

# ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº 90 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

MAR 2026



AT A GRAND reopening event for the newly-refurbished Millfield Theatre in Edmonton last month, audiences were treated to a powerful live performance by Platinum Performing Arts, Power 2 Make A Change, showcasing the exceptional talent nurtured through Platinum's school, college, and grassroots community programmes, as well as reinforcing the theatre's commitment to giving young people a voice – read more on page 16 Credit: Natalie Gee/Platinum Performing Arts

**FEATURES**  
Providing new opportunities to gain business skills  
**P. 4**

**NEWS**  
Families urged to get vaccinated amid measles outbreak  
**P. 8**

**ELECTION 2026**  
Examining how many previous Enfield Labour manifesto pledges have been kept  
**P. 12**

**NEWS**  
Police community support officer retires after 22 years on the Enfield Town beat  
**P. 14**

**SPORT**  
Fixture pile-up for Enfield Town FC after postponements  
**P. 19**

## Investors eye up Meridian Water – as change in direction agreed

BY JAMES CRACKNELL & JOE IVES, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

**B**uy-to-let investors are buying homes at Meridian Water – even before Enfield Council agreed a major new change in direction for the redevelopment project last month.

The council will effectively end its role as a ‘master developer’ for the housing project later this year, following spiralling costs and delays that prompted a “comprehensive review” of Meridian Water’s viability.

Out of a target of 10,000 homes, just 301 homes have been completed so far. Construction work on the first new homes began almost five years ago, while planning and preparation work began well over a decade ago.

Last month’s decision means large swathes of the Edmonton site will now be packaged up and sold off to developers, giving the

council far less control over how the scheme develops in future, but also reducing its exposure to financial risk – with nearly £500million of debt needing to be repaid.

The council originally took on the master-developer role in 2018 after two potential deals with developers to manage the project fell through. At the time, a key benefit was said to be the ability of the council to control the way new homes were marketed – with the civic centre insisting buy-to-let landlords and overseas investors would not be buying them.

But the *Dispatch* has now seen a copy of a sales brochure, headed “Secure your next investment with Meridian One”. It details how Meridian Water is a “premier destination” that “represents an exceptional opportunity to deliver remarkable growth and returns”.

When councillors raised fears over buy-to-let landlords buying homes at Meridian Water six years ago, then-council leader Nesil Caliskan and then-programme

director Peter George responded with a letter which stated: “With the council now in control of the project as master developer since July 2018 and the direction taken since, the reality is the risk associated with private investors and overseas buyers has been significantly diminished.”

“With the council now acting as master developer, we can ensure that private homes will instead be sold to first buyers and UK nationals.”

Contacted for this story, a council spokesperson said they faced “significant challenges” but local people were still being “prioritised” and marketing to overseas investors was only being done after homes had been on sale for a year.

A long-awaited independent report into Meridian Water’s viability, published for the first time last month, warned of “nervousness from some residential developers” and low demand caused by “poor public realm” around Meridian Water Station and “very few amenities to draw people in”.

Even after marketing to buy-to-let landlords, some of the first Meridian Water flats for private sale remain unsold – over three years after first going on sale.

A spokesperson for campaign group Better Homes Enfield said: “Too often, new-build flats in London are sold to investors, pushing up prices and shutting out first-time buyers. Enfield Council said Meridian Water would be different, and that homes would not be marketed to investors. That commitment has now been broken.”

“As master developer, the council has real leverage over how homes are brought to market, so it is deeply disappointing to see homes being sold to investors instead of helping local people get a foot on the ladder.”

The council spokesperson said: “Our priority continues to be local homes for local people. More than 90% of homes built so far at Meridian Water are affordable, including

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



[enfielddispatch.co.uk](http://enfielddispatch.co.uk)

[enfielddispatch@socialspider.com](mailto:enfielddispatch@socialspider.com)

[@enfielddispatch](https://twitter.com/enfielddispatch).bsky.social

[@EnfieldDispatch](https://www.instagram.com/EnfieldDispatch)

[/EnfieldDispatch](https://www.facebook.com/EnfieldDispatch)

# ED.

Nº 90  
MAR 2026

Enfield Dispatch is the borough's free community newspaper. We publish monthly and distribute 15,000 free copies of each issue

**Publisher**  
David Floyd

**Editor**  
James Cracknell

**Local Democracy Reporter**  
Joe Ives

**Designer**  
Jonathan Duncan

**Head of Advertising**  
Klaudia Kiss

**Contributors**  
Cliff Dobbs, Jessica Ampong, Charlotte O'Donoghue, Megan Ledain, Sangeeta Waldron, Neil Littman, Andrew Warshaw, Tommy Rose

## CONTACT

Call 020 8367 2975

Email [EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com](mailto:EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com)

Post Nicholas House, River Front, Enfield EN1 3TF

## ADVERTISING

Call 07728 520 116

Email [mark@socialspider.com](mailto:mark@socialspider.com)

For licensing enquiries:

Email [licences@socialspider.com](mailto:licences@socialspider.com)

Enfield Dispatch is published by Social Spider Community News:

Visit [socialspidercommunitynews.co.uk](http://socialspidercommunitynews.co.uk)



Enfield Dispatch is regulated by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). For more information on the Dispatch's complaints policy and how to make a complaint visit: [enfielddispatch.co.uk/complaints](http://enfielddispatch.co.uk/complaints)

Published on 27/02/2026

## Protection for 'frontline services'

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Enfield Council's final budget for 2026/27 has pledged to "protect frontline services" for the year ahead after a "very positive" funding settlement from the government.

Due to be debated and approved by councillors at a full council meeting shortly after the *Dispatch* went to press, the budget report stated that even while making just under £12million of "savings" made up of various department "efficiencies" and income-raising proposals, "no reductions to the essential support our residents rely on" needed to be made over the coming year.

The report confirmed, however, that council tax would rise by the maximum 4.99% allowed.

The backdrop to the budget had been the boost to council coffers brought about by the government's Fair Funding Review, with the council set to enjoy a 58% rise in "core spending power" over three years – the biggest percentage increase of any London borough. The 2026/27 budget confirmed that for next year the direct uplift of government funding amounts to £54.6m, with another £10.3m generated from growing council tax revenues.

But this additional cash will effectively be swallowed up by the soaring cost of providing services that the council must provide by law – such as an additional £19.3m on adult social care, £6m on children's social care, and £5.4m on temporary accommodation for homeless families. There are also rising costs resulting from salary increases and growing debt repayments.

This time last year, the council

was on the brink of effective bankruptcy. It was an outcome only avoided at the eleventh hour by £30m-worth of 'exceptional financial support' offered by government. But the Fair Funding Review means this delicate financial situation has at least stabilised.

Neil Goddard, the council's head of financial strategy, explained in the budget report to councillors: "The government has fundamentally changed the way funding is allocated to councils through the Fair Funding 2.0 review, reflecting longstanding lobbying by elected members and officers for funding that better aligns with levels of deprivation and need.

"The significant increase in core funding and the council's disciplined financial approach, has been able to protect frontline services, with no reductions to the essential support our residents rely on being proposed in this budget."

However, the budget still includes £9.8m of cuts to back-office functions and £2.2m in income-raising plans, including a range of hiked fees and charges for council services.

The cuts include potentially contentious reductions in spending on special needs transport, with an efficiency review earmarked to save £388,000. Among the creative ideas for generating extra income included in the budget is a proposal to bring in £154,000 from hire charges at a new padel court facility.

Goddard added: "The council is now in a far stronger position to manage future pressures but recognises that the next three years must be utilised to transform and prepare for future challenges. This [government] settlement is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to do that."

The 2026/27 budget also includes a boost to the council's reserves, of around £8m, after they were severely depleted last year.

Olga Bennet, the council's chief finance officer, wrote in the budget report: "The council's reserves have progressed from a critically low position to a low but improved position. This budget allocates a proportion of the annual growth specifically to strengthen risk reserves, aiming to reach adequate levels within the next three years."



Enfield Civic Centre

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

many council homes. Alongside this, we are ensuring Meridian Water becomes a mixed neighbourhood with council, affordable and private homes.

"Over the years, major projects across the country have faced significant challenges due to the economic downturn, the housing crisis and sustained cuts to public funding under previous governments. Many like-for-like projects elsewhere have stalled or collapsed entirely. The only way we have been able to keep Meridian Water moving forward through protecting jobs, investment and delivery has been by remaining

flexible and responsive to changing market conditions.

"At every stage, we have been clear local people are the priority. Local homes for local people remains our guiding principle [...] Through contracts we have in place, private sale homes must be marketed for the first three months to people who live in Enfield. After that, homes can only be marketed within the UK for the following twelve months. The council does not encourage speculative investment."

Last month, deputy council leader Tim Leaver appeared at a scrutiny panel to answer questions on Meridian Water. Council officers revealed 274 more homes would

be built by the end of 2027, taking the total number to 575. Conservative councillor James Hockney asked if that meant there would be an average building rate of around 130 new homes a year until the 10,000-home target was achieved.

Cllr Leaver explained that the rate of construction cannot be predicted as it depends on many factors. He also warned against turning Meridian Water into a "political football" and added: "We didn't foresee in 2016 that Liz Truss would destroy the economy. We didn't see that the Tories would destroy the housing market."

Cllr Hockney said: "Ambition and belief does not sound that set in stone."

## Shutting up shop

A former Labour cabinet member failed to declare on his register of interests that he was leasing a commercial property from Enfield Council.

Documents seen by the *Dispatch* show Guney Dogan, the council's cabinet member for environment from 2018 to 2022, signed a lease for a shop in Baker Street in June 2021 but did not declare it under the 'corporate tenancies' section of his register of interests, as council members are required to do.

In February 2024, the Labour councillor declared at a meeting that he was a "commercial tenant" but there is no public record of him making such a declaration before or since, nor on his register.

Cllr Dogan has not commented. Tory group leader Alessandro Georgiou said: "Once again we have another scandal from an Enfield Labour councillor [...] The people of Enfield have had enough of nonsense like this."

Read more at [enfielddispatch.co.uk](http://enfielddispatch.co.uk).

## Local Plan hearings

Two additional examination hearings of the draft Local Plan will consider new information provided by Enfield Council.

Writing last month to the civic centre, inspector Steven Lee said that "in a small number of instances, the council's submissions have introduced issues that have either not previously been discussed or raise matters where [...] it would be helpful to have further discussion".

The hearings are due to be held remotely this month on the 18th and 19th. Among topics discussed will be the 'new towns' announcement and changes to the council's housebuilding trajectory.

## Andrew de-plaques

A plaque celebrating the official opening of Chase Farm Hospital in Enfield by disgraced ex-prince Andrew has been removed, an NHS trust has confirmed.

Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, then known as 'The Duke of York', was a patron of Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust at the time of the opening in May 2019, a role he was stripped of in 2022. After the King's brother was arrested last month on suspicion of misconduct in public office, a trust spokesperson confirmed the Chase Farm plaque had also been taken down.



# Enfield's highest-rated estate agent

Our success comes from exceptional local knowledge and a personal service the big chains just can't match.



LARCH WAY N14 | £499,995

Modern top-floor apartment with balcony, EV parking, en-suite, long lease and excellent energy efficiency.



ASHRIDGE GARDENS N13 | £750,000

Spacious 3-bed semi with 2 receptions, south garden, parking, and potential to extend/modernise.



ARNOLD GARDENS N13 | UNDER OFFER

Spacious 4-bed 1920s family home with modern kitchen, loft conversion, 2 receptions, and convenient location.



MEADOWCROFT ROAD N13 | UNDER OFFER

Spacious 4-bed period home with loft suite, large garden & modernisation potential in Palmers Green.



TAUNTON DRIVE EN2 | OIEO £850,000

Fully renovated 3-bed detached home with open-plan living, westerly garden, garage, parking and luxury finishes.



KENILWORTH CRESCENT | OIEO £580,000

End-of-terrace 3-bed home with south garden, outbuilding/barbecue, off-street parking, and bright open-plan living.



GORDON HILL EN2 | £640,000

Victorian 4-bed end-of-terrace with open-plan kitchen/diner, 3 floors, off-street parking, and rear garden.



DRAPERS ROAD EN2 | OIEO £700,000

CHAIN FREE 4-bed semi with 2 baths, open-plan living, garden, parking for 3, and modern updates throughout.



GLOUCESTER ROAD | TO LET £2,650

Immaculate 3-bed Victorian home, with loft en-suite, stunning kitchen/diner, garden, near Gordon Hill station.



ELMSCOTT GARDENS N21 | LET BY

Stunning 5-bed detached family home with 3 receptions, 3 baths, large garden, garage, and high-spec finishes.



OAKWOOD PARK ROAD N14 | LET BY

Rare 3-bed detached home with 2 receptions, 2 baths, garage, driveway, and large rear garden.



RIVERSIDE GARDENS EN2 | LET BY

Extended 3-bed mid-terrace with 1 bath, off-street parking, modern kitchen, garden, and period features.

**Residential Sales, Lettings and Property Management** across Enfield, Palmers Green, Southgate, Winchmore Hill and surrounding areas. Stop in at one of our offices or give us a call for a free valuation. To view more properties, visit: [bakerandchase.co.uk](http://bakerandchase.co.uk)

**PALMERS GREEN**  
22 ALDERMANS HILL  
LONDON N13 4PN  
TEL: 020 8886 0090

**ENFIELD CHASE**  
161 CHASE SIDE  
ENFIELD EN2 0PW  
TEL: 020 3637 1100



## Empowering Enfield's entrepreneurs

*Cliff Dobbs, enterprise manager for Angel Yard and Launch It's North London area manager, on how the charity is providing new opportunities to gain business skills*

**L**aunch It is a group of UK charities dedicated to empowering the next generation of business founders. For over 25 years, we have supported more than 12,000 young people to start and grow successful businesses, particularly in communities where access to opportunities, networks and affordable workspaces can be limited.

At the heart of our work in Enfield is Angel Yard, our local enterprise hub in Angel Edmonton, supported by Enfield Council. Once derelict garages, Angel Yard has transformed into a welcoming enterprise hub where local young founders and small business owners can develop ideas, build confidence and turn ambition into action.

From affordable workspaces to fully funded practical training, mentoring, funding access, business advice and peer support, Angel Yard helps local entrepreneurs lay



Angel Yard in Edmonton helps provide low-cost business space for local entrepreneurs

strong foundations for sustainable businesses while contributing to the local economy.

Through our intensive two-year incubation model for young founders aged from 18 to 30 years old, and wider start-up programmes, we support entrepreneurs at the crucial early

stages of their journey not just with business skills, but with the personal development and confidence needed to succeed.

Launch It also supports enterprise and community-building initiatives at Angel Yard such as the regularly held makers market

with The Market Plug, last summer's art showcase with The Matchbox Collective, tree lighting events and other workshops.

We're now excited to invite local residents to take part in Launch It Labs, a new start-up support programme powered by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) through Enfield Council.

Launch It Labs is designed for early-stage entrepreneurs and aspiring founders in Enfield who have a business idea or are just getting started. Through a fully-funded intensive two-day business bootcamp happening this month on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th, participants will get the opportunity to master the basics of starting up, develop essential skills and access free expert mentoring. Participants can also connect with like-minded founders and, at the end of day two of the bootcamp, pitch for a share of £3,000 in funding at a final showcase event.

If you're a local entrepreneur with an idea and the drive to build something of your own, Launch It Labs at Angel Yard could be your next step.

**Sign up for Launch It Labs:**  
Visit [launchit.org.uk/launch-it-labs](http://launchit.org.uk/launch-it-labs)

**Find out more about Angel Yard:**  
Visit [launchit.org.uk/angel-yard](http://launchit.org.uk/angel-yard)

Advertisement

## Why Seasons Art Class Cockfosters & Enfield is the go to for budding artists



Have you ever wondered why The Seasons Art Class is the top choice for aspiring artists? With over 130 branches across the UK and one in Dublin, our success is built on passion, creativity, and community.

Our journey began with a simple goal: to make art accessible and enjoyable for all, regardless of skill level.. Our classes cater to complete beginners and improvers, providing a structured approach that balances skill-building with creativity, ensuring students gain confidence while having fun.

We start with sampler techniques, allowing students to gain confidence before diving into projects. Unlike traditional art classes requiring expensive materials, we provide everything

needed so students can experiment freely. For added convenience, we offer optional low-cost starter packs, ensuring students have the right tools from day one.

Our flexible approach encourages students to develop their own artistic style. While some choose to follow demos closely at first, others use techniques to create unique pieces. Our goal is to empower students to become their own artists.

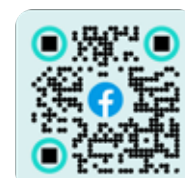
Beyond art, our classes foster friendships and community, bringing like-minded locals together in a warm, supportive environment. Many students say they've found more than a class – they've found a creative family.

Art is a lifelong skill, and our students often create pieces treasured by loved ones. Seeing their growth is incredibly rewarding, and we're proud to provide a space for creativity to flourish.



Join us today and discover the joy of creating! Visit our website at [www.theseasonsartclass.com](http://www.theseasonsartclass.com) to learn more about our courses, locations, and how to enrol. Or give us a call at 020 4542 7606 to chat with our friendly team.

**Art Classes for Everyone | Explore. Create. Inspire.**  
FB: The Seasons Art Class Cockfosters & Enfield  
Instagram: #Seasonsartclasscockfosters



Scan me to learn more



# MORE WAYS TO PLAY IN ENFIELD

Book holiday activities at [better.org.uk/enfield](https://better.org.uk/enfield)



**Young People Are Our Future – Let’s Listen**

# Social media ban: censorship or coddling?

*In the first piece of a three-month series, local school students Megan Ledain, Jessica Ampong and Charlotte O’Donoghue explore the UK government’s proposed social media ban for under-16s*

**I**s the proposed social media ban for under-16s in the UK censoring us or is it another way for overprotective parents to coddle their children?

Born in the early 2010s, we’ve seen the rise of social media as an outlet for personal expression, political activism, news consumption and community building.

But, like most things, social media has downsides. Misinformation, negative impacts on teenage mental health and social media addiction all need addressing.

We feel that encouraging a social media ban for young people wouldn’t be positive for a number of reasons.

Social media is a way for people who struggle socially or don’t have a real-life community to develop connections. Banning it would isolate these people further and could damage their mental health. If someone was being bullied at school and felt isolated, they could turn to social media to find comfort in the communities they are part of.

Additionally, the ban wouldn’t be positive because of the rise of social media jobs. Being an ‘influencer’ is now a real career option, offering opportunities for personal and professional development. Taking social media away prevents under-16s from gaining this

experience and building transferable skills learned online.

Since 2020, social media usage among teens has risen. But what parents and the government don’t understand is that social media is more than memes and skits. It’s where like-minded teens express themselves through online forums.

In recent years, apps such as TikTok, Instagram and Snapchat have adapted their policies to ensure online safety. In September 2025, Instagram automatically gave under-18s ‘private status’, including protections such as sleep mode, limited sensitive content and mandatory parental permission.

This allows teens to access the app whilst maintaining privacy and parental supervision.

According to the BBC, one-in-three teenagers aged 15–18 have met a friend online. Friends-behind-screens can provide non-biased emotional support, making it easier to share struggles. Social media achieves something reality doesn’t: the ability to find our niche and meet others who share similar interests. Online, it doesn’t matter where you’re from or who you are.

A close friend of ours has built an online community by posting her own edits, forming connections globally. If a ban was



Jessica Ampong, Charlotte O’Donoghue and Megan Ledain Credit Kai Images

imposed, she would miss out on development skills and an escape from everyday life. Online friendships can be as valuable as offline ones, relying on emotional connection over physical proximity.

We understand that by proposing a national phone ban, the government is trying to protect us. However, it could harm our education more than they realise. Many students rely on social media for study resources

such as Medly and Cognito. Banning it could remove these beneficial tools and the positive influencers who give study advice.

As year ten students, we learn a lot from social media. For example, ‘The Light Up Hub’ gives helpful tips for English literature and language. This account and others have supported us and many students, but here’s the kicker: the only way to access them is through social media.

The government must realise that young people live in a digital age. Of course, the internet has flaws. The rise of AI makes it easier to spread fake news and manipulate ideas, which can damage young minds. But the problem isn’t social media itself. It’s the lack of media and digital literacy.

Phone use should be monitored in spaces where it can be misused, such as schools, but don’t ban the tools we use to connect. Create rules that allow us to make responsible choices as we grow into adults.

The government should invest more in training and support for media literacy so young people can use social media safely. Social media isn’t the root cause of misinformation – a lack of media literacy is. Don’t punish us because the world is getting smarter.

St Anne’s Catholic High School for Girls is the pilot for a bespoke digital safety programme, ‘Building Futures: Safer, Smarter Families’, developed and delivered by Exodus Youth Worx UK and Curate Your Genius and partly funded by LocalMotion Enfield.

Please get in touch if you are interested in running the programme at other schools or spaces.



# A different economic idea for Enfield

*Sangeeta Waldron speaks to Ben Bleet, sustainability and culture expert at Enfield Climate Action Forum, to find out more about Doughnut Economics*

**H**ave you heard of Doughnut Economics? It's a model designed for 21st Century prosperity, aiming to ensure everyone has what they need to live well, without overshooting the planet's limits.

As climate pressures grow and trust in existing systems falters, many people feel the systems we rely on are flawed. Research by Ipsos in November 2025 found that around half of people in the UK believe we need radical change.

Enfield Climate Action Forum (EnCaf), with LocalMotion Enfield, is exploring Doughnut Economics to understand how everyday decisions affect both people's wellbeing and the planet. I spoke to Ben Bleet, sustainability and culture expert working with EnCaf, about how this approach might work locally.

**What does Doughnut Economics offer us in Enfield?** It gives Enfield an opportunity to address its challenges collectively and systematically, while also pointing towards what a regenerative economy could look like in practice. It's a way of thinking that

overturns dominant narratives.

I think we're in a 'cost of not loving' crisis. For decades, a neoliberal narrative has been woven into our culture; the idea that free markets self-correct and that people are inherently selfish. Neither of these are true, but they've shaped our institutions and thinking for nearly sixty years.

At the heart of that philosophy are two main ideas: that companies should be allowed to operate with minimal regulation, and that people are primarily motivated by self-interest.

Cultures built on those assumptions tend to exploit or harm our life-support systems of water, land, air and living organisms, because they rely on scarcity and competition rather than care.

Regenerative cultures, by contrast, recognise that collaboration can lead to shared abundance.

**What stands out to you most when you think about applying Doughnut Economics locally?**

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to influence the design of neighbourhood governance. There's also 'Pride of Place' funding, announced

by the government, which gives us a real pathway to move Enfield towards what Doughnut Economics calls a "safe and just space".

What's powerful about Doughnut Economics is that it helps us see the interconnections between social outcomes and planetary boundaries. It allows us to step into the future we want, rather than accepting the future we're told is inevitable.

The mainstream narrative is very deterministic, it tells us there have always been wars, we'll always need fossil fuels, and everything will somehow be fine. But we're at a critical moment where Doughnut Economics can help amplify marginalised voices.

People don't feel heard and that's not just an Enfield issue; it's a national one. Trust in institutions is low, and this process gives residents a genuine opportunity to be part of how Enfield is governed.

**Are there examples of how we could apply this system to local issues?**

This isn't about telling people what should happen, it's about creating a process where residents shape the outcomes.

Two very tangible examples are energy and health. Most people would like to save money on their bills. Across the country, more communities are going off-grid, including a street in Walthamstow, which shows this isn't just a rural idea. If we retrofit homes and install solar panels, residents could reduce energy costs and even earn a small income by selling surplus energy back to the grid.

With health there's scientific evidence that connection to nature improves wellbeing. Across the borough, there are spaces where we could introduce green verges with wildflowers, attracting bees, birds and insects. Add vegetable growing, and those spaces become even more valuable.

By creating green spaces

close to people's homes, you improve health and happiness. Community gardens foster connection and conversation. Loneliness is a huge issue, and these shared spaces will help address it. While allotments exist, they require time and travel, which many people don't have. Small, local green spaces are a simple and inclusive alternative.

**How would this approach differ from the way councils and governments usually measure success or growth?**

We would still measure things like health and social cohesion. The difference is the approach, particularly how consultation works. When people feel they've had a genuine choice and helped build something, they're far more committed to making it succeed.

It's similar to citizens' assemblies, which show that when you bring together a cross-section of the community, you get thoughtful decision-making. Our current political systems often reward whoever shouts the loudest. Doughnut Economics helps people understand their agency and share their moral ambition. It's also relatively low-cost and doesn't require big budgets.

Councils work in silos, treating climate, health, community and culture separately, when in reality they are deeply interconnected.

**Finally, what role do local people play, and how can they be involved?**

Everyone has a role and anyone interested should get in touch via EnCaf's website. We're currently shaping the process and learning from others, including from projects like the Green Estate in Sheffield, a council estate that has been rewilded. Ultimately, this is about rebuilding connection, with each other, and with the places we live.

Find out more about Enfield Climate Action Forum:  
Visit [encaf.org](http://encaf.org)

A CAPE meeting held last month with Alev Cazimoglu, Enfield Council's cabinet member health, social care and public health



## Supporting family carers

*CAPE on how it supports the carers and parents of learning-disabled adults in the borough*

**C**arers and Parents of Adults With Learning Disabilities in Enfield (CAPE) was formed in 1999, when families of adults with learning disabilities realised that they needed to join together to ensure that the interests of their vulnerable family members were appropriately considered, as Enfield Council was changing the delivery of its services.

Meetings took place and voices were heard, resulting in positive outcomes. CAPE has continued to operate as an independent community organisation and has challenged and supported Enfield Council on a significant number of occasions.

The group is run by unpaid family carers of learning-disabled adults, to provide a platform to empower family carers by offering support and friendship, advice and information, and by voicing members' issues. In addition, CAPE aims to support carers of younger adults, at a time when they feel fearful for the future, as their child reaches adulthood.

CAPE holds regular meetings where members decide on the speakers. We have welcomed MPs, councillors, council officers, lawyers, service providers and experts in various fields. We give members the opportunity to share experiences, concerns and expertise. As carers of people with learning disabilities, most of us undertake a caring role for many years, and build up a vast amount of knowledge, particularly regarding the rights of disabled people and carers.

When LocalMotion Enfield asked CAPE to participate in the setting up of a new group, Empowering Disability In Enfield (EDIE), we were pleased to do this. It has enabled us share our knowledge and networks, and to learn about the problems which other disabled people face. We know that working together gives people a stronger voice, but many vulnerable people are unable to make their voices heard.

We look forward to supporting EDIE, and helping all disabled people and their carers in Enfield to live the fulfilling lives they deserve.

Find out more about CAPE: Visit [cape-ld.org](http://cape-ld.org)



The Doughnut of social and planetary boundaries Credit: Kate Raworth and Christian Guthrie. CC-BY-SA 4.0. Citation: Raworth, K. (2017), 'Doughnut Economics: seven ways to think like a 21st century economist'. London: Penguin Random House.

# Doubts raised over Tory election promises

## Enfield Labour claim axing LTNs and bringing back weekly bin collections would not be feasible

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Enfield Labour have claimed opposition Conservative promises on axing low-traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) and bringing back weekly bin collections are “unlawful” and “unaffordable” respectively.

The Labour group at Enfield Civic Centre last month sought to undermine two of the signature policies being championed by their main rivals ahead of the upcoming local election on 7th May – but the Tories in turn hit back to defend their key pledges.

The questions raised over the feasibility of removing LTNs in Palmers Green and Bowes Park followed a Court of Appeal judgement which ruled it would be unlawful for Tower Hamlets Council – led by the Aspire Party – to remove three LTNs installed by the borough’s former Labour administration.

LTNs restrict vehicles from using residential areas as cut-throughs or ‘rat runs’, with the aim of making streets safer and reducing air pollution. However, such restrictions often create longer journeys for drivers living inside them and can worsen traffic on roads outside LTN boundaries.

Tower Hamlets Council’s decision to remove its own LTNs was challenged by a local campaign group, with the court eventually ruling against the town hall – citing a “failure to reconsult” among its reasons for the decision.

Since this ruling, both Enfield Labour and campaign group Better Streets for Enfield have claimed it would now be “unlawful” for a potential future Conservative administration to go ahead with removing the two LTNs funded by Transport for London (TfL).

Asked for his thoughts on the Court of Appeal ruling, Tory group leader Alessandro Georgiou said: “It remains our Enfield Conservative policy and intention to rip out every single Labour LTN within the London borough of Enfield using all legal means necessary.

“If we win we will have a demo-

The Tories have pledged to “rip out” two LTNs in the borough



cratic mandate to do this.

“The problem, having read the judgement with the Tower Hamlets case, is that they did not run a good enough consultation. We will avoid that mistake.”

However, Better Streets for Enfield argues that the Court of Appeal ruling essentially blocks the Conservatives from removing the Fox Lane and Bowes Park LTNs without permission from Mayor of London Sir Sadiq Khan.

A spokesperson for the group said: “The judge made clear that any council leader proposing to remove schemes such as low-traffic neighbourhoods cannot do so unless they have the backing of Transport for London and the mayor [Khan]. It was their funding which enabled them to be implemented.”

An Enfield Labour spokesperson said: “The Enfield Conservatives are making big promises because it’s an election year, but they know they won’t be able to keep them.

“One of their main promises is to scrap LTNs on day one by switching off the cameras. However, the LTNs in Enfield were paid for with money from Transport for London, and a recent legal ruling makes clear that simply turning off the cameras would be unlawful.

“In other words, this promise can’t legally be done.”

Meanwhile, the Tories have also promised to bring back weekly bin rounds to the borough, some six years after they were axed by the Labour administration at Enfield Civic Centre.

While Labour is now making its own pledge to reintroduce weekly

recycling collections, it claims that the Conservative promise on weekly general waste bins is “unaffordable” – citing a cost of £7million.

But the Tories say they “completely refute” that number, since the original cost saving made in 2020 when weekly bin rounds were axed amounted to only £2m. The opposition group also claims that its policy on waste collections is “fully costed”.

Asked to explain how its own £7m figure was calculated, Enfield Labour says that £2m covers only the cost of staffing and additional bin lorries, and that the additional £5m relates to the extra cost of waste disposal – which must be done via incineration. Recycling, on the other hand, is cheaper to dispose of.

Council leader Ergin Erbil said: “The Enfield Conservatives are making promises they cannot keep. I want to be clear with residents, Enfield Labour will only make promises we know we can achieve.”

The *Dispatch* has asked Enfield Labour how much its own pledge on reintroducing weekly recycling collections would cost, but was told only that it would be paid for “by increasing the overall waste budget thanks to the increase in money from the [government’s] fair funding review”.

The *Dispatch* also asked the Tories to explain how it will pay for weekly collections of both recycling and general waste. Cllr Georgiou said: “As the leader of the Enfield Conservatives I am proud to state once again that if we win in May we will bring back the weekly black and blue bin collections. Labour moved it to fortnightly, and ever since we have seen rampant fly-tipping and families struggling.

“On the finance point, it is a fully costed policy.”

Both the Labour and the Conservative groups are expected to publish their election manifestos later in March.

Has Enfield Labour kept its promises? – see page 12

Measles vaccines help stop the spread of the disease Credit Ed Us on Unsplash



## Families urged to get vaccinated amid measles outbreak

BY JOE IVES, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

More than 71 suspected cases of measles have now been reported in North London as an outbreak which started in Enfield in January continues to spread.

Dr Jo Sauvage, chief medical officer at North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB) said the measles outbreak was mainly affecting children in schools and nurseries, with the most severe cases – requiring hospital treatment – linked to unvaccinated patients.

Of the 71 cases recorded in January and February, 59 were in Enfield and twelve in Haringey.

She said North London’s uptake of the MMR vaccine was “below optimal levels” at 65% and, while there was “no single cause” for low vaccination rates, she noted population mobility, the Covid-19 pandemic and practical barriers to appointments as all playing a part.

The health boss said NCL ICB was working with Enfield Council and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) “to control the spread with a system-wide response, including targeted outreach through schools, primary care, community services and local NHS trusts”.

Cabinet member for health Alev Cazimoglu said the council “has had a very robust response to the outbreak of measles since January and many actions have been taken locally”.

Cllr Cazimoglu said all parents and guardians of school-age children were being urged to check their vaccination records. Catch-up clinics for unvaccinated children are being held and local nursing teams are contacting families who may have gaps in their vaccination history.

Cllr Cazimoglu said the vaccine was the only way to “protect yourself and others from the measles”. “By acting now, you can help protect yourself, your family and the community around you,” she added.

The council told parents in January it may exclude unvaccinated pupils for 21 days if they were identified as being in close contact with an infected person.

Dr Sauvage also reaffirmed the importance of vaccination and said: “Measles resurges when vaccination rates fall, but this is something we can turn around.

“The vaccine is safe and effective, and by boosting uptake quickly we can prevent further outbreaks.”

Children can be vaccinated through their GP or local catch-up vaccination clinics. Find out more and book an appointment: Visit [schoolvaccination.uk/catch-up-clinics/catch-up-enfield](https://schoolvaccination.uk/catch-up-clinics/catch-up-enfield)

# ★ — WHAT'S ON AT MILLFIELD THEATRE — ★



## THE THREE DEGREES

6th March 2026 | 7:30pm  
Tickets from £33.50



## WOMEN IN ROCK

20th March 2026 | 7:30pm  
Tickets: £28.50



## A NIGHT TO REMEMBER MOTOWN SHOW

28th March 2026 | 7:30pm  
Tickets: £31.50



## KARAOKE NIGHT - RELAUNCH EDITION

4 April 2026 | 7pm  
Tickets: £10



## K-POP POWER

10th & 11th April 2026 | 1pm & 5:30pm  
Tickets: £21.50



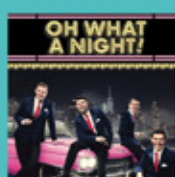
## THE ROD STEWART SONGBOOK

25th April 2026 | 7:30pm  
Tickets £27.50



## THE FUREYS

27th April 2026 | 7:30pm  
Tickets: £31.50



## OH WHAT A NIGHT

15th May 2026 | 7:30pm  
Tickets: £28.50



## THE ELO ENCOUNTER

22nd May 2026 | 7:30pm  
Tickets: £27.50



## LEVEL UP LIVE - WITH THE LEWIS SISTERS

23rd May 2026 | 4:30pm  
Tickets: £15



## FEARLESSLY TAYLOR

31st May 2026 | 4pm  
Tickets: £16.50



## AN EVENING OF CLASSIC REGGAE

12th June 2026



## GIVE ME THE NIGHT

20th June 26 | 7:30pm  
Tickets: £28.50



## CELEBRATING CELINE

26th June 2026 | 7:30pm  
Tickets: £31.50



## JIVE TALKIN' (BEE GEES)

12th September 2026 | 7:30pm  
Tickets: £29.50



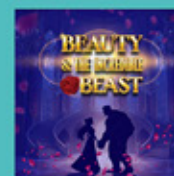
## SUGAR PIE HONEY BUNCH - THE MUSIC OF THE FOUR TOPS

27th September 2026 | 7:30pm  
Tickets: £29.50



## TALON - THE BEST OF EAGLES

7th November 2026



## BEAUTY AND THE INCREDIBLE BEAST

4th-30th December 2026  
Tickets from £19.50

**MILLFIELD**  
THEATRE

Silver Street, N18 1PJ  
020 8807 6680  
[www.millfieldtheatre.co.uk](http://www.millfieldtheatre.co.uk)

Scan to book  
your tickets now!



## Whitewebbs campaigners win right to challenge council in court – again



An Enfield Council notice of the planning application submitted by Tottenham Hotspur was hung from a tree at Whitewebbs Park, among other places, during the spring of 2024

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

**C**ampaigners opposing the plans by Tottenham Hotspur for a women’s training centre on Whitewebbs Park have been given permission to take their case to the High Court.

The Guardians of Whitewebbs group had last year submitted a judicial review request following the decision by Enfield Council to grant planning permission for the training centre as part of the Premier League club’s lease of the park.

The campaigners claim that the decision to approve came after planning committee members were “misled” on the issue of biodiversity and that some council policies were also “misinterpreted” in a report presented to councillors.

The judicial review, which could take place as soon as April, will be the second such case to be heard with respect to Whitewebbs in as many years.

In February 2024 a High Court judge heard three days of evidence presented for and against the council’s 2023 decision to award a 25-year lease of more than half of the park to Tottenham Hotspur. That review, brought by Friends of Whitewebbs Park chair Sean Wilkinson, was ultimately

unsuccessful – and a planning application for the training centre was quickly submitted.

Reacting to the news of the second judicial review being given the go-ahead to proceed to court, Benny Hawksbee, chair of Guardians of Whitewebbs, said: “Despite their enormous financial clout, [the] Spurs takeover of Whitewebbs is not a done deal. We’re one step closer to saving this precious and unique public park.”

The campaign group raised close to £30,000 through a crowdfunder last summer to help fund its legal challenge, collecting donations from nearly 900 people. Benny added: “We’re enormously grateful to the hundreds of people, from the local community as well as further afield, who enabled us to take this necessary legal action to preserve our park for wildlife, local people and future generations to enjoy.”

The civic centre maintains that the decision to grant planning permission was fully lawful. A spokesperson said: “Enfield Council is confident that proper legal processes and procedures have been followed in the determination of the planning application. We will vigorously defend the judicial review.

“The proposed development 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 more than 80% of the park for all residents.”

Although the latest judicial review has been brought by a different group of people, they will be represented by the same legal team which fought the unsuccessful 2024 case – Public Interest Law Centre (PILC).

A PILC spokesperson said: “Whitewebbs Park has been in public use for nearly a century, and our clients are fighting to keep it that way. Turning public parks into enclosed, private spaces is short-term thinking that degrades the public realm in the long term.”

Legal arguments that will be presented in court include the claim that the council breached the Local Government Act 1972 “in relation to the transparency of planning committee meetings” and “misled the planning committee on the issue of biodiversity net gain”. It will also be argued that the council “erred in its consideration of impacts on the openness of the Green Belt”.

Another ground has been rejected by the judge, relating to bias and predetermination, but the campaigners say “new evidence” has been submitted to court to support it and they hope it will still be considered.

The court has also confirmed that it will cap costs for the case to £10,000 should the judicial review be lost.

The Whitewebbs campaigners are now backed by Dame Judi Dench, who recently criticised both the council and Tottenham Hotspur, saying it was “absolutely essential” to “protect people’s access to nature”.

The football club, meanwhile, describes its plans for the park as “a once in a generation opportunity to create a regionally significant asset for Enfield”.

Donald Howkins with his birthday card from the King



## D-Day veteran celebrates 105th birthday

*Donald Howkins, who resides at an Enfield care home, is one of the last surviving British veterans of the D-Day landings in June 1944*

**E**nfield war hero Donald Howkins has celebrated his 105th birthday – receiving almost 350 handmade cards.

Children from schools across the borough helped the D-Day veteran celebrate the special occasion at Elsyng House Care Home in Forty Hill, where he has lived for the past three years.

Along with hundreds of thousands of Allied troops, Donald – then aged 23 – landed on the beaches of Normandy in June 1944 to help liberate France from Nazi occupation. The event is seen as the most pivotal moment of the Second World War, with the Nazis eventually being defeated a year later.

Two years ago Donald spoke to the *Dispatch* about his memories of the war, when he was part of the 90th Middlesex Regiment of the Royal Artillery. He later became a viral TikTok star thanks to a video posted by Elsyng House on VE Day last year.

Donald celebrated his 105th birthday on Sunday, 25th January, with a special afternoon tea organised by Elsyng House. He enjoyed a tot of his favourite whiskey, which he credits his long life to, and was thrilled to celebrate the milestone with his son, Alan, who’d made the trip from his home in the United States.

Elsyng House invited children from

four local schools to make cards for Donald, which they hand-delivered on the day. Children and staff from Worcester’s Primary School, St George’s Primary School and Forty Hill Primary School popped in to wish him well, while youngsters from Oasis Academy in Enfield sang for him, and presented him with their cards.

The D-Day veteran also got a card from King Charles and Queen Camilla. “Thank you to everyone who has made me feel special,” the birthday boy said. “I have enjoyed every moment, and I am very grateful for all the love.”

Elsyng House’s lifestyles team leader, Alina Achitei, said it was a joyful afternoon. “Donald has become a bit of a local celebrity and so many people wanted to wish him well.

“The thoughtful, hand-drawn cards from the children were very special and something he can look back on. He gave so much in his service career and it’s wonderful to see the community showing him so much affection in return.”

Donald’s son Alan and his wife, his daughter Susan, his grandson Gary and granddaughter Katie were at Elsyng House for the birthday celebrations, where the team had organised entertainment from singer Siobhan Walsh and a bespoke cake adorned with icing medals.

# Waltham Forest College

**REGISTER NOW**

# OPEN EVENT

**Wednesday 11 March, 4pm - 7pm**

- For School Leavers (16-18) and Adults
- Parents & Carers welcome to attend

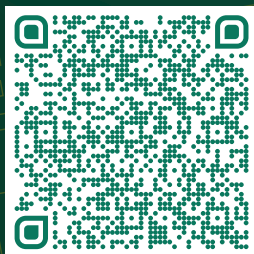
Choosing the right next step after school or when returning to education can feel overwhelming.

## We can help!

- Speak directly with tutors and support teams
- Understand clear pathways into careers, apprenticeships or further study
- See our facilities and learning environments
- Explore options for school leavers and adults returning to education

## Why choose Waltham Forest College?

- Ofsted Outstanding college
- Award winning careers provision
- Strong employer links
- Supportive teaching environment




Scan here or visit  
[waltham.ac.uk](https://waltham.ac.uk)  
to register for  
the Open Event

### 16-18 courses

- Vocational (BTEC)
- T Levels
- Apprenticeships

### Adult courses

- Access to Higher Education
- Apprenticeships
- Full-time & Part-time
- Short courses
- English & maths
- ESOL

 020 8501 8501

 [myfuture@waltham.ac.uk](mailto:myfuture@waltham.ac.uk)

 707 Forest Road, Walthamstow, E17 4JB





## Has Enfield Labour kept its promises?



Council leader Ergin Erbil pictured last month at the Meridian Water redevelopment, where 1,000 trees have now been planted – three times more than the number of completed homes Credit Enfield Council

The *Dispatch* has analysed the previous election pledges made in 2022 to determine how many have been achieved over the past four years

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Later this month local political parties planning to field candidates at this year’s local election in Enfield will be publishing their manifestos – no doubt including a number of lofty promises.

Manifestos are a declaration of intent and a chance to lure voters, but they are not a guarantee of action and pledges can often go unfulfilled, for various reasons.

With that in mind, the pre-election period is the perfect time to look back on the promises made four years ago, and establish how many made by the winning party have been kept – and how many were broken.

The local Labour group’s 2022 election manifesto – titled *Enfield Labour On Your Side* – was only twelve pages long but packed in 41 pledges across a range of topics including the environment, community safety, education, public health, the local economy and housing.

The *Dispatch* has looked at every single pledge made in 2022 and concluded that at least 13 have definitely been missed – a failure rate of 32%, or almost one-third.

There remains a lack of clarity over two other pledges which Enfield Labour was invited to provide evidence for – with none forthcoming. It’s also worth noting that at least eight of the promises deemed to have been kept can be described as ‘easy’ or ‘vague’, including a pledge to “continue to

issue fines and prosecute those who fly-tip”.

Some of the more notable policies that have been delivered on include the launch of a landlord’s licensing scheme; opening a new recycling and reuse centre; investing £2.5million (later increased to £3.4m) to build a new mental health and wellbeing centre, now under construction; delivering ten new wetlands; and creating five new family hubs and children’s centres offering free services for parents.

As for the promises that have been broken, it’s fair to say they include many of the more eye-catching policies included in Enfield Labour’s election manifesto.

Firstly, there was the pledge to “plant one million new trees to create a new borough forest, and apply for Enfield to have royal borough status”. It was a lofty goal – which has not even come close to being met.

Enfield Council’s tree-planting programme at its Enfield Chase Woodland Restoration Project is a success story, having won multiple awards and seen around 150,000 trees planted in total, putting the borough at the top of a London-wide league table. However, most of these trees arrived prior to the 2022 election, and the planting programme seems to have stalled somewhat since. It’s also unclear where the land needed for “one million trees” would even come from, since the Labour-run council is intent on allowing housing development across a large swathe of the borough’s Green Belt.

Another broken promise was the vow to “introduce 200 additional mobile CCTV cameras to catch more fly-tippers”. While there has been a boost to surveillance locally, only 16 cameras specifically for catching fly-tippers have been brought in.

Regarding parks, Enfield Labour pledged to “create cafe and toilet facilities in all our major parks”. Progress on this goal was significantly hampered in 2023 when four existing cafes were shut down

over a contract dispute, with one remaining closed ever since. While there are new facilities being developed in some parks, the pledge remains a long way off being met.

Worse still, the pledge to “build an outdoor swimming lido for residents” has gone nowhere. In 2024, when it became apparent there was little money available for a new lido, the council looked instead at introducing areas for wild swimming using existing lakes – but even this idea has now been shelved.

In a statement included in full at the end of this article, Enfield Labour dispute that the promise on an outdoor swimming lido has been broken – by claiming that a privately-run surfing lagoon in Pickett’s Lock (granted approval last year) counts as a lido.

The manifesto also promised to “take back and invest in Fusion-run leisure centres”. Fusion, which had long been struggling financially, was indeed ditched as the council’s leisure provider in late 2023 – but instead of taking back control of the borough’s facilities, a new company was brought in to run them instead. GLL’s management of Enfield’s leisure centres does seem to be going well so far, with significant refurbishments completed, most notably at Edmonton (although the extensive work necessitated a 17-month closure). But this does not count as “taking back” leisure centres.

On community safety, Labour pledged to “create a new Enfield Council law enforcement team of 50 additional officers to help tackle crime and antisocial behaviour”. To date, there are 23 – fewer than half the number promised.

Two manifesto pledges related to council tax, and both have been broken. The first was to “maintain our generous £38m council tax support scheme”. But successive budgets have included cuts to the scheme, most notably in 2024, when a local debt expert warned that



Enfield Labour’s promise to create an “outdoor swimming lido” has come to nothing Credit Tom Page via Wikimedia Commons

the reduction of the maximum discount for working age claimants, from 75% to 50%, would “impose a huge burden on low-income households”. The *Dispatch* also recently revealed there’d been a 10% rise in the council’s use of bailiffs sent to collect council tax debts in Enfield.

The other Labour pledge was to “keep council tax as low as possible” – but, it has risen by the maximum 5% permitted in each of the last four years. The latest tax hike agreed for 2026/27 comes despite Enfield being the biggest beneficiary in London of the government’s Fair Funding Review.

A further two broken promises relate to housebuilding. On this, Enfield Council is certainly not alone in struggling to keep pace, with the huge spike in construction costs since 2022 having a significant impact across the whole country.

The Labour group’s key pledge locally was to “deliver 3,500 affordable homes” but figures for the most recent full financial year (2024/25) show just 89 affordable homes being built across Enfield over twelve months. The previous year was even worse – with 55 completed.

For this article, Enfield Labour was invited to comment on its track record. A spokesperson said: “The vast majority of our 2022 promises have been achieved and many others are well advanced.

“We ended Fusion’s contract and brought centres under new management with GLL, alongside millions of pounds of refurbishment.

“Plans are moving forward for the new lido as part of the Surf London development in the Lee Valley.

“We are planting one million trees through the Enfield Chase Restoration Project, London’s largest rewilding scheme.

“We have installed more than 200 new CCTV cameras and over 16 dedicated waste enforcement cameras. Crucially, we recognised that visible enforcement officers are more effective, which is why we now have 73 frontline enforcement officers, new park safety patrols, estate security patrols and more community enforcement officers launching in March. Fly-tipping is down and crime is falling.

“All of this has been achieved despite a decade of crippling underfunding, the economic chaos under previous Tory governments, and Enfield being one of the worst-funded boroughs, ranked seventh-worst funded nationally. All while wealthier areas received more support. We have achieved this in the toughest financial climate in a generation.

“We are proud of our record and look forward to defending it in May.”

**FEMALE  
ONLY**

**CUPPING  
METHODS**

**TEENS  
11-16**

Get Instant Pain Relief With Cupping Therapy & Hijama.  
Faster Weightloss with Manual Lymphatic Drainage &  
Debloat your Stomach. Control Menstrual Pain.  
Release Facial Tension to Ease Wrinkles &  
Seek a Spiritual Cleanse here!

# 50% OFF SPRING SALE

on Multiple Wellness Treatments

**SHOP & BOOK NOW**

**0207 101 3182**

**www.cuppingmethods.com**

PROMOTION ENDS 01.05.26 DISCOUNT IS AUTOMATICALLY APPLIED AT CHECKOUT VIA THE WEBSITE  
BOOKINGS VIA THE PHONE WILL REQUIRE FULL PAYMENT TO SECURE APPOINTMENT



**The Bridge**  
- Acting Group -

**DO YOU WANT TO ACT?**

Join our new beginners performing group

• Tuesdays from 5-7PM •

Email: [hello@facefront.org](mailto:hello@facefront.org)

Registered Charity No.1116506



**ENFIELD TALKING  
NEWSPAPER**

The Enfield Talking Newspaper has been providing a free audio recording of local news to our blind and partially sighted neighbours since 1961. Please visit [etnlisten.com](http://etnlisten.com) to listen or to register for a free weekly copy of our recording. We are always looking for volunteer readers and recordists too.

**Sign up to The Weekly Dispatch, our regular e-newsletter:**

**Visit [eepurl.com/imC6To](http://eepurl.com/imC6To) or scan the QR code**



# 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](mailto:EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com) before the next deadline on **Monday 16th March**.

## Challenging the new town narrative

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

**O**ne thousand football pitches – 884 hectares. That's the scale of the 'new town' the government would like to build between Crews Hill and Oakwood. Shocked?

We urgently need more homes, but will this new town, which would take years to build, really solve Enfield or London's housing crisis?

No final decision on the locations of the new towns, including Crews Hill and 'Chase Park', have been made by the government yet, although an update is expected shortly.

Action for Enfield's Future has been set up to help local residents understand the new town proposals and other major decisions affecting the lives of Enfield's residents, our children and grandchildren.

Action for Enfield's Future is a coalition of groups, with representatives from The Enfield Society, Better Homes Enfield, Enfield Climate Action Forum and Enfield RoadWatch. All have proven track records in campaigning to protect what is good and unique about our borough and fighting for a fairer future.

We work to make the borough we love a fairer and better place to live, by pushing for transparent, evidence-based decisions for residents. Affordable housing, protecting our countryside and addressing climate change are central to the groups' lobbying of Enfield Council, Mayor of London Sir Sadiq Khan and the government.

Action for Enfield's Future and our member groups believe that there are better ways to provide homes in Enfield without concreting over our countryside, described by Enfield Council as "the lungs of London". But will they listen?

To find out what is being proposed for Enfield and why we think there is a better way, please visit [actionforenfieldsfuture.org.uk](http://actionforenfieldsfuture.org.uk)

**Helen Osman**  
Trustee, The Enfield Society

## Beaver away

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

**T**he introduction of beavers at Whitewebbs Park has brought clear benefits. The project has educational value, has engaged the public, and has highlighted the role beavers can play in restoring ecosystems.

It is nevertheless important to be realistic about the scale at which these benefits can be expected. The beavers are contained within a fenced enclosure, which inevitably limits their ecological effects to a small, managed area. While beavers can deliver significant environmental benefits where they are able to influence whole river systems, those wider impacts are typically associated with much larger, connected landscapes.

Enfield Council has described the beavers project as contributing to "sustainable flood management across the borough". In the absence of publicly available evidence showing effects beyond the site itself, it may be more accurate to view the project as supporting local habitat creation and public engagement, rather than as a measure with demonstrable borough-wide flood management outcomes.

It is also worth acknowledging the trade-offs involved. The creation of the enclosure required the removal of a number of mature trees, which are themselves valuable ecological assets. Recognising this loss alongside the project's benefits would allow for a more complete and transparent assessment of its environmental impact.

**Henry Jacobs**  
Enfield Town

**Get the Dispatch delivered to your door:**

**Visit [enfielddispatch.co.uk/support-us](http://enfielddispatch.co.uk/support-us)**

## AROUND THE BOROUGH

### WINCHMORE HILL

## Barrowell Green to be leased to waste authority



Barrowell Green Recycling Centre

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

BARROWELL GREEN RECYCLING Centre will be leased to North London Waste Authority (NLWA), Enfield Council has decided.

The deal to lease the site has been struck after a tendering exercise for the site's management was ditched last year "due to concerns regarding value for money and the wider public interest". The contract with current operators Suez Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd is due to expire on Tuesday, 31st March.

NLWA will operate the site under its wholly-owned company, London Energy, and has already promised to ditch the current booking system to allow residents to turn

up anytime they like.

At an overview and scrutiny committee meeting last month, concerns were raised over what impact the lease for Barrowell Green would have on the services offered, but councillors voted to back the decision after council officers clarified that the transfer "does not remove the council's ability to influence or participate in decisions regarding future or major site changes".

NLWA will be required to undertake "stakeholder engagement and public consultation" on any significant proposals for Barrowell Green. The inter-authority agreement also includes a mechanism for the site to be returned to the council.

More than 95% of site users are Enfield residents, meaning that the majority of costs "will continue to fall to or benefit the council" rather than NLWA. As such, the council claims, "residents should not experience any reduction or change in service".

Financial savings could come from NLWA's scale of operations and proximity of other facilities. The waste authority covers seven North London boroughs in total.

NLWA is not expected to reduce the range of materials accepted, and could eventually increase them. Any significant operational changes, such as revised opening hours, would also require consultation.

Invited to comment on the lease decision, NLWA chair Clyde Loakes said: "We're really pleased to bring Barrowell Green into our already large network of reuse and recycling centres for the benefit of residents in Enfield and North London.

"It's a much-used site, with around 220,000 visitors per year and more than 11,000 tonnes of materials brought to it. By bringing it into our North London network we can make the experience simpler and more convenient for residents."

### SOUTHBURY

## Left-turn ban fears

TRANSPORT FOR LONDON (TfL) plans to revamp a major junction in the borough are causing concern among motorists who fear a banned left-turn will worsen traffic.

TfL says that the scheme it is proposing for the junction of the A10 Great Cambridge Road and Lincoln Road will "provide new or improved pedestrian crossings" and "include a new direct east-west cycle crossing, as well as widened footways".

But Enfield North MP Feryal Clark has said that one aspect of the scheme – a proposed ban on left turns from the eastbound Lincoln Road on to the A10 – is "causing

real anxiety for some residents".

She said: "I will be objecting to this proposed banned left turn, and I strongly encourage residents to make their views known as part of the consultation."

There would also be a closure of the southern access point for the service road running to the west of the A10, to create a new shared use area for cyclists and pedestrians. This would allow TfL to introduce a new signalised cycle crossing across the northern arm of the junction and a new crossing over Lincoln Road.

The proposed scheme is open to consultation until Friday, 13th March, via [haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk](http://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk).

### ENFIELD TOWN

## Tribute to Trish

A POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT officer (PCSO) is hanging up her hat after more than 22 years of serving Enfield.

PCSO Patricia 'Trish' Holmes has proudly dedicated her entire policing career to Enfield Town ward, after starting in the role back in 2003.

Since then Trish has become an integral part of the local community and a recognisable face for local residents, businesses and police partners.

In 2012, Trish's commitment and impact was recognised, and she was made an MBE for services to community policing.

Enfield police constable Sophia Di Giovanna sent out a tribute to Trish last month and said: "Her contribution to neighbourhood



Patricia Holmes is retiring as a PCSO after 22 years of service in Enfield Town ward policing has been nothing short of exceptional.

"Throughout her career Trish has worked tirelessly to build trust, solve community problems, and represent the very best of neighbourhood policing."

She added that Trish's "energy, positivity and dedication to 'getting things done' have made her well known across the Met".

### ENFIELD HIGHWAY

## Sale of former library building agreed

ENFIELD COUNCIL HAS AGREED to sell an office block and former library building to a religious education charity.

Enfield Business Centre (EBC) is a four-storey office building in Hertford Road which previously also housed Enfield Highway Library – one of seven closed by the civic centre last year.

However, the council has now confirmed EBC will be sold to The London Merit Association (LMA), which plans to open a "Turkish Islamic cultural centre".

LMA has already begun using the available space. Until July 2025 the charity was based at Claverings Industrial Estate in Edmonton – recently also sold by the council for

redevelopment.

A council report stated: "Prior to LMA occupation, EBC was vastly underutilised. The vacant space within EBC was marketed for hire for three months with no viable interest. This asset has been declared surplus by property services as there is no longer a requirement for internal operational service use."

Although emphasising the decision was taken on commercial grounds, the report adds: "LMA offers tutoring, mentoring, youth engagement and social value, reflecting the community benefit and alignment with council priorities."

While the value of the deal has not been revealed, LMA has been



Enfield Business Centre has been sold to a local religious education charity

running a fundraising campaign with a target of £2,300,000. Its website states: "The time has come for us to unite in dedicating a new house of knowledge for the betterment of our community's future – a place where we will provide education continue to our children and community members."

The sale is due for completion on Tuesday, 31st March.

### BULLSMOOR

## Pedestrian killed

A 22-YEAR-OLD MAN HAS DIED in hospital after being hit by a van.

Detectives are appealing for witnesses to the collision, which happened at 6.18am in Turkey Street on Friday, 6th February, near the A10 junction. The victim has not been named.

A Met Police spokesperson said:

"Our thoughts are with those affected by this incident and our investigation remains ongoing.

"We continue to review all footage as part of our enquiries and are asking the public to come forward with relevant information."

People with information can call 101, quoting ref CAD 1071/06FEB26.



## Millfield refurb celebrated at glitzy ‘teal carpet’ event

**M**illfield Theatre has officially reopened following a major refurbishment – marking the beginning of a “bold new era” under the management of Platinum Performing Arts.

At a glitzy event attended by young people involved with the arts group alongside Enfield mayor Margaret Greer and other VIPs, the completion of the Edmonton theatre’s bright new revamp was celebrated with a number of special performances.

The relaunch of Millfield comes two years after a long-term lease of the arts complex in Silver Street, which also includes Millfield House, was agreed between Enfield Council and Platinum two years ago.

Millfield Arts Centre had previously struggled under the leadership of the council, losing £600,000 every year, but has been rejuvenated since being transferred to the grassroots arts group, which has invested in the facility at a time when venues across the country are facing closure.

The reopening event last month marked the completion of the first phase of the theatre’s transformation. The evening included a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Broadway and West End star Marisha Wallace, officially welcoming audiences back to the “home of entertainment in North London”.

A big launch event was held last month for the newly refurbished Millfield Theatre in Edmonton Credit: Natalie Gee



The improvements have included re-upholstered auditorium seating, new carpets, refreshed backstage areas, upgraded front-of-house spaces and upgraded lighting, all delivered within just four weeks to avoid a prolonged closure of the auditorium.

A bright teal colour theme now runs through the theatre and a new ‘Wall of Fame’ honours the many stars who have graced Millfield’s stage over the decades, alongside West End

performers and industry professionals who began their journeys through Platinum.

The event brought together community leaders, industry professionals, and artists “whose journeys reflect both the theatre’s legacy and its renewed ambition”.

Guests arrived along Millfield’s signature teal carpet, setting the tone for a night of celebration.

Audiences were treated to a powerful live

performance by Platinum Performing Arts called *Power 2 Make A Change*, showcasing the “exceptional talent nurtured through Platinum’s school, college, and grassroots community programmes and reinforcing the theatre’s commitment to cultural enrichment and youth voice”.

Nina Lewis, founder of Platinum Performing Arts, said: “Millfield Theatre is now both a performance venue and an education hub, a home for qualifications, workshops, and creative pathways that take young people and young adults from community access through to real professional opportunity.

“This journey has only been possible because people believed in Platinum’s vision. We have the power to make a change.”

Platinum is now planning to present an “exciting programme of professional productions”, welcoming high-quality theatre, live music, dance, and touring shows back to the stage.

Alongside community and youth-led work, the theatre will host “spectacular professional performances, inviting audiences to support their local theatre and enjoy inspiring, affordable cultural experiences in the heart of North London”.

For more information about Millfield Theatre and to browse the latest event listings: Visit [millfieldtheatre.co.uk](http://millfieldtheatre.co.uk)

Advertisement

Capel Manor College

Open Day Saturday 21 March  
Register *now* [capel.ac.uk](http://capel.ac.uk)

London's  
*environmental*  
college



Courses for careers with animals, nature and the environment

Discover our range of full and part-time courses available for school leavers and adults. Join us at our **Open Day** to discover how you could transform your passion into a successful career. Visit Capel Manor College, Bullsmoor Lane, Enfield EN1 4RQ.



# Work of L'Arte

Neil Littman visits the new Winchmore Hill branch of a Cockfosters institution



Spaghetti vongole

**W**inchmore Hill has a new Italian restaurant – from the same team who run L'Arte in Cockfosters, which I previously reviewed in June 2024.

I thought it worth trying the new branch as the menu has been expanded to include their speciality seafood offerings and, conveniently, it's in my local area!

Located on the site formerly occupied by the very popular Giovanni's, which fed pasta and pizza to the neighbourhood for 35 years, L'Arte have given the place a classy makeover and added a mezzanine floor above the main dining area. The basement kitchen is also on show. One drawback, however, is the noise level which can get distracting when the place is full.

I paid a visit with a friend just before Christmas, one month after they opened. It was almost full and, after some negotiation, we were given the only table left overlooking the open-plan kitchen with a ringside view of the dishes being prepared.

Complimentary bread (ciabatta and seeded sourdough) arrived quickly with Nocellara and Greek-style black pitted olives plus dipping oil with balsamic vinegar.

With 14 starters on the menu including five vegetarian and six

seafood options, plus two sharing dishes of either Italian cured meats or a seafood platter, there is a lot of choice. I ordered the grilled octopus with courgette, buffalo mozzarella, and edible flowers, which reminded me of a dish I ate on holiday in Madeira a few years ago.

It was very good, and I was impressed with the ingredients, particularly the octopus which takes some skill to get right, although I was less fussed about the flowers. We also ordered melanzana alla parmigiana, a classic combination of baked aubergine with mozzarella in tomato sauce.

I've noticed that the price of starters is creeping up to almost the same level as some of the main courses, as restaurants are impacted by increasing costs, but positively the portion sizes seem to have also increased.

L'Arte's main course menu offers 13 pasta dishes (including five with seafood) plus meat and seafood dishes including classics such as chicken escalope with spaghetti, steaks and salads. We ordered two pasta dishes; spaghetti vongole with clams and tortellini "cacio e pepe" – pasta parcels stuffed with honey and pecorino cheese (which is naturally salty-tasting) with a creamy peppery sauce.

However, by the time we finished our mains, the noise level in the restaurant had got to the point where we could barely hear each other's conversation!

During a second visit in early January, when it was much quieter, I managed to contribute some excitement to the atmosphere while reading the wine list. The waiter suddenly sprinted across the room, grabbed the list from my hand and ran back to the bar looking somewhat panic-stricken. He came back a few moments later and explained he had seen smoke coming from the table where I had held the menu near one of the decorative tea lights. I apologised for the pyrotechnics, but he said it wasn't the first time it had happened. Thankfully, I was allowed to stay.

From an unscorched wine list, I ordered a glass of dolcetto from Piedmonte, described as "cherry, almond, soft" (£9.30) followed by "Alberto's pasta" – home-made mafalde pasta paired with prawns and crab, chillis, garlic with spinach and cherry tomatoes (£23). For dessert, I enjoyed their home-made tiramisu with a portion of ice cream served, uniquely, in a cafetière.

I think L'Arte is a good addition to the area and reasonably good value. They stand out from other Italian restaurants in Enfield with their distinctive dishes, good cooking and presentation, although improving the acoustics wouldn't go amiss.

As an addendum to this review, Miguel, the owner of a Spanish restaurant in Southgate, got in touch to say that after 30 years serving the community they are closing down and want to thank their loyal customers. La Paella was one of the first restaurants I reviewed for the *Dispatch* – I also enjoyed many good meals and family celebrations there and will miss them very much.

For more information and opening times for L'Arte: Visit [larterestaurant.com](http://larterestaurant.com)

Do you have any suggestions for restaurants in Enfield to review or feedback on the places Neil has already reviewed? He would love to hear from *Dispatch* readers: Email [eatingoutinenfield@gmail.com](mailto:eatingoutinenfield@gmail.com)

# 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](mailto:enfielddispatch@socialspider.com) by **Monday 16th March**.

## MUSIC

**Americana and Roots Music Club**  
Saturday 7th March, 7pm  
St Andrew's Church, Chase Side,  
Southgate N14 5SH

Southgate is about to get its very first Americana and Roots Music Club! Three local top-notch exponents of the genre will entertain on the opening night. Americana has traditional folk and roots, extending beyond the US to include Canada, African rhythms and European Celtic influences. Performing will be Brooke Law, Ely Blue and Ben Tyzack.

**Tickets £10 each**

**Visit** [buytickets.at/americanasessionsenfield/2014232](http://buytickets.at/americanasessionsenfield/2014232)

## DANCE

**Let's Dance Day**

Sunday 8th March, 3pm–5pm  
Winchmore Hill United Reformed  
Church Hall, 77 Compton Road,  
Winchmore Hill N21 3NU

Come and try barn dancing with Winchmore Folk Dance Club. No experience needed. Come on your own, with a partner or bring the family. Live music from Ed and Friends.

**Free entry, including refreshments**

**Call** 020 8360 6226

**Visit** [wfcd.co.uk](http://wfcd.co.uk)

## MEMORIAL

**Covid-19 Day of Reflection**

Sunday 8th March, 3pm–4pm  
Enfield Living Memorial,  
Town Park

Everyone is invited to join the Enfield and District Soroptimists, to remember those lost during the pandemic.

**Free to attend**

**Email** [jay@clodie.net](mailto:jay@clodie.net)

## SINGING

**Gospel workshops**

Every third Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm–9.30pm

Learn gospel singing techniques and a fun, inspiration gospel song! Includes refreshments.

**£15 per session**

**Visit** [vocallysound.co.uk](http://vocallysound.co.uk)

## CHILDREN

**Move & Groove with Planet Play**  
Saturday 21st March, 10am  
Chickenshed Theatre,  
290 Chase Side, Southgate N14 4PE

Chickenshed's 'Move and Groove' session for children aged up to three years combines storytelling and fitness – giving adults a chance to focus on their own wellbeing while keeping their little ones happily engaged. It's a joyful way to move, play and connect.

**Tickets £9 per person – children free with paying adult**  
**Call** 020 8292 9222

**Visit** [chickenshed.org.uk/events/move-and-groove-planet-play](http://chickenshed.org.uk/events/move-and-groove-planet-play)

## CINEMA

**Talkies Short Film Awards**

Saturday 21st March,  
3pm and 7.30pm  
Waterhouse Hall Theatre,  
Compton Road, Winchmore Hill  
N21 3JR

Talkies Community Cinema has a proud history of commissioning 40 original short films to date. Building on this legacy, we are launching the Talkies Short Film Awards – which showcases outstanding short-form storytelling and celebrates creative talent through cash awards, audience and jury prizes, and public screenings.

**Tickets £6.50**

**Email** [info@talkies.org.uk](mailto:info@talkies.org.uk)

**Visit** [talkies.org.uk/events/shortfilmawards](http://talkies.org.uk/events/shortfilmawards)

## COMEDY

**Resistance Comedy**

Saturday 28th March, 8pm  
Dugdale Arts Centre, 39 London  
Road, Enfield EN2 6DS

Resistance Comedy returns to the Dugdale with a strong line-up of UK stand-up comedians. Headlined by Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee Dane Baptiste, the evening is hosted by Lateef Lovejoy and also features Michael Akadiri, Raj Poojara and Arielle Souma. Expect a lively Saturday night of live comedy in an intimate local venue.

**Tickets £14–£17**

**Call** 0800 640 3928

**Visit** [dugdaleartscentre.co.uk/whats-on/resistance-comedy-funny-dac](http://dugdaleartscentre.co.uk/whats-on/resistance-comedy-funny-dac)

# ADVERTISE HERE!

# THIS NEWSPAPER LOOKS GOOD, BECAUSE WE CARE. OUR READERS CARE. MAKE YOUR AD STAND OUT!

## Next edition print deadlines

**Enfield Dispatch issue #91 April**

**Print date:** 26th March

**Publication date:** 27th March

## Scan here to email our team for a quote



**Mark Brown**

**Email** [mark@socialspider.com](mailto:mark@socialspider.com)

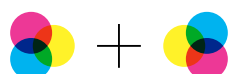
**Call** 07728 520 116



**Klaudia Kiss**

**Email** [klaudia@socialspider.com](mailto:klaudia@socialspider.com)

**Call** 07732 000 430



# Postponements cause fixture pile-up for Towners

BY ANDREW WARSHAW

**S**aturday-Tuesday-Saturday-Tuesday. No let-up. No respite.

With the exception of one midweek break, this is the punishing schedule facing Enfield Town in March because of the unprecedented amount of rainfall that has caused a spate of postponements as the club builds towards the business end of the season.

At the time of writing, the strugglers Towners, desperate to pull off a second successive survival act, were facing a nightmare scenario of eight games in four weeks – and that's not taking into account potential further postponements that could eat into the April finale.

It's a tall order even for full-time teams who make up a large chunk of the National League South division, let alone part-timers who only train twice a week – or even just once, if Tuesdays are taken up playing matches.

"It could be our saviour or it could kill us," conceded Town manager Gavin Macpherson, who is having to use every ounce of his management ability to negotiate a tortuous programme.

"When you only train twice a week, clearly this sort of schedule makes life much harder. I trust my squad but if we have an injury crisis, we'll be in trouble. It's obviously more of an advantage if you're full-time. There's a reason why these teams generally flourish."

One of the games that is having to be rescheduled is the home fixture against Dover Athletic, which

was originally due to be played on Saturday, 14th February. Club officials, management, players and fans alike are still shaking their heads at the staggering decision by the referee to postpone the game from the comfort of his own home – on one of February's rare bright and sunny days.

Town's pitch had been passed perfectly fit by a local step two referee who conducted a precautionary inspection before passing his findings to the match referee. The ultimate decision was then taken based on photographic and video evidence without the match ref himself visiting the club to check in person. It was the only game in the entire division postponed on that particular day, and is now scheduled to be replayed on Tuesday, 24th March.

To make matters worse, this was the same referee who, equally controversially in early December, called off Town's original Hampton and Richmond game (which still hasn't been played after two further postponements and is now scheduled for Wednesday, 4th March).

With home match postponements there is also the knock-on effect of having lost thousands of pounds in Saturday matchday revenue and bar takings, which are invariably far more profitable than a midweek evening.

With an already-stretched squad now having to cope with a further extension of an unenviable fixture pile-up, keeping players injury-free will be vital in the weeks ahead, when every game is a virtual cup final – as the old cliché goes.

"It's hugely demanding on the lads and we have to try and constantly keep them fresh," said Gavin. "Hopefully we had our injury crisis back around Harborough in the [FA] Trophy in November time, but sometimes there's a huge element of luck involved."

While part-time teams in the division undoubtedly have more difficulty in dealing with such an intensive programme, togetherness is all-important.

"It breeds a team environment, especially when you're a smaller club than others at this level," said Gavin. "We understand what we can and can't do; what we can do is build a team mentality."

"The difference between this season and last is that the league is much stronger in terms of finance and structure, but we can't allow one bad result from now on deflect from what we are trying to do, because we are looking at the end game."

"I like what we are, I like the underdog tag. This should galvanise us. We want to chip away at the margins that exist at the moment in order to pressurise the teams in and around us. The plan is to go into April giving ourselves a real chance."

Towners' hopes of survival received a significant boost in late February with a 5-0 thrashing away at relegation rivals Farnborough, although this was followed by an 8-0 reverse at Maidstone. Another huge 'six pointer' was due to be played against Bath City – the team directly above them – on Saturday, 28th February, shortly after the *Dispatch* went to press.

Cockfosters FC beat FA Vase holders Whitstable Town en route to the quarter finals  
Credit @els\_photo\_graphy



## Cockfosters enjoy remarkable cup run

The Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division minnows beat the FA Vase trophy holders to reach the quarter-finals, writes club committee member Tommy Rose

**C**ockfosters FC's remarkable FA Vase campaign continued with two dramatic victories putting the Chalk Lane club into the quarter-finals and just two wins from Wembley.

The cup run, already the best in the club's history, gathered further momentum on 17th January when Cockfosters edged Crawley Down Gatwick 2-1 at Chalk Lane in a tense fourth-round tie. Leading 1-0 through a first-half Terry Offeh goal, the hosts were given a significant lift when goalkeeper Connor Sansom saved a penalty to preserve their advantage.

Crawley Down later equalised, setting up a nervy finish, but the decisive moment arrived in stoppage time as Conrad Holland struck an injury-time winner to send Cockfosters through.

That victory set up a daunting last-16 trip to Whitstable Town for Gavin Kelsey's side on 7th February, when a crowd of more than 1,500 packed into the Primcura Healthcare Stadium. Facing the reigning FA Vase holders on their own ground represented undoubtedly the toughest assignment of the season so far.

But Cockfosters responded impressively. After a tense first half,

Kendall Gyamfi opened the scoring for the visitors after 51 minutes, finishing confidently after being coolly set up by George Lutaaya. Whitstable fought back to level the tie, and the contest immediately shifted again when Cockfosters captain Jay Lovell was shown a second yellow card with 20 minutes remaining.

Whitstable were awarded a penalty shortly afterwards, but Sansom produced another outstanding save to keep the scores level at 1-1.

With no extra time in the FA Vase, the tie went straight to penalties after 90 minutes. For the fourth time in this season's competition, Cockfosters were required to settle matters from the spot – and for the fourth time they prevailed, winning the shoot-out 5-4 to secure a notable victory over the holders.

At the heart of the performance was player of the match Jandir Da Cruz, who was a commanding presence at the back throughout and helped his side withstand sustained pressure, particularly after being reduced to ten men.

Victory in the quarter-final against Droylesden FC on Saturday, 28th February [just after the *Dispatch* went to press] would send Cockfosters into the semi-finals, just one step away from an historic Wembley final.

The Dave Bryant Stadium pitch as it looked on Saturday 14th February, when a match against Dover Athletic was postponed in bizarre circumstances



# Support your local paper

Enfield Dispatch is published by Social Spider Community News, a not-for-profit social enterprise. Our mission is to hold authority to account and provide a platform for the community.

But because we have no shareholders or wealthy backers we rely on local people and organisations to support our journalism.

The number of supporters making monthly contributions is growing steadily — helping us to break even and look at how we can grow as a publication.

**With continued support from Dispatch readers we aim to:**

Produce more local journalism | Expand the size of the paper | Publish more frequently

This month, 282 supporters contributed 27% of our monthly costs. While the paper remains free to read in print and online, every penny of income is reinvested in our local journalism. Can you support us with £5 per month to help us do more?

**Find out more at: [enfielddispatch.co.uk/support-us](https://enfielddispatch.co.uk/support-us)**

## OUR CURRENT SUPPORTERS

Derek Grant, Young Notes, Ed Balleny, Suzanne Beard, Elizabeth Crosthwait, Chris Kaufman, Susan Cook, Basil Clarke, John Naughton, Right at Home Enfield, MumSing Choir, Lloyd Tew-Cragg, Andrew Warsaw, Neil Churchill, Dan Wright, Anthony Fisher, William Yates, Mervyn Maggs, Aditya Chakraborty, Norman Bennett, Vivien Giladi, Greg Andrews, The Old Enfield Charitable Trust, Laura Davenport, Mick Wood, Francis Sealey, Caroline Banks, Joe Hickey, Petr Mitterbach, Tracy Hughes, Kristiana Heapy, Neil Bachelor, John Crowther, Hannah Salvidge, Sean Wilkinson, Julia Daniel, Philip Ridley, Robert Pite, Deborah Dalgleish, Steve King, Diana Roberts, Lauri Clarke, Anne Cullen, Ross Cunningham, Diana Goforth, Kirsten Lowe, Aurora Yaacov, Paula Lamont, Liz Wright, Adam White, Sue Grayson Ford, Sangeeta Waldron, Joe Studman, Zoe White, Harriet Ray, Hannah Dyson, Julie Nedza, Peter Krakowiak, Lynda Dyson, Chris Skilbeck, Peter Camppling, Alison Shepherd, Chris Graham, Hari Ramanathan, Lindsay Rawlings, Carlo Rimini, Dennis Donoghue, Bhasmank Mehta, Anita Jena-Smol, Jim Shepherd, Graham Hall, Thomas Whiteway, Anthony Maddox, Janet Carrick, Tricia Sharpe, Robert Dawes, Paul O'Brien, Richard Mapleston, Graham Cleur, Evan Hughes, Isobel Whittaker, Andrew Murray, Debbie McVitty, Richard Whiteker, Peter Moutell, Jane Maggs, John Cole, Vanessa Wiseman and Pat Kane, Caroline Bernard Moxey, Ioannis Chronakis, Caley Montgomery, Janice Nunn, Su Fairbairn, Linda Bartell, Fran Holmes, Elizabeth Hart, Helen Menzies, Boyd Goldie, Christopher Dey, Pauline Burdon, Helen Karamallakis, Tanya Ruth Sampson, Kim Pickering, Sharron Spice, Maria McCaul, Ruby Sampson, Garry Koussoulou, Pamela Rayner, Susan Davies, Frances Warboys, Pamela Stansall, Tamsin Green, Michael Dickinson, Richard Stones, Natasha Boydell, Martyn Stogden, Rupert Price, Mervyn Cutler, Karl Brown, Kay Heather, Jerome O'Callaghan, Matt Burn, Martin Russo, Marilyn Hamilton, Bill Linton, Enfield Over 50s Forum, Mr A Cleary, Stephen Evans, Ryan Hebbe, Bush Hill Park Residents Association, David Mickleburgh, John Machin, Sheila Spooner, Pat Kane, Sarah Jackson, Liz Gilbert, Edward Smith, Jenny Noon, Josephine Scotney, Alison Parker, Vicki Pite, John Woodger, Rob Hastings, Malcolm Sleath, Sarah Heyward, Nick Mayer, Martyn Axon, Margaret McHugh, Keith Moran, Alice Kay, Liz Partridge, Graham Kilwin, Colin Younger, Hal Haines, Kathleen Hall, Pat Bird, Dan Maier Extraordinary Design (Dan Maier), Guy Newey, Berl Goldbart, Susan Buswell, David Francis, Thomas Legge, Robert Rea, David Hilliard, Suzi Gillespie, Robert Fowler, Peter Paul, Stuart Cooke, Dave Hill, Terence Dacombe, Elaine Gibbs, Sarah Doyle, Maggie Butt, Jack Timbrell, Molly Greenyer, Sue Campbell, Carole Regan, Varnavas Christofi, Timothy Martin, Thomas Hawkins, Hilary Goldring, Soumaia Chetouan, Francesca Rhye-Williams, Andrew Carr, Ben Rider, Stephen Cox, Colin Sellers, Phil Gooch, Patrick Robinson, Helen Osman, Ruth Donaldson, Jamie Thunder, John Callen, Martin Brilliant, Paul Hutchinson, Melvin Cato, Alan Parry, Lee Chamberlain, Josh Welby, Joshua Guillen-Caamano, Cristina Agudo, Lawrence Dimery, Alison Sutherland, Neil Sowler, Nicholas Outton, John James, Lorraine Berry, Eric Deacon, Dennis Stacey, Benita Richenberg, Melvyn Newman, Frank Bayford, Jeni Barker, Geoff Bowden, Darren Luff, Carol Fisk, Par Hansen, Paul Everitt, Fiona Markey, Tom Lannon, Andrew Tillbrook, Khalid Sadur, Sheila Gahagan, Andrew Milne, Valerie Dinsmore, Monica Brady, Neil Littman, Jean Christous, Victoria Neumark Jones, Jill Stodman, Charles Portsmouth, Noelle Skivington, Elizabeth Hibbs, Roland Jackson, Stephanos Ioannou, Mark Ashworth, Rob Aleck, Mr. Louis Michael LOIZOU, Jennifer Williams, John & Helmi Martin, Josh Welby, Barbara Luckhurst, David Minihane, Philip Marshall, David Phillips, Ronald Hunter, Centric publishing, Peter Nwosu, Hazel Kinsler, Stephen Deamer, Julia Davenport, Geoff Elliott, Bush Hill Park Residents Association, The Enfield Society, Friends of Hillyfields.

We also thank our patrons for their generous support:

Laura Davenport, Karl Brown, Anthony Fisher, Local Motion – Paul Everitt, Jane Maggs, Carol Fisk, Encaf - Francis Sealey, John Callen, Dan Maier, Phil Gooch / Scholarcy, Carlo Rimini

