of planning protection against unwanted schemes but also offers a steer to developers to encourage the kind of development the community wants and needs.

In the case of Hadley Wood, the new neighbourhood plan states that residents wish to "support sustainable development; preserve our local character and natural environment; [and] protect our Green Belt".

The plan was backed by 95.4% of the 681 people voting in a referendum on 2nd November and was then officially adopted at a meeting of the full council on 22nd November.

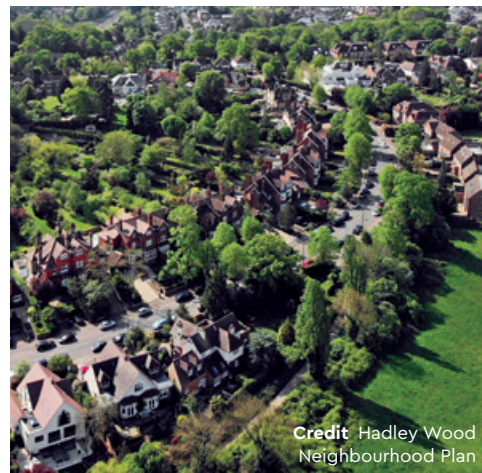
It will likely make it more difficult for Enfield Council to de-designate a part of the Green Belt in Hadley Wood, which has been earmarked for 160 homes.

Alessandro Georgiou, the Conservative group leader and ward councillor for Cockfosters, which includes Hadley Wood, welcomed the plan at the meeting and said: "This is the first neighbourhood plan in our history as a borough, which is something to be celebrated. It is also one of very few neighbourhood plans across the country."

"We have seen development that has been entirely inappropriate, but this neighbourhood plan reinforces planning protections – including open green spaces."

"I am so proud of my residents in Hadley Wood for achieving this."

Council leader Nesil Caliskan also welcomed the plan and said: "There was a very detailed and involved process by officers supporting the community group in the lead up to the referendum. Having such a



high percentage of endorsement shows it is a good neighbourhood plan, is in keeping with the area, and is sound."

Hadley Wood Neighbourhood Plan covers the period from now until 2039 and states in its foreword that the area "is a relatively isolated and car-dependent community" which is "poorly served by public transport and has very limited local infrastructure or services".

The surrounding farmland and woodland, currently designated as Green Belt, "is to be treasured and deserves continued

protection," the plan says.

"Hadley Wood has the characteristics of a rural village rather than a London suburb. However, it is our view that recent and rapid development has harmed character and biodiversity, increased car use and added to flood risk."

"Between 2000 and 2018 the number of homes increased by a third, entirely by intensification of development on small sites, but with very limited accompanying investment in local infrastructure and services."

Hadley Wood Neighbourhood Plan was drawn up following years of meetings, surveys and discussions within the community, led by a specialist group called Hadley Wood Neighbourhood Planning Forum.

Committee member David Harbott told the *Dispatch*: "It has taken a long time and we have had some blips along the way, such as with the pandemic."

"We have got a strong residents' association, and a consultant helped facilitate the first workshop, then it grew from there."

"The planning policies we have been able to define are much more appropriate for Hadley Wood."

Advertisement

EDMONTON YOUTH HEROES



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Schoolgirl's poster helps promote Christmas appeal

A schoolgirl's design for a poster to promote the annual Met Police Christmas Tree Appeal has been picked ahead of hundreds of other entries across London.

The appeal was launched on 21st November to ensure thousands of children in London – who may otherwise go without a gift – wake up to one on Christmas Day.

At the launch Met Police Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley was joined by eleven-year-old Alicja Mglej to switch on the lights of the Christmas tree outside New Scotland Yard, officially kicking off the campaign.

Alicja is a pupil at St Mary's RC Primary School in Ponders End and was the chosen winner of a competition to design the poster for this year's campaign.

Since the annual appeal first began in 2011, generous



Alicja Mglej with her winning poster
Credit Met Police

donations from members of the public has meant that more than 150,000 children have woken up to a gift under their tree. Last year, presents were brought for over 16,000 children in London.

This year, the Met Police is again working with the Childhood Trust to encourage even more people to purchase presents or donate money to the campaign.

Inspector Colin Reed said: "While Christmas is a time of joy for many, for children living in poverty in London, this period can be particularly difficult. This year, working with the Childhood Trust, we are hoping to deliver presents to thousands of children in London so that they can feel joy on Christmas morning."

Laurence Guinness,

chief executive of the Childhood Trust, added: "More than ever before children in the care system need our support this Christmas. There are thousands of children dreading

the festive period because they know they won't receive a gift, or have a family around them to celebrate with."

"We hope that Londoners will reach out by generously gifting a present or donation to bring joy to a vulnerable and disadvantaged child this Christmas."

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



The government is failing to recognise needs of London and Enfield

London Assembly member Joanne McCartney gives her verdict on the chancellor's recent Autumn Statement

Yet again the government has let down our city and our country. Last month's Autumn Statement from the chancellor again failed to recognise the needs of London or the role we play in supporting jobs and economic growth across the UK.

It also failed to address the cost-of-living crisis which has left many families struggling.

While other cities have been given capital investment for their transport systems, there has been little for London. I have long campaigned for the much-needed signalling upgrade to the Piccadilly Line which would enable 36 trains per hour and be truly transformative. Without modern signalling, the new trains arriving from 2025 won't be able to run at capacity – this is shortsighted.

And while the government has missed its own target on affordable homes, at City Hall we have met ours, with the mayor starting over 116,000 affordable homes – that's 46%

of the national total. I'm especially proud that London is building council housing again with 23,000 homes underway across the city, including here in Enfield.

So why hasn't the government given us the tools to build more, as the mayor has offered? No wonder this has been labelled another anti-London budget. We dearly need investment in our public services and in local government, which is buckling under the pressure. Instead, the chancellor announced real-terms cuts. After 13 years of austerity this government is intent on more of the same.

Despite this, at City Hall we are doing what we can to protect and improve our public services. We are funding more police officers and have plans to recruit 500 extra PCSOs to rebuild our local safer neighbourhood policing teams. On top of this, I welcome the imminent arrival of TfL's new Superloop orbital express bus service which will run along the North

Joanne McCartney represents Enfield and Haringey on the London Assembly



"After 13 years of austerity this government is intent on more of the same"

Circular, speeding up journey times.

I'm especially proud of the mayor's universal free school meals programme, which I am helping to deliver in my role as deputy mayor for children and families. This programme means an extra 287,000 primary school pupils will receive a nutritious school lunch, making life a bit easier for families by providing a healthy meal and making sure our children are ready to learn.

My job of standing up for Enfield residents has also included demanding increased capacity along Great Northern's Hertford Loop railway line into Moorgate – two trains an hour off-peak is half the service than before the pandemic, and too many are cancelled at short notice, especially at peak times. I've also been urging London Overground to increase capacity on the Liverpool Street line from Enfield Town.

As your voice in City Hall I will continue to fight your corner and help deliver a safer, greener and better off Enfield.

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Our newspapers are a growing and valued part of the local community – loved by readers who want to read about what matters to them. Be part of that and advertise with us!

Our publications *Enfield Dispatch*, *Haringey Community Press*, *Barnet Post*, *Waltham Forest Echo* and *Newham Voices* cover a wide area of North and East London

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 11th December**.

Stop Spurs

Dear Enfield Dispatch

I oppose the lease of Whitewebbs Park to Spurs and want Enfield Council to stand up to this destructive money-making machine. I am 16 years old and passionate about preserving the natural environment and green space in London. I am concerned about the reckless short-term decisions made by the rich and powerful, without considering what the general public want and need.

Whitewebbs is thriving as it is. I have noticed incredible improvements in biodiversity after the golf course closed and the park was left to rewild. Species such as damselflies, butterflies and spiders are now abundant. Spurs plan to cut down trees and rip apart the vital grassland to "restore 1842 parkland" and build their training ground. In their proposals there are inaccuracies, such as misleading photos and not showing parts of the park they will be using to build football pitches. If Spurs show such a lack of ecological knowledge, why should we trust them with the vast space of Whitewebbs Park?

Sam (Avid Beats)
Enfield Town

Budget pressure

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Enfield Council understandably gets a lot of coverage in this paper. While some of the decisions they have made have not been perfect (no council or government decisions ever are) maybe the Conservative councillors could spend more time liaising with their colleagues in government to improve the funding across the board rather than promoting the message of the council going into administration. If the council goes into administration does this serve the residents well? Who gains then?

It's no surprise that public services are struggling. Thirteen years of Conservative mismanagement and austerity (an approach now debunked) have brought councils, schools, NHS services and police to their knees. Put simply, public services collapse without proper funding.

Jerome O'Callaghan
Enfield Town

Wasted chance

Dear Enfield Dispatch

I recently raised the unsuitability and financial risk of the Edmonton incinerator for the emerging world of climate heating, rising recycling targets and flat-lining waste levels. The National Infrastructure Commission have since produced their assessment of the country's needs for the next 30 years. This includes "urgently implementing reforms to meet a 65% recycling target by 2035", where I note North London has been stuck at broadly 30% for approximately a decade and with no signs, or substantiated plans, of improvement. The commission also indicates that "no new energy from waste plants should be built without carbon and capture storage facilities", as would be the case with Edmonton.

The ongoing failure to facilitate improved recycling rates at residential level adds considerable weight to the call for enhanced mechanical sorting at Edmonton, rather than an oversized, strategically inappropriate, incinerator.

Karl Brown
Palmer's Green

Tax burden

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Enfield Council's proposals to slash council tax support for its poorest residents will cause huge amounts of hardship across the borough. Low-income disabled people and carers, who are currently exempt, will have to pay hundreds of pounds of council tax a year, and a single unemployed person in a band C property will be expected to pay 15% of their already low Universal Credit to the council. Inevitably, this will mean stress, debt, and bailiffs banging on the doors of low-income households. If it goes ahead, Enfield's council tax support scheme will become the least generous in the country. The council, like every council, is under financial pressure due to a decade of underfunding, but these proposals are appalling. It must think again, and put more reasonable proposals on the table.

Jamie Thunder
Bowes Park

'A Stroll Through Enfield Town' by Anna Nicolo
Credit Neil Littman



'A Rhythm of Broomfield Park' by Bec Dennison (Palmers Green)



'Fire and Flight' by Ellie Fryer (Palmers Green)



Enfield County School students helped with some of the spray-painting in Enfield Town



Brightening up the borough

Work to brighten up the borough has begun in earnest with stunning new street murals being unveiled in Enfield Town and Palmers Green.

The 'Curate Enfield' project is being led by Enfield Council and is funded by a £30,000 grant from Arts Council England, via the National Lottery. The money is being used by the council to commission artworks – or a series of artworks – in five town centres around the borough, with ideas and inspiration being taken from local people.

The first two of these five projects were completed in November. In Palmers Green, a new art trail has been created by The Matchbox Collective. It features a series of vibrant, eye-catching murals “inspired by the cultural diversity, local nature and biodiversity of Palmers Green”.

Young people and community leaders were mentored and supported to develop

the art trail, and they selected The Matchbox Collective to deliver the project to help “link” the town centre with Broomfield Park.

Local groups including Broomfield Park Community Orchard, Philanthropy CIC, Ruth Winston Community Centre and students from Laurel Park School all helped contribute ideas. An illustrated map has even been produced to promote the new arts trail.

In Enfield Town, a “very dark” alleyway has been brightened with a colourful series of murals inspired by market traders. Leading from Cecil Road to Palace Gardens and Palace Exchange shopping centres, the footpath was chosen because of its dreariness but also its importance for generating high footfall for local shops – “acting as a bridge between the past and present of Enfield Town”.

Art students from Enfield County School were on hand to help with some of the spray-painting last month, while lead artist

Anna Nicolò watched on. Anna told the *Dispatch*: “The main reason this area was chosen was to brighten up this very dark alleyway – it is surprisingly busy, but it was just a brick wall.

“The concept [of the design] is about celebrating Enfield Town; its history, its people and its heritage. One of the main explorations is Enfield’s history as a market town going back 700 years. It is inspired by the market stalls.”

The main mural works as a carousel featuring, in the foreground, “a parade of bold silhouettes of people carrying shopping bags”, while in the background “illustrations portraying historical buildings, stories and events from the area, celebrate all things Enfield”.

A public survey and workshops at Enfield Town Library helped inform some of the themes for the artwork, with local people invited to contribute ideas. Anna said:

“We got lots of stories from community engagement at the public library and doing questionnaires. I came up with the concept but the themes are from the community.”

Other Curate Enfield projects now in progress include a “portrait of Southgate” where three artworks are set to be delivered in Ashfield Parade, the green area beside Southgate Station, and along the pavement of Chase Side.

In Angel Edmonton, artist Rafael Klein has also been selected to create a sculptural work outside Silver Street Station, which will “create a sense of welcome for residents and visitors as they arrive into the area”. Informed by the town centre’s traditional name of ‘the Angel’ the sculpture “aims to inspire thoughts of lightness and flight”.

A fifth project will be developed in Edmonton Green.

For more information about Curate Enfield:
Visit letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/curate-enfield

Oakwood's little Italian gem

Neil Littman discovers one of Enfield's best restaurants in an unexpected location



Burrata

I usually go looking for restaurants to review but, for the first time since writing this column, a restaurant came looking for a review – with a request sent to the editor of the *Dispatch*!

I was curious (as well as impressed by the effort they had gone to) although I did already know about Lizzie's Cucina through several recommendations and many positive reviews on social media.

Lizzie's said they wanted to share their experience after receiving an award for 'Best Restaurant in Enfield' just two years since opening. True to the name of the award, it was one of the best meals I have eaten locally.

Hopefully after reading this review *Dispatch* readers will go to discover it for themselves – though maybe not too many, since booking is already tricky

with three of us opting for a midweek table after trying two or three weeks in advance.

Oakwood has been a bit of a culinary desert, but Lizzie's Cucina stands out for good reason. It serves classic Italian food with an emphasis on Sicilian cuisine.

It's located on a quiet shopping parade near Oakwood Station and, inside, there is a welcoming atmosphere in the long dining room with olive green walls, decorative panels with banquettes and a dark wooden floor. Purple lighting also accentuates the space.

"It serves classic Italian food with an emphasis on Sicilian cuisine"

Lizzie's prices reflect the investment and experience that have gone into providing a dining experience that would not be out of place in Soho or St James's. There are four choices of house wine at £25 a bottle, or you can spend up to £600 on the upper reaches of their wine list! A pasta main course, dessert and a glass of wine will cost you a shade under £35.

The restaurant kitchen is fronted by chef Carmelo Carnevale, who was born in Sicily and whose credentials include working in St Tropez, Novikov in Mayfair, and globally as a private chef.



Panna cotta and tiramisu

He also promotes Mediterranean cuisine via the Chef Med website.

The menu is concise; seven antipasti, seven pasta dishes and four mains including fish, scallops, and beef dishes. Our meal got off to an impressive start; nibbles arrived in the form of carta di musica (thin flatbread), stuffed red peppers and soft cheese, some good olive oil with a peppery aftertaste, plus olives and focaccia to mop everything up.

Starters included burrata, buffalo mozzarella with peach, and crab salad.

Our mains were black crab tagliarini, rigatoni lamb (ragu), seabass fillet with saffron in a sauce with olives, plus a side dish of caponata (a Sicilian dish consisting of chopped fried aubergine and other vegetables in an 'agrodolce' sauce which is both sour and sweet). Every dish arrived on curated plates.

For dessert, we ordered panna cotta, tiramisu and a liquor coffee.

Ultimately, the quality of the food was as important as the presentation (and good service) and I thought it was faultless. Good ingredients, well cooked and served.

A companionable silence descended on our table when each course arrived, punctuated by approval afterwards.

Our bill for three including service (13.5%) and drinks was £208, so this is not on the cheap side. As I mentioned earlier, booking is essential.

Lizzie's Cucina can be found at 85 Bramley Road, Oakwood N14 4EY. It is open Monday-Thursday, 6pm-12am; Friday 12pm-4 pm and 6 pm-12 am; Saturday 12pm-12am; and Sunday 12pm-6 pm. To book:

Call 020 8886 5797
Visit lizziescucina.co.uk



Lamb ragu rigatoni

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 11th December**.

PANTO

Cinderella in Boots

From 2nd December until 30th December, various times
Chickenshed Theatre,
290 Chase Side N14 4PE

This is a brand new family winter pantomime for all children aged up to seven years. Get ready for a winter wonderland with *Cinderella in Boots*. Or should that be snow boots?! Step into the enchanting world of this classic fairy tale, retold in traditional panto style.

Tickets £10.50, free for babies under one year
Visit chickenshed.org.uk

CONCERT

Journey into Christmas with Aurora Choir

Saturday 9th December, 7.30pm
Palmer's Green United Reformed Church, Fox Lane, Palmer's Green N13 4AL

Aurora Choir, under the direction of Ben Thapa, invites you to come and 'Journey into Christmas' with us through seasonal songs from around the world! We have Ukrainian, Polish, Swedish, Flemish carols, English carols, plus Vivaldi's magnificent hymn, *Magnificat*.

Tickets £14
Visit aurora-choir.sumupstore.com

Enfield Choral Society and Enfield Brass Band's Christmas Concert

Saturday 16th December, 7.30pm
St Stephen's Church, 56 Village Road, Enfield EN1 2EU

Congregational carols and seasonal refreshments at this festive event hosted jointly by Enfield Choral Society and Enfield Brass Band.

Tickets: £15, £7 for students under 25
Call 07864 061 755
Visit enfieldchoralsociety.org.uk

FOOD

Bloqs Friday Social

Friday 1st, 8th and 15th December, 5pm-9pm
Bloqs, 2 Anthony Way, Edmonton N18 3QT

Join us every Friday for a weekly changing menu of globe-trotting, affordable dishes, prepared by acclaimed chef Marianna Leivaditaki. This month: pizza night (Friday 1st), pasta night and workshop (Friday 8th) and Thai curry (Friday 15th).

Prices start from £6
Visit buildingbloqs.com

FAMILY

Talkies Community Cinema presents The Snowman

Saturday 9th December, 3pm
Waterhouse Hall Theatre,
Compton Road, Winchmore Hill N21 3JR

Our fun and interactive event based on *The Snowman* will feature contributions from your good elves... sorry, selves, and starts with a vocal warm-up, preparing the chorister within for the unforgettable *Walking in the Air* sequence.

Tickets £8 adults, £4 children
Visit talkies.org.uk/events

WORKSHOP

Upcycled Stocking Workshop

Saturday 16th December, 12pm-3pm
Bloqs, 2 Anthony Way, Edmonton N18 3QT

Bloqs have joined forces with slow fashion brand, Revival LDN, to offer a workshop transforming unused material into beautifully cute Christmas stockings.

Tickets £30
Visit buildingbloqs.com

SANTA

Breakfast with Santa

Sunday 17th December, 10am-12pm
Forty Hall, Forty Hill, Enfield EN2 9HA

Experience breakfast with Santa at Forty Hall. Savour a scrumptious breakfast in the magnificent long gallery and watch as your children write their wish lists for Santa and participate in fun-filled activities. Additionally, each child receives a gift to cherish.

Tickets £35 per person
Visit fortyhallestate.co.uk

MUSICAL

King of Nothing

27th-30th December, various times
Dugdale Arts Centre, 39 London Road, Enfield EN2 6DS

Monstro and Little Angel's latest puppet musical is an anarchic re-telling of Hans Christian Andersen's *Emperor's New Clothes*, in which the characters (and the audience) discover that people can be made to believe anything! With songs, puppetry, slapstick and more.

Tickets £13.50, £10 concessions
Visit dugdaleartscentre.co.uk

AROUND THE BOROUGH

ENFIELD TOWN

Pearsons celebrates 120 years

Pearsons in Church Street



DEPARTMENT STORE PEARSONS marked 120 years of trade at the heart of Enfield Town.

A weekend of birthday celebrations kicked off with the mayor of Enfield giving a speech and free fizz and cupcakes being offered to customers. There was also live music, a fashion show by footballers from Enfield Town FC, and face-painting for the kids.

Launched by brothers Stanley and Arthur Pearson in 1903, Pearsons has been an ever-present of the Enfield shopping scene and

continues to thrive thanks to its loyal customer base.

Suna Hurman, Enfield mayor, said she was “honoured” to be at the Church Street store for such a special occasion and added: “This site is a landmark for the borough of Enfield.

“It opened with only seven staff, but look at it now. Customers can find everything you would expect from a department store – beauty products, clothes, furniture, and of course the restaurant – and I know many local people have

worked or known someone who worked here.”

The original Pearsons building suffered damage during the Second World War but a large extension and renovation in 1962 enabled the introduction of many of the modern store amenities still enjoyed today, as well as a lift and escalators. The restaurant soon became a popular venue in Enfield for evening functions.

Morleys Stores Group acquired Pearsons in 2010, but the original name and character of the shop was retained. General manager Natasha Young said it was “a huge milestone” to reach 120 years.

Staff member Christine Redford, who’s worked there for 28 years, told the *Dispatch*: “I love it – I have been here since I left school so it is like a family to me. There’s a real sense of community as well – some people come in just for a conversation.”

Mark Rudling, town centre manager for Enfield Town Business Association, added: “It is amazing in this age of online shopping and retail parks that a business like Pearsons has not only lasted 120 years but is going from strength to strength.”

MERIDIAN WATER

Residents left without water

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

A “MAJOR” MAINS BURST HAS been blamed for an outage that left the new residents of Enfield Council’s flagship regeneration scheme without water shortly after moving into their homes.

Council tenants who moved into Oxeye Way on the first phase of the Meridian Water development were hit by the outage, experiencing a complete loss of water and intermittent supply problems.

In September, twenty families moved into the London Affordable Rent properties in a block forming part of Meridian One. But just a few weeks later properties were hit by

water outages. The day after losing their water supply, one resident said that there had been no official communication or information about the incident.

The council said a “major” burst water main caused the outage, which Thames Water attributed to damage caused by a third party. A council spokesperson added: “The incident was immediately brought to the attention of the Countryside Partnerships project team who contacted Thames Water. The water outage impacted the functionality of the plant room on Meridian One which supplies water across the development.

“Although the water supply was initially reinstated, there were

intermittent water supply problems between 18th and 20th October, affecting approximately 20 homes. Countryside Partnerships’ aftercare team met with residents at impacted properties who raised out-of-hours calls about the incident, and site management conducted a door-to-door check-in with residents.

“A fully functioning water supply was reinstated on the morning of Saturday, 21st October.”

A Thames Water spokesperson apologised to residents. The spokesperson added: “Should any residents experience an issue with their water supply we would encourage them to call our designated customer service line on 0800 316 9800 for assistance.”

PALMERS GREEN

Step-free station access

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

PLANS TO PROVIDE STEP-FREE access at Palmers Green Station have been submitted to Enfield Council.

The proposals involve installing lifts and walkways to create an accessible route at the station in Aldermans Hill, which is described as being “of central importance to the development of the suburb”.

It forms part of a Department for Transport (DfT) programme to improve access for passengers with disabilities or restricted mobility.

Joanne McCartney, London Assembly member for Enfield and Haringey, has previously raised concerns over the length of time taken to begin the project, which was awarded funding by the DfT in 2013. Work on the station is set to begin at the end of this year and be completed in mid-2024.

The plans, drawn up by Network Rail, would provide 16-person lifts to each platform, which would be linked to the existing station building by two raised, covered walkways featuring resting places to meet the needs of disabled and older people.

EDMONTON

Award for ambulance worker



A MAN WHO WAS INSPIRED TO join London Ambulance Service (LAS) by the paramedic who saved his life has scooped a prestigious award from the mayor of London.

Ben Lees, 48, was left fighting for his life after a devastating car crash aged 19. His neck was broken and his head injuries were so severe he fell into a coma.

He eventually recovered but the brain injury left him suffering from seizures. The injuries meant he lost his driving licence.

Ben said: “It was heartbreaking.

Not only was I still reeling from the physical and mental effects of the crash, but I had to come to terms with not being able to pursue a career as a paramedic.”

Instead Ben worked as a teacher. But 25 years on, when he was finally able to get a driving licence again, Ben applied for a job as an emergency medical technician at London Ambulance Service.

Ben is now only a year away from achieving his lifelong dream of becoming a paramedic. At the 2023 Adult Learning Awards ceremony held at City Hall, mayor Sadiq Khan presented him with the ‘Good Work Award’, which recognises his exceptional professional progression in the workplace.

Ben, who is based at Edmonton Ambulance Station, said: “I am so proud and honoured. Getting this recognition feels incredible.”

EDMONTON

Teens charged with murder

POLICE HAVE CHARGED TWO men with the murder of 16-year-old Taye Faik in Edmonton.

Taye was attacked at around 11.27pm on Sunday, 1st October, in Kendal Gardens, and was pronounced dead at the scene. A post-mortem examination established the cause of Taye’s death as

sharp force trauma to the chest.

Bernard Carroll, aged 19 and of Church Street in Edmonton Green, and Josiah Semper, aged 18 and of Cromie Close in Palmers Green, were charged with Taye’s murder last month. Four others were arrested in connection with the attack but were later bailed.

Supported by the community

Andrew Warshaw on why local sponsorships are so important for Enfield Town FC

Sponsoring a local football club may not immediately spring to mind as a priority for businesses, with so many other pressing financial considerations. But Enfield Town are not just any football club.

From estate agents to pubs, garden centres to golf clubs, more and more local companies are partnering with the borough's top non-league club, promoting their brands while taking advantage of Enfield Town's unique fan-owned ethos.

No club can survive without strong community support and by offering a range of different packages, Enfield Town are always on the lookout for the right commercial partner.

Waste management company Powerday, which has a thriving branch in Enfield, first became an ETFC sponsor in season 2017/18 and have enjoyed a fruitful association ever since. This season the company are supporting not only the first team but also the club's soccer school, walking football and disability sections.

"We always try to work with organisations who have the local community in their best interests and Enfield Town certainly do that," said Tara Crossan, head of

marketing and communications at Powerday. "What the club are doing aligns very much with our own ethos.

"It's not about a return on our investment financially. That's not the main reason for doing it. It's about doing the right thing. My message to anyone interested in sponsoring the club is that it's really important for private companies to support local community projects. We all know public funding is limited."

One of the more recent sponsors of the club is the Hop Poles in Baker Street, which sports the Enfield Town logo inside and enjoys a full-page advert in every match programme. John O'Dell, son of the pub's manager, says the partnership is invaluable in terms of enhancing the pub's image.

"It's money well spent because the pub sticks in people's minds when they see our name in the programme," said John. "We appreciate everyone around this area and we want to give something back. We are now close to a lot of Enfield fans, many of whom use the pub before games."

On the field, at time of going to press in late November, the Towners have enjoyed a decent run of form over the past month

– winning four out of six games and scoring 20 goals in the process. This has somewhat eased the pain of exiting three cup competitions and kept the club near the top of the table.

Although it was a setback to concede two late goals in a 4–4 home draw with Whitehawk, the game was another example of the great entertainment on offer this season at QE2 Stadium. There are few better places to watch football in the borough, and the progress the new management team have made in such a short space of time is little short of remarkable.

When the new staff arrived in the summer, 'reset' was very much the byword. That usually takes time, but it's been hugely satisfying to see the team battle it out with some of the division's bigger budgets and squad sizes, much of it down to a strong sense of togetherness.

"My staff are worth their weight in gold," says manager Gavin Macpherson. "The games keep coming thick and fast and it's so important for the players to remain grounded. To really achieve something, you have to constantly refocus."

To find out more about the various sponsorship packages provided by Enfield Town FC, email Graham Dodd: Email graham.dodd@etfc.london

Advertising hoardings at QE2 Stadium



Ready to take on the world

Enfield darts player Ritchie Edhouse will be competing in the PDC World Championship this month at Alexandra Palace

An Enfield darts player insists he can "beat anyone" as he prepares to take on the world's best this month.

Ritchie Edhouse, who can often be seen throwing darts at Ponders End Working Men's Club, recently reached the semi-finals of the Players Championship 25 to secure his place at the Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) World Championship at Alexandra Palace, starting on 15th December.

Ranked 54 in the world, Ritchie's appearance at Ally Pally this month will be his fourth in the world champs. He has twice reached the last 64 of the tournament but believes there's no reason he can't go all the way this time around.

"I'm practising a few hours a day, three or four days a week, and I'm feeling good," Ritchie says. "My aim for the worlds is firstly just to play well, because if I bring my top game I can beat anyone. I'm hoping for a good run at the worlds to kick-start next season."

"I play darts at Ponders End Working Men's club, two nights a week, and it's definitely picked up my game a lot in the last year."

At the Players Championship, Ritchie beat former world champion Peter Wright and UK Open champion Andrew Gilding, before narrowly missing out in the semi-finals to Ryan Joyce.

The PDC World Championship is broadcast live on Sky Sports from Friday, 15th December, until Wednesday, 3rd January.

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