

ENFIELD DISPATCH

N° 94

THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

JULY 2026



LOCAL CAMPAIGNERS John West, Carol Fisk, Ian D'Souza and Vicki Pite last month handed in a box to 10 Downing Street containing thousands of letters signed by Enfield residents, all urging Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer to halt the government's plans for a 21,000-home 'new town' in the rural north-west of the borough. Eleven days later, Starmer resigned.

Sadiq Khan likely to take control of Enfield 'new town'

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Mayor of London Sir Sadiq Khan appears to be on the verge of taking control of the north-west of Enfield – in order to deliver on the government's vision for a 21,000-home 'new town'.

A series of public statements issued by City Hall and Westminster since the change of political administration at Enfield Civic Centre have all pointed to the imminent creation of a mayoral development corporation (MDC), the same type of mechanism used to build the Olympic Park in East London.

MDCs are statutory bodies created by regional mayors such as Khan to deliver on significant regeneration projects, taking planning powers away from local councils. As well as the MDC set up for London 2012, others have been established for the regeneration of Old Oak Common in West London and, most recently, Oxford Street.

Alessandro Georgiou became the leader of Enfield Council at the end of May, with his minority Conservative administration promising to protect the Green Belt and oppose development of Crews Hill and 'Chase Park' in World's End.

His first act as leader was to write to the government's housing minister, telling him the council would no longer be involved in the new towns process. However, this was met with a backlash from City Hall, as well as from 10 Downing Street itself – with Sir Keir Starmer issuing an extraordinary statement last month accusing the Tory leadership in Enfield of being "naysayers" who were "blocking growth".

Three weeks later, Starmer was himself blocked from continuing to be prime minister.

Cllr Georgiou said: "We have been elected on a clear mandate to protect Enfield's Green Belt, and we honoured that commitment by formally with-

drawing from the new town process."

He continued: "We are focusing on a brownfield-first approach. This means unlocking underused land, regenerating our town centres and delivering the high-quality family homes that local people need."

Also now opposing the current new town plans is Enfield North MP Feryal Clark, who has asked the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to reduce its size, specifically removing Chase Park – better known locally as Vicarage Farm – from the scheme.

Clark also criticised the recent government consultation on the new town. The Labour MP said: "Residents deserve transparency. They deserve to be heard. And they deserve confidence that any future development will provide funding for essential infrastructure and vital public services alongside new homes."

Amid all of this, a senior council officer regarded as the 'architect' of

the new town plan in Enfield suddenly quit his job.

Brett Leahy had been the council's executive director of environment and communities since last year, having previously been the director of planning and growth at the civic. He played a key role in the new town scheme from the beginning, leading on the submission of a bid to MHCLG, which subsequently selected Crews Hill and Chase Park as one of its shortlisted sites for accelerated homebuilding.

Although no reason was given for Leahy's departure, it came less than a month after Cllr Georgiou's arrival as council leader – and his decision to end the council's support for Leahy's new town scheme.

A council spokesperson said: "Arrangements are in place to ensure continuity of leadership across the relevant services and the council's work on key priorities."

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Nº 94
JULY 2026

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

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Published on 26/06/26

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Whitewebbs campaigners challenge Spurs in court

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Tottenham Hotspur appear determined to continue fighting to build a women’s training centre on Whitewebbs Park – despite now facing stern opposition from the leader of Enfield Council as well as thousands of local residents. Enfield Conservatives and their leader Alessandro Georgiou campaigned this spring on an election promise to “safeguard Whitewebbs” and to not sign any lease of the park to Spurs. Although the Premier League club last year won planning permission to build on a 16-hectare area of the park’s former golf course, this decision is now being challenged by a local campaign group, Guardians of Whitewebbs, via a judicial review in the High Court. The campaigners claim that councillors on the planning committee were “misled” prior to approving the training centre scheme in February 2025. Last month, Cllr Georgiou announced that the council would not defend the decision in court – but because Tottenham Hotspur had not backed down, the case still went ahead. The football club was listed as an ‘interested party’, meaning Spurs still had the right to legal representation in court. The two-day judicial review hearing was due to conclude shortly before the *Dispatch* went to press on Thurs-

day, 25th June but, regardless, no ruling from the judge is expected for several weeks. Prior to the case commencing, Cllr Georgiou said: “Enfield’s new administration has pledged to protect Whitewebbs Park from unacceptable development and to ensure it remains accessible for local residents and communities to enjoy. “Continuing to defend this judicial review would not reflect that commitment and is not in the best interests of residents across the borough.” Ever since the local election on 7th May, when the previous Labour administration lost control of the council, Tottenham Hotspur had remained silent regarding the future of Whitewebbs. It was only with the backing

of the Labour leadership that the club had been able to strike a deal to take over half of the park on a 25-year lease, worth £2million. However, this lease had not been officially signed prior to the Conservatives taking over the council. This fact could present a further obstacle to Tottenham Hotspur even if the High Court judge eventually rules in the club’s favour. The Guardians of Whitewebbs campaign group raised close to £30,000 through a crowdfunder last summer to help fund its legal challenge. Responding last month to news that the council would not be defending the decision to grant planning permission to Spurs, the group stated: “We’re really grateful to the new council for its quick action in reviewing the case and deciding not to oppose it. “We are incredibly disappointed that Spurs decided to continue to oppose the community. We will vigorously pursue saving Whitewebbs for the benefit of all – people, wildlife, our heritage and future generations.” Tottenham Hotspur previously described the plans for Whitewebbs Park, which also include the creation of a new ‘turf academy’ and visitor centre, as “a once in a generation opportunity to create a regionally significant asset for Enfield”.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 ➔

“The council does not comment on the circumstances surrounding an individual employee’s departure.” Meanwhile, local campaigners opposing the new town handed in a box to 10 Downing Street last month containing thousands of letters addressed directly to Starmer, prior to his resignation as prime minister. The letters signed by Enfield residents tell Starmer that his government’s decision to select Crews Hill and Chase Park as a new town was “inexplicable” and that there’s “no evidence to justify a proposal being bulldozed through without scrutiny”. Since launching their letter-writing campaign in April, a coalition of local

groups including Action for Enfield’s Future, Enfield RoadWatch and The Enfield Society had been inundated with hand-signed copies from residents. In total, 4,026 letters were signed in under two months. “I was shocked at how many have signed letters,” Enfield RoadWatch campaigner Carol Fisk told the *Dispatch* shortly after delivering the first box of letters to Number 10. “People feel very strongly about it, it is 4,000 letters but there were also many more who voted at the election against the new town. It is the tip of the iceberg.” Vicki Pite, another local campaigner and ex-Labour councillor, said that Starmer’s description of her and other opponents as “naysayers” was “disrespectful” to local people in Enfield,

who she argues know the area far better than he does. “We have put massive amounts of work into the Local Plan, but all that time they were doing something [the new town] behind our backs,” she said. The draft Local Plan, drawn up by the previous Labour administration, proposed the allocation of 9,200 homes on the Crews Hill and Chase Park sites. However, last September, the examination process was upended by news the government was considering 21,000 homes across an even larger area. Last month the government-appointed inspector presiding over the Local Plan examination issued a series of recommendations to the council, including the removal of some Green Belt sites – read more on page four.

Debt write-off

Enfield Council decided to “write off” nearly £70k in rent debts owed by a former parks cafe operator, it has emerged. The cafés at Trent Park, Whitewebbs Park, Town Park and Oakwood Park – all controlled by Ozgur Celebi – were shut down simultaneously in September 2023. In response to a recent Freedom of Information Act request, the council revealed Celebi stills owes the full £69,541.51. Explaining why, it stated: “Trace searches were undertaken, however the council were unable to instruct county court proceedings as the tenant, comprising four separate limited companies under the same director, had no known fixed abode in the UK and it was understood they were no longer in the country at the time. “The tenant also had no ownership of assets or property in the UK to secure a county court judgement against. “Therefore it was recommended by our legal team to write off the debt rather than incurring further costs to the council by conducting further tracing and legal action.”

Two road deaths

Two more deaths on Enfield’s roads have brought this year’s number of traffic fatalities in the borough up to four. The first incident saw an 82-year-old woman struck by a van at the junction of Church Street and Sarnesfield Road in Enfield Town on Tuesday, 12th May, at around 1.40pm. She died in hospital three days afterwards. A 62-year-old man was interviewed under caution on suspicion of causing death by careless driving. Just over two weeks later, a driver was killed on Thursday, 28th May in Hadley Road, near Cockfosters, when his car hit a tree. There were two other serious incidents over the past month. A group standing outside a wedding hall in Princes Road on Saturday, 30th May, were hit by a car at 11.16pm. Eight people – including a four-year-old girl – were injured. A 60-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of causing serious injury by dangerous driving and driving under the influence of alcohol. On Tuesday, 9th June, a man in his 80s also suffered “potentially life-threatening injuries” after being struck by a lorry in Hertford Road, Edmonton. The driver, a 60-year-old man, was arrested on suspicion of driving unfit through drugs and causing serious injury by dangerous driving. No-one has yet been charged in connection with these incidents.

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Changes to Local Plan recommended

Green Belt sites at Hadley Wood and Crews Hill Golf Course now set to be safeguarded



Three grazing fields at Hadley Wood had been allocated for housing development by the previous Labour administration at Enfield Council

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Enfield Council will amend its draft Local Plan after the government-appointed inspector who has spent nearly 18 months examining the document issued a series of recommendations.

Enfield Local Plan is a strategic document outlining how the council intends to meet its housing targets over the next 15 years, but it had become highly controversial over the inclusion of several Green Belt sites where more than 9,000 homes were proposed in total.

Two of those Green Belt sites – at Hadley Wood and Crews Hill Golf Course – now look almost certain to be removed from the plan, however.

The previous Labour administration at Enfield Civic Centre spent eight years and several million pounds drawing up and consulting on the Local Plan, but failed to get it approved and adopted prior to the local election in May this year.

The Local Plan is an entirely separate process to the Labour government’s new towns programme, where at least 21,000 homes have been earmarked for Crews Hill and an area of farmland in World’s End dubbed ‘Chase Park’.

Although the new minority Conservative administration pledged to “protect the Green Belt” it does not intend to scrap the Local Plan, as any council’s failure to adopt a valid plan can lead to speculative development.

Instead of ditching the document, deputy leader Michael Rye said the Tory-run council would “review the findings” of planning inspector Steven Lee. It likely means his recommendations will be adopted and a new version of the Local Plan published for public consultation.

Lee told the council to completely remove the allocation of 160 homes on Green Belt land to the west of Hadley Wood Station and said it “should consider” cancelling the proposed 200 homes on Crews Hill Golf Course, a site of

importance for nature conservation.

In addition, the inspector instructed the council to lower height limits for any development at Palace Gardens Shopping Centre to around nine storeys and to remove the allocation of a proposed industrial site on Green Belt land to the east of M25 junction 24.

Regarding Hadley Wood, Lee wrote that “even with mitigations in place” any development “would have a significant detrimental effect on the existing character of this area”. The three fields – used for grazing animals – are owned by the Duchy of Lancaster.

But in his letter, Lee concluded: “I do not consider the exceptional circumstances needed to demonstrate removal of this site from the Green Belt have been demonstrated.”

Making this recommendation, the inspector also referenced the “very significant effects” on the Green Belt of the council’s housing allocations at Crews Hill (5,500 homes) and Chase Park (3,700).

However, because these sites are much larger, Lee said they “allow a far greater degree of mitigation or enhancement to be provided”. For this reason, he didn’t recommend the removal of these sites – only going as far as the suggestion of protecting Crews Hill Golf Course, because of its biological value.

Regarding the golf course, Lee wrote: “The creation of a new defensible boundary by the development itself would be preferable to rolling back the Green Belt boundary excessively and risking even greater encroachment than currently anticipated.”

The inspector added an alternative “acceptable” approach would be to use Cattlegate Road as the new Green Belt boundary west of Crews Hill Station, protecting the course.

Regarding the Chase Park development, Lee recommended a proposed extension to Trent Park, which developer Comer Homes asked to ditch, should be kept in the plan and

reinforced. Lee wrote: “Given the extension of the country park is a key part of the mitigation for this allocation, it is important it is delivered as envisaged.”

David Harbott, from Hadley Wood Neighbourhood Planning Forum, said the group was “delighted” with Lee’s Local Plan verdict and

added: “This decision is a success for the whole community and for the thousands of residents who supported our campaign.”

Robert Wilson, chair of Hadley Wood Association, said: “It is great news that the precious fields at the heart of the green character of our community have been saved.”

David Spring, general manager of Crews Hill Golf Club, also welcomed Lee’s findings and said: “We’re grateful to our members and to everyone who has supported the campaign to protect this green space.”

Cllr Rye added: “We inherited the draft Local Plan from the previous administration, having consistently expressed our concerns about its potential impact on Enfield.

“The planning inspector’s findings reflect some of those concerns, and we welcome the recommendation to remove certain development sites from the Green Belt.

“We will now review the findings in full before determining the right next steps.”

Ergin Erbil, leader of the Labour opposition on the council, said: “The inspector suggested changes to some parts of the plan, especially in Crews Hill, and those changes should be looked at carefully. But he has not rejected the Local Plan, and he has not rejected the need for new homes.

“When Labour was running the council, we took the view that some lower-quality Green Belt land, including sites around Crews Hill, could be used to help tackle the housing crisis while protecting most of Enfield’s Green Belt.”

Why development on Enfield’s Green Belt could be inevitable – turn to page twelve.

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Young People Are Our Future – Let's Listen

Shaping the borough's creative future

Young creatives share what the 'Enfield of Dreams' programme means to them and how it is helping them grow as artists, leaders and advocates for creativity in Enfield

Seventeen young creatives from Enfield are helping shape the borough's cultural future through 'Enfield of Dreams', a two-year skills and development programme launched in 2025.

The scheme is designed to amplify the diverse voices of a group of new 'Young Cultural Leaders' aged 18 to 30 years, to help them gain skills, experience and confidence in arts programming, management, governance, and leadership.

For artist and illustrator Gloria Da Silva, the programme offers artistic growth and valuable professional development. "It has given me an opportunity to give back and enrich the place I call home, alongside incredible organisations who have served Enfield's creative communities for years," she says.

"Being a Young Cultural Leader allows me to use my expertise in painting and illustration in new ways, pushing the boundaries of the medium."

"The artist development piece of the project is what I find exciting, especially as I am still emerging in the artistic space. For instance, learning the importance of admin, a skill that supports a successful art career."

Gloria adds: "I hope to continue to maintain the connections I've made with all the talented people within this programme, to create art people can enjoy."

Fola Kalesanwo believes the project has the potential to reveal the borough's rich creative talent while creating a more inclusive cultural landscape. For Fola, collaboration and visibility are at the heart of what makes the initiative so important.

"Being part of Enfield of Dreams fills me with a real sense of excitement and optimism for the future direction of the artistic and cultural identity of the borough," she says. "There is a huge wealth of untapped creative potential across Enfield, and I'm excited to see how this programme will nurture this talent."

"It leans heavily on themes of collaboration and co-creation, and I hope the work we do creates opportunities for people who may not always have felt visible or that the arts were for them."

Reflecting on the connections formed through the programme, Fola adds: "Since Enfield of Dreams began, I've met other Young Cultural Leaders who are just as excited about

"There is a huge wealth of untapped creative potential across Enfield"



The 'Young Cultural Leaders' take part in a workshop at Forty Hall Credit Zoe Scholes

the future of arts and culture in Enfield. There is a real breadth of talent, creativity and passion for the arts. It's exciting to imagine all the possibilities that we can create together."

Writer, director and performing arts teacher Shadiye Balikdjioglu has deep roots in Enfield's creative community. "When I first heard about

Enfield of Dreams, I immediately knew it was something I wanted to be part of," she says.

"My journey in the arts began through youth theatre groups, local productions, time spent in my grandmother's bridal shop and community plays written by my grandfather. These experiences sparked a lifelong passion for the arts."

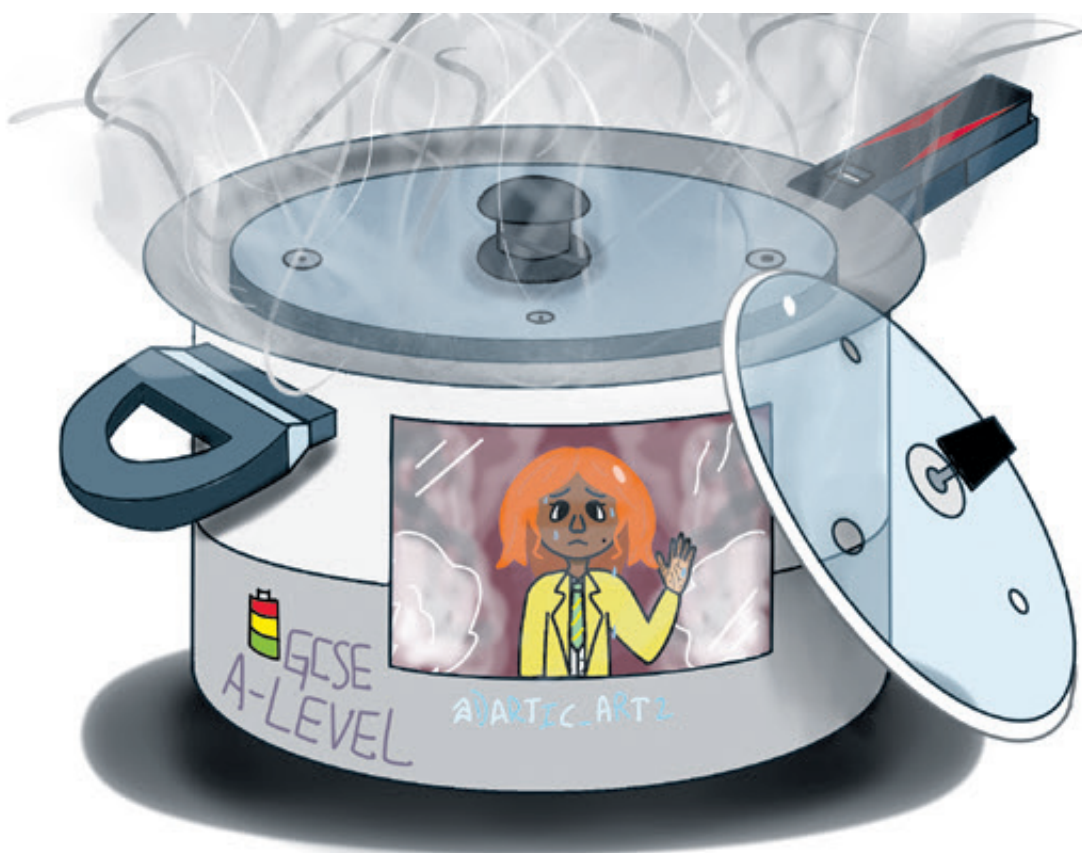
"After graduating, I found myself searching for a creative community and Enfield of Dreams has given me exactly that. As a Young Cultural Leader, I have been able to collaborate and grow alongside other artists across the borough. What has been most rewarding is connecting with fellow creatives and learning from each other."

"Through these connections, I have been introduced to groups such as the Enfield Young Creatives network, had opportunities, which includes SXSW London, along with access to workshops led by local creatives, which have been truly motivating."

Shadiye adds: "Being a Young Cultural Leader means having a genuine stake in the future of our borough. It is empowering to be part of something that values and invests in young people's voices. By developing my skills as a cultural leader, I will advocate for the arts to create opportunities for others. Enfield is the community that shaped me, I want to help shape its cultural future for the next generation."

The project is led by UP Projects in partnership with Border Crossings, Chickenshed, Clore Leadership, DYSPILA, Face Front Inclusive Theatre, HighRise Entertainment, Enfield Council, plus local artists, creative practitioners, schools and young people. It is funded by LocalMotion Enfield and Arts Council England.

For more information:
Visit upprojects.com/enfield-of-dreams



Local Voice, Local Stories



Ashley Phoenix (left)
and Karen Heley (right)
Credit Kai Images

How survivors are being failed by the system

Jim Wasswa and Paul Everitt speak to Karen Heley and Ashley Phoenix about the lifelong impact of trauma, the pain of not being believed, and why survivors say the systems designed to help them are too often causing further harm

For Karen Heley, trauma is one word: overwhelming.

For Ashley Phoenix, trauma is not simply something that happened in the past. It is what happens when a person is left feeling unsafe, powerless, alone and unheard.

Together, their experiences expose an uncomfortable truth: for many survivors, the greatest damage is not only caused by the original trauma, but by what happens when they finally find the courage to speak about it and nobody listens.

Karen has spent years living with the consequences of childhood trauma. Flashbacks, sleepless nights, damaged relationships and overwhelming emotional distress have shaped her daily life. Yet despite being assessed by professionals and repeatedly told she needs specialist long-term trauma therapy, she is still waiting.

Eight years after a professional recommendation for one-to-one trauma therapy, Karen has never received it.

For Karen, the experience of repeatedly disclosing trauma only to be dismissed, redirected or offered inappropriate support has created a second wound. Survivors often spend years questioning themselves because others have questioned them first. "When people don't believe you, you start doubting yourself," she explains. "You begin asking yourself whether it really happened."

This is one of the cruellest realities of trauma. Many survivors carry shame, guilt and self-doubt for years. When professionals, services or even families fail to listen, those feelings are reinforced. The result is not healing but re-traumatisation.

Instead of finding safety, survivors

are forced to relive experiences of powerlessness.

Instead of feeling heard, they are made to repeat painful stories to different professionals. Instead of receiving specialist support, they are moved between services that cannot agree who should help them.

Ashley believes this happens

"Trauma impacts trust, relationships, identity and how people experience the world"

because systems continue to focus on diagnoses rather than understanding trauma itself.

"Trauma isn't just the event," she says. "It impacts trust, relationships, identity and how people experience the world."

She argues that services often fail to recognise that being ignored, disbelieved or excluded from decisions can recreate the very conditions that trauma survivors are trying to recover from. A person who has spent years feeling powerless can be re-traumatised by systems that make decisions about them, without them.

Both Karen and Ashley believe trauma-informed practice must become more than a slogan. Listening is not an optional extra. Believing people is not a luxury. It is the foundation of recovery.

Yet, too many survivors encounter long waiting lists, fragmented services and professionals who treat trauma as a category rather than a lived reality.

The consequences are profound.

Relationships break down. Physical health deteriorates. People struggle with sleep, work, trust and self-worth. Some spend years blaming themselves for things that were never their fault.

The message from Karen and Ashley is simple, but urgent: trauma services must stop asking survivors to prove their pain.

People need long-term, trusted therapeutic relationships. They need services designed with people who have lived experience. They need professionals who understand that disclosure takes immense courage.

Most of all, they need to be believed.

Because when a survivor finally finds the strength to speak, not listening is not a neutral act. It can become another trauma in itself.

Karen Heley and Ashley Phoenix are lived experience advisors to LocalMotion Enfield

Council tenant slams ‘serious failures’ at Meridian Water

Poor maintenance, security gates that don’t lock, insufficient parking for disabled residents and antisocial behaviour among issues at the council-led development



BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Enfield Council has been criticised by one of its tenants over multiple “serious failures” at Meridian One, the first phase of the wider Meridian Water development.

A family of seven who moved to the new-build housing development last year have endured months of issues that they have tried and failed to get fixed.

The problems include a broken disabled shower that has remained out of action for nearly six months, a leaking water pipe creating damp in the living room, broken security gates which have led to crime and antisocial behaviour blighting a communal garden area, and a lack of parking for

Blue Badge holders.

The father, who did not want his name used in this story, told the *Dispatch*: “We are paying a service charge for maintenance but it is not happening.

“There is a water leak that has not been fixed. The disabled shower has been broken since December.”

The lack of parking spaces is also a big issue, especially since the parents need a large vehicle to transport their disabled daughter in her wheelchair.

“They are forcing me to live somewhere I cannot park because there are not enough disabled parking bays,” the father said. “Living here, you are disconnected – there is no convenience store, nothing. You have to have a car to live here because normal life is difficult.

“I got a parking ticket for dropping my daughter outside our house.”

There are three disabled parking bays for social housing tenants at Meridian One currently, with more supposedly planned as further homes are built.

However, the current provision is clearly not enough to match the number of people with Blue Badges living in the area. When the *Dispatch* visited in the middle of a weekday afternoon, all three bays were occupied.

Another big issue affecting multiple families in Oxeye Way is the lack of security for a communal garden where access is supposed to be restricted to residents.

For several months, the gates on both sides of the garden have been broken, meaning anyone can walk in without a key fob. The garden also contains the bike shed used by residents, and the door for this is also broken.

The father said: “There are people here with kids but we know there is a

lot of drug activity and crime, anyone can walk in. My son is nine and his bike was stolen. Our neighbours have lost three bikes.”

A council spokesperson said: “The council is aware of the issues raised by the resident and has been working to address them, including carrying out several inspections and repair visits to the property.”

They continued: “Security and anti-social behaviour are taken seriously and the council continues to carry out works to communal areas at the block including the entrance and bike storage, while also operating dedicated evening patrols in partnership with community safety teams.

“Parking arrangements and facilities at Meridian One A [the completed development] are clearly communicated to residents before they move in and acknowledged by residents when they sign their tenancy agreement. We are currently assessing residents’ feedback to review the parking pressures on the site.”



Enfield journalist made an MBE

A journalist who grew up in Edmonton has been made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the King’s Birthday Honours.

Aditya Chakraborty is *The Guardian’s* senior economics commentator, with his regular columns focusing mainly on the economy and how it impacts society.

The King’s Birthday Honours mark

the “extraordinary contributions and service of people across the UK” and Aditya has been made an MBE in recognition of his “services to public understanding of the economy and wider social issues”.

Aditya’s journalism has previously won awards, including a British Journalism Award for ‘comment journalist of the year’ in 2017.

The Oxford University graduate, who continues to live in Enfield borough, said: “I was born and raised in Edmonton and I owe it a lot.

“The first person to tell my mum

I should become a writer was a teacher at Galliard [Primary School] and the librarians at Haselbury and Fore Street were my early idols.

“I am delighted to receive this recognition for my writing, especially as one of the questions I often raise is how to give the children growing up in a place like Edmonton today the chances and encouragement I was lucky enough to have. Here’s to more libraries, more teachers and safer streets.”

“I should become a writer was a teacher at Galliard [Primary School] and the librarians at Haselbury and Fore Street were my early idols.

“I am delighted to receive this recognition for my writing, especially as one of the questions I often raise is how to give the children growing up in a place like Edmonton today the chances and encouragement I was lucky enough to have. Here’s to more libraries, more teachers and safer streets.”

Rick Jewell has lived in the area for decades



Ex-councillor to chair neighbourhood board

A former Labour councillor has been named as the new chair of a neighbourhood fund that will control a £2million annual budget over the next decade.

Ex-Southbury councillor Rick Jewell was appointed as chair of the Pride in Place Enfield Wash Fund Board following what has called a “competitive interview process”.

Rick was Enfield Council’s cabinet member for transport and waste prior to May’s election, when he lost his seat.

Both Enfield Wash and Lower Edmonton were named in March as being among 40 areas around the country chosen to receive £20m each in government cash through its Pride in Place Programme.

For each area the funding will be spread over a decade-long period, meaning there will be £2m available for these communities annually between now and 2036.

The funding for the two areas is designed to support long-term regeneration, improve local opportunities, and help address issues that matter most to residents.

The neighbourhood board chairs will work in partnership with local MPs Feryal Clark (for Enfield Wash) and Kate Osamor (for Lower Edmonton) to produce a long-term plan and “ensure decision-making is genuinely community-led”.

The Enfield Wash neighbourhood board will span parts of Brimsdown, Carterhatch and Bullsmoor wards. Rick said: “I am absolutely delighted to have been appointed Pride in Place chair.

“This is a major opportunity to deliver real, visible and lasting change for the residents of Enfield Wash, and I am proud to lead that work.

“Having lived in Enfield for 56 years, including more than 40 years in Carterhatch, I know both the strengths of these communities and the challenges they face. As a great-grandfather with deep family roots in the borough, I care passionately about the future of our area and the legacy we leave to the next generation.

“I am committed to ensuring that residents remain at the heart of every decision.”

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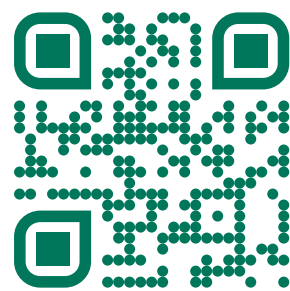
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The fire at Barrowfield Allotments in May
Credit: Enfield Council

Council promises crackdown on allotment misuse

New cabinet member for environment says that “for too long misuse has been either ignored or unchallenged”

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Enfield Council has said it will take “firm and immediate action” to tackle the misuse of allotment plots across the borough following a fire at a site in Edmonton that became notorious for dangerous tenancy breaches. The Conservative-led council has promised swift action over what it called “years of unacceptable abuse by a minority of tenants”. The pledge followed a serious fire at Barrowfield Allotments in Edmonton Green – the latest in a string of blazes at the site where the *Dispatch* previously uncovered multiple unsafe structures. Despite publishing stories in 2024 and 2025 exposing the clear dangers present at Barrowfield, including evidence that people were illegally living there, the former Labour-led administration had failed to get a grip on the tenancy breaches prior to losing control of the council in May. The allotment abuses at Barrowfield were also covered by the *Daily Mail*, which described the site in Colthurst Drive as “an illegal village”. Following the fire at the end of May,

however, Maria Alexandrou, the Tory-led council’s new cabinet member for environment, said: “The council is committed to ensuring these valued community assets are used appropriately, safely and fairly for the benefit of all residents.” Although the cause of the fire remains under investigation, the council said its officers had “identified a substantial, unauthorised outbuilding on the plot, including cooking equipment and enclosed fencing”. Formal warnings had previously not been complied with, the council explained. Allotment agreements clearly state that cooking facilities and the storage of flammable materials are not permitted. The only legal structures allowed are sheds used for storing tools and equipment – but multiple plots at Barrowfield have had much larger, ramshackle structures erected, including some with windows and chimneys. Cllr Alexandrou said: “Last week’s fire is a stark reminder of the risks posed when allotment rules are ignored. While thankfully no-one was injured, the presence of a large structure and evidence of cooking is

deeply concerning. “Allotments exist to support local people to grow food and enjoy green space – not as alternative living accommodation or places for unauthorised development. This kind of misuse is unfair to the many residents who wait patiently for a plot and who abide by the rules. “We will no longer tolerate this behaviour. For too long misuse has been either ignored or unchallenged. We are taking decisive enforcement action and will not hesitate to terminate tenancies where there are serious or repeated breaches. The situation where a small minority undermine the system ends now.” The council has now begun enforcement proceedings to recover the plot in question at Barrowfield and has said it will review other sites where there are concerns about non-compliance. Relevant evidence, including CCTV footage, will also be shared with the Metropolitan Police. Enfield Council manages more than 2,800 allotment plots across 32 sites in total, with waiting times starting from around two years and up, depending on the location.

MP’s messages with Mandelson revealed

Enfield North MP Feryal Clark has since insisted she had “no personal relationship” with the disgraced former ambassador to the US

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Enfield North MP Feryal Clark congratulated Peter Mandelson on his appointment as US ambassador and said the Labour government would “need you big time”. A short exchange between Clark and Mandelson was among a tranche of messages revealed last month as part of the release of files that the government is required to publish. However, Clark has insisted she had “no personal relationship” with the disgraced politician. The latest ‘Mandelson files’ include a WhatsApp exchange on 20th December 2024, shortly after Mandelson’s ambassadorial appointment was announced. Clark – who at this time was serving as the government’s minister for artificial intelligence – wrote: “Huge congratulations Peter, great news to wake up to today! We are going to need you big time I work in Peter Kyle’s team now as his minister for AI. Have a great Christmas & new year.” Peter Kyle was, at the time, the secretary of state running the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology in which Clark also worked. Mandelson replied to Clark’s message using a Union Flag emoji, a United States emoji, and “= AI”, apparently suggesting that the UK-US relationship should be based around artificial intelligence. A further response from Clark appears to have been redacted, however, before Mandelson wrote: “My chief AI buddy in US is Sam Altman.” Altman is the co-founder and chief executive of OpenAI, one of the world’s biggest AI companies. The messages between Clark and Mandelson were part of the latest tranche of the Mandelson files which are being released

after the House of Commons voted to release the documents in February, aiming to reveal more about how he was appointed to the role of US ambassador. Mandelson was sacked from the job last year by Sir Keir Starmer following revelations about the extent of his relationship with Jeffrey Epstein, the notorious convicted sex offender and paedophile who died in 2019 while in custody. It has also since been revealed that Mandelson had passed sensitive government information to Epstein while he was a minister within the Labour government of Gordon Brown in 2009 and 2010. When Mandelson was appointed as US ambassador in December 2024, it was already known that he had previously been friends with Epstein, but the full extent of the relationship had not yet been revealed. Asked for a response to her message of congratulations to Mandelson being revealed, Clark said: “I had no personal relationship with Peter Mandelson. However, in my previous role as AI minister, I felt it was important to maintain a professional working relationship with someone who, as the UK’s ambassador to the United States, had direct access to one of the world’s largest and most influential AI markets. “Like many people, I was deeply disturbed and disgusted by the revelations that subsequently emerged concerning Mandelson. The allegations and evidence that emerged were profoundly troubling and understandably prompted strong reactions from across the political spectrum and the wider public.” Mandelson was arrested by the Metropolitan Police in February on suspicion of misconduct in public office, then released on bail pending further investigation. He denies wrongdoing.





The Enfield Society's current management committee
Credit Kaya Emin

Fighting for the future of Enfield

The Enfield Society turns 90 this year – in rude health and still fighting for the future of Enfield.

As we plan for the next ten years to our centenary, we are keen to reach out to more residents across the borough, to help us secure the future of Enfield’s heritage, the towns that make up the borough and the green spaces for future generations.

Originally called The Enfield Preservation Society, it grew out of a residents’ campaign in 1935 to oppose Enfield Urban District Council’s plans to build a new town hall on Chase Green – one of the few surviving green spaces from the ancient hunting ground, close to Enfield Town. Posters were printed and a petition was organised to ‘Save Chase Green!’

Is this starting to sound familiar?

It was decided in March 1936 to establish a formal preservation society as a charity, to continue to protect Chase Green as a village green. The campaign was only ‘won’ when the council bought Fir Tree House in Silver Street and later built the current Enfield Civic Centre on the site.

Through the decades, apart from a pause during the Second World War, The Enfield Preservation Society grew in membership and continued to fight against the destruction of notable landmarks and the natural environment across the borough.

It acquired Jubilee Hall in 1986, thanks to the generosity of Don Gresswell, a local book seller, who helped to revive the society after the war. Don described himself as a “footpath addict”, helping to restore many public rights

The Enfield Society is still going strong as it celebrates 90 years, writes trustee Helen Osman

of way around Whitewebbs and Forty Hall.

Don was awarded an MBE in 1980 “for many years of dynamic conservation work”. Jubilee Hall is now the society’s permanent home and a repository of a vast archive on the rich history of Enfield. Thank you Don!

In 2007, the decision was taken to change the name to The Enfield Society – or TES for short. This arose out of the recognition that the society’s campaigning work was not fully reflected as ‘preservation’ but increasingly concerned with defending our Green Belt and preventing the felling of trees and inappropriate urban development.

“Defend Enfield’s Green Belt Oppose The Grip of Urban Sprawl” was a campaign slogan in 1972 when Wates planned to build 405 houses on 40 acres in Cattlegate Road, Crews Hill. On this occasion the planning application was rejected by the council. The battle to protect Enfield’s towns and countryside is not new!

To commemorate TES90 we undertook a

survey of our members. One told us: “This is very important work being responsibly and professionally undertaken by socially conscious people in the area. The society is a reliable, trustworthy source of information and effectively spearheads campaigns to protect and preserve the area.”

Our members want our campaign priorities to focus on the issues which will shape the borough for future generations; protecting the borough from inappropriate development, protecting our Green Belt, and preserving our heritage.

They also want us to reach out more to young people so that we can hand on the baton to future generations and continue to widen our campaigning in eastern Enfield.

We are all volunteers and, if we are to deliver these objectives as well as all the work undertaken by TES, we need more members. Whether you decide to join so that we can keep you up to date with the momentous threats currently facing our borough, or have special-

A campaign to save Chase Green saw the creation of Enfield Preservation Society in 1936

“Our members want our campaign priorities to focus on the issues which will shape the borough for future generations”

ist skills to help the society, please join us – for an annual fee of just £5.

On our website you can find out more about the society and the diverse range of work we do.

This includes scrutinising Enfield Council’s Local Plan and other planning proposals and encouraging the government to focus on building homes on derelict urban sites, not on Enfield’s countryside (which still the remains government policy). The countryside around Enfield belongs to its residents – it is the lungs of Enfield and the lungs of London.

Our heritage team work closely with Historic England, the council and other heritage groups to protect and celebrate what is left of our diverse and very rich local history, while our litter-picking team collected 35 bags on their latest monthly session along the Pymmes Brook, and hundreds of people take part in our walks and talks.

Our activities are open to everyone, and everyone is welcome.

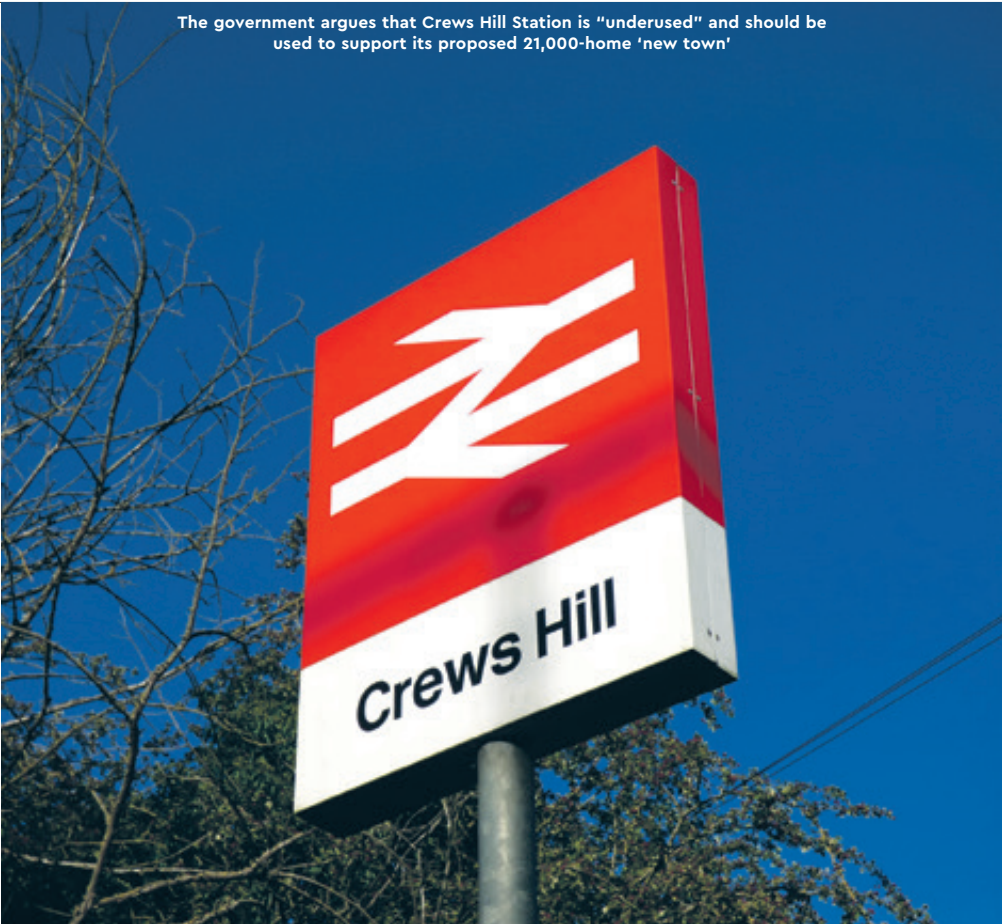
For more information and to join The Enfield Society:
Visit enfieldsociety.org.uk/join

MY ENFIELD Photo Competition

As part of The Enfield Society’s 90th anniversary celebrations, we’re running a photographic competition with the theme ‘My Enfield’. We’d love you to take part. Entry is free and open to everyone who lives, works, studies, or visits the London borough of Enfield (but if you’re under 18, you’ll need consent from a parent or guardian).

You are invited to submit photographs (up to a maximum of three) that capture the places, people, buildings, landscapes and stories which make Enfield special. There are cash prizes to be won, and the top twelve shortlisted photos will be displayed publicly.

For more information and for the full competition rules:
Email myEnfield@enfieldsociety.org.uk



Why development on Enfield’s Green Belt seems inevitable

Matt Burn from campaign group Better Homes Enfield picks through the political forces that make Green Belt development more likely than not

Some people believe that if the proposed ‘new town’ is stopped, Enfield’s Green Belt will not be built on. But the situation is far more complicated than that. Even if the proposed new town at Crews Hill and Chase Park does not go ahead, changes to national and London-wide policy increase the likelihood of development of the Green Belt. Altogether, there are four different planning processes happening at the same time. Firstly, there is the council’s proposed new Enfield Local Plan. This plan sets out where new homes, jobs and infrastructure should be located in the borough. It is currently being examined by a planning inspector and still requires modification before it can be formally adopted by the council. As it stands, the draft Local Plan proposes to build around 9,255 homes at Crews Hill and Chase Park combined. Secondly, there is the new town. This is a separate government proposal that could see up to 21,000 homes built across Crews Hill and Chase Park. Residents have been given little information about what	the new town involves, but both the government and Mayor of London Sir Sadiq Khan have signalled their strong support for it. Thirdly, a draft of the mayor’s new London Plan is expected shortly. Previous plans for the capital have sought to protect the Green Belt. The next version may provide weaker protections. Finally, there are changes to national planning policy. These changes make it far easier to build on Green Belt land than was previously the case. Because these are national rules, Enfield cannot simply ignore them, even if local councillors and residents want stronger protection for the Green Belt. The important and somewhat confusing point is that these four planning processes are separate but connected. That is why there is uncertainty about what happens next. Can the council stop the new town? Some residents may hope that if the council rejects the new Local Plan by refusing to adopt it, then that would protect Enfield’s Green Belt	from development. But that is not the case. Even if councillors choose not to adopt the plan, Enfield will still need a replacement Local Plan. Any replacement plan would have to be prepared in accordance with the latest national and London planning policies. This would probably create even greater pressure for Enfield’s Green Belt to be built on. In short, refusing to adopt the Local Plan would not automatically prevent development of the Green Belt. Nor would it stop the proposed new town. <i>“In the current national political climate, the potential development of some Green Belt land is probably unavoidable”</i> The council can oppose the new town, but it cannot be assumed that opposition alone will stop it. In May, the council’s new minority Conservative administration announced that it was withdrawing support and argued that it had been elected on a mandate to protect Enfield’s Green Belt. However, in response the govern-	ment has already signalled that decisions about the new town at Crews Hill and Chase Park will be taken in the national interest. If ministers remain committed to the new town, they can seek ways to progress it, regardless of the council’s opposition, and regardless of the wishes of Enfield’s voters. The council can oppose the new town and make delivery more difficult, but it does not have a veto. Many residents hope that all of Enfield’s Green Belt can be protected from development. However, changes to national planning policy mean that there will still be pressure to build on it, regardless of what happens with the draft Local Plan or the proposed new town. Finding a way forward At Better Homes Enfield, we think the evidence shows that there are sufficient brownfield sites to meet Enfield’s housing needs for the foreseeable future, and that building these homes quickly should be the priority. Neither the government nor the	London mayor appear to agree. In the current national political climate, the potential development of some Green Belt land is probably unavoidable. We think that the focus now should be on finding ways to protect the areas that matter most to residents, including historic and valued landscapes, open spaces, places used for recreation, farmland, local businesses, and important natural habitats. Achieving that may require difficult choices about developing some areas of the Green Belt that would cause the least harm and which could deliver the type of genuinely affordable homes Enfield needs. This may not be what everyone wants. But the challenge Enfield faces is how to respond to a national planning regime that is outside of its control. The future is uncertain. Whatever happens now, the very least Enfield’s residents deserve is clear information, honest debate, robust and accurate evidence, and a meaningful say in decisions that will affect the borough for decades to come. Unfortunately, we haven’t had that yet. Hopefully, it is still to come.
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Labour must start listening

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Lossing the recent election was the best thing that could have happened to Enfield Labour – it created an opportunity to undertake the clean-up the local party so desperately needs.

Unfortunately, what we have got instead are phony condemnations of the Green Party for having recognised – like the vast majority of residents – the way the narrow, nepotistic and grotesquely unqualified power-clique currently dominating the local Labour group has both betrayed our borough and dragged its politics into the mud over the past eight years.

Not addressing the obvious elephant in the room will simply further the current widespread lack of trust in Labour locally.

I may not be in the same party as [Conservative council leader] Alessandro Georgiou but I know him to be a man of undoubted integrity sincerely devoted to the wellbeing of all residents. Sadly, neither of these things can be said about an Enfield Labour Party on whose behalf I was once honoured, under Doug Taylor's honest leadership, to exercise cabinet responsibilities but which now shames me.

If Labour is ever to become electable again locally, there is only one way – conduct party investigations into certain individuals and expel them. Until then, thank goodness for the outcome of the election.

Alan Sitkin

Former Enfield Labour councillor
and cabinet member

Bad tree deal

Dear Enfield Dispatch

So, the new Enfield Council leader Alessandro Georgiou has decided it's okay to parachute in with a 'get out of jail' card for [Toby Carvery operator] Mitchells & Butlers, approving the purchase of cheap fruit tree whips (young saplings) to replace the brutally vandalised 600-year-old Whitewebbs oak.

If this were simply a financial issue it should be noted the oak was valued at £1million based on the approved CAVAT valuation used by local authorities to calculate the amenity and ecological value of a tree.

But this is not a spreadsheet-based monetary issue. M&B's instruction to fell this tree was wrong on so many levels that were being more appropriately punished by the previous Labour council, including a planned eviction of

the hospitality company from Whitewebbs House.

Yet Cllr Georgiou's token fruit tree gesture has been supported with a statement that "this matter is closed".

Shame on him.

Anne Jennings
Palmers Green

Save the LTNs

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Well done to the *Dispatch* for some well-needed local election reporting.

But as June's issue highlighted, turnout was only 42%, of which 33% voted for the leading party. That means less than one in six Enfield residents support our governing council – hardly a mandate for radical change.

Nonetheless, an ideological call to arms has once again been made. In 2014 an anti-cycle lane candidate came seventh in Palmers Green's local election, since when we have seen a further three borough elections, four general elections and three London elections, all of which were dominated by pro-car campaign noise yet, as with this latest election, local voters said 'no thanks'.

Enfield traffic wasn't moving before the low-traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) arrived and won't be moving should some be removed. What is required is a thoughtful, alternative, holistic transport strategy, not ideological chest-thumping.

Karl Brown
Palmers Green

Water worries

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Neil Littman (*Data centres*, Issue 93) points out that water scarcity in the UK will affect the distribution of data centres, which absorb water and energy.

Yet, they are considered essential for the supply of the internet. We will therefore depend on the notorious monopoly that is Thames Water to supply local data centres as well as the proposed new town.

Unfortunately, sewage disposal is also controlled by Thames Water – which has squandered our water rates on paying shareholders and fat cats.

Unless the water systems are properly designed without leaks, must we look forward to the pollution of our local streams which lie downstream of the planned new town?

Jess Yates
Bush Hill Park

AROUND THE BOROUGH

BOWES

Gambling venue plan prompts protest



Residents protest in Green Lanes at the location of a proposed adult gaming centre

BY JOE IVES, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Residents have urged Enfield Council to block another proposed 24-hour gambling site – saying existing venues attract crime and “suck wealth” out of communities. A licence application for an ‘adult gaming centre’ called Palace Amusements was submitted to the council in May. The premises, between 101

and 109 Green Lanes, would replace a former florist and estate agents on the corner with Melbourne Avenue. Last year the company behind Palace Amusements also controversially won permission – via appeal – to open a similar venue further up Green Lanes, in Palmers Green. Melbourne Avenue Residents’ Group wrote to the council urging it not to grant the latest licence application. The letter argues that “Bowes is already over-saturated with gambling premises, which suck wealth out of

our community and attract crime and anti-social behaviour”. “We do not want or need any more gambling facilities in our community,” the group added. They argue the application goes against the council’s licensing objectives – including the prevention of crime and disorder and protection of children and vulnerable people. They argue that, at the very least, the council should stop the gambling shop opening 24-hours, which would “cause great harm to this community”. Elisa Morreale, the council’s cabinet member for licensing, said: “While we cannot comment on the individual licence application, we understand the concerns raised by local residents about the number and concentration of gaming venues in Enfield. “We want our town centres to be thriving, safe and welcoming places for everyone. In our view, gambling and gaming venues offer limited benefit to local communities and risk undermining these aims.” But Cllr Morreale warned: “The council’s role is governed by national legislation. Where an applicant meets the required legal criteria, there are limited grounds on which an application can be refused.”

WHITEWEBBS

Legal settlement over felled oak

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Enfield Council has reached an out-of-court settlement with pub company Mitchells & Butlers (M&B) – a year after the felling of a 500-year-old oak tree at Whitewebbs caused widespread outrage. M&B’s boss had previously issued an apology for the incident close to the Toby Carvery at Whitewebbs House and claimed that “the people involved did act in good faith and with good intentions”. However, the apology wasn’t enough to stop the council taking legal action against M&B, which owns Toby Carvery, and issuing the company with an eviction order. Then-deputy leader Tim Leaver said they had “failed to engage meaningfully” and the council “therefore started forfeiture proceedings for serious breaches of their lease”. Five months after the legal notice

was issued, a settlement between the council and M&B has been announced – although the figure involved hasn’t been revealed, despite a request from the *Dispatch* to disclose the sum. The unknown quantity of cash is being donated by M&B specifically to support the council’s Enfield Chase Landscape Restoration scheme, which is London’s largest tree-planting project. There will also be a contribution from M&B towards “the costs incurred on treatment to the tree” at Whitewebbs, which remains alive. In a joint statement, issued last month, the council and M&B said: “We recognise the felling of a well-loved veteran tree within the grounds of the Toby Carvery, Whitewebbs, has upset many local people, and we fully understand the strength of feeling this has caused. M&B sincerely apologises for the upset this has caused.” The statement added: “Enfield Council recognises that M&B acted

on the recommendation of reputable, professional advisors in taking the steps that it did, for the purpose of mitigating any health and safety risk to guests, team members and the wider public arising from the condition of the tree.”



The oak tree was chopped down by Toby Carvery in April 2025

SOUTHGATE

School’s new library



Local children’s author Jeanne Willis joins Walker Primary School pupils for the launch of the school’s new library

Children at Walker Primary School now have access to 2,000 books after the official opening of its new library. Local children’s author Jeanne Willis visited the school to cut the ribbon on the library as excited pupils got a first glimpse at the

inspiring new space. Surrounded by shelves of books for all ages, the room also has comfy seating areas, beanbags and reading nooks so that the children can relax and get lost in a story. The library cost £18,000 to build and was funded by Friends of Walker, the school’s parent teacher association, after children asked for a reading space. Headteacher Luke Renwick said: “Through our Pupil Voice initiative, our children told us that they wanted a space to be able to explore books and read quietly. Sadly, local libraries are closing and children in the area are losing this vital service. At Walker, we wanted to buck the trend and give our children access to a wide range of books because we know that this can encourage a lifelong love of reading.”

BRIMSDOWN

Sports ground redevelopment

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Developer has revealed plans to build 390 homes on a derelict sports ground site. Arish Living says it wants to “transform” Brimsdown Sports Ground “into a vibrant, green and well-connected new neighbourhood that benefits both existing and future residents”. The development would likely rise to five storeys, but include a mix of flats and houses, as well as “a central park with pedestrian, cycle and running paths around and across it” plus “children’s play areas” and “informal recreation spaces”. On Arish’s consultation website, which is seeking people’s views ahead of a formal planning application later this year, no mention is made of providing new sports facilities. Brimsdown Sports Ground has been closed to the public for several years. It was once home to both Brimsdown Rovers and Enfield Town football clubs, but after both left the site around 15 years ago, the stadium and pitches have deteriorated, and the site has become a magnet for vandalism.

Goldsdow and Brimsdown Sports Ltd is the site’s private leaseholder but, since January last year, Arish Living has held a controlling stake in the company. The council’s own position on the site’s future has recently changed. In the draft Enfield Local Plan it was included primarily as a housing site, although with hope there’d be a “community use” which “should be linked to provision of a new sports pitch” – but at the plan’s public examination last year, the council withdrew the sports ground as a housing site and a barrister said it was now “part of the ongoing consideration of need for playing pitches”.

Take part in the consultation: Visit brimsdownconsultation.com



Brimsdown Sports Ground has been fenced off for over a decade

The Mabel Churn Centre
55b The Sunny Road, Brimsdown EN3 5EF
020 8351 1131 | enquiries@ageukenfield.org.uk
ageukenfield.org.uk



‘Intimate event’ planned by Livestock Festival organisers

Although the larger event has been cancelled this year, a smaller-scale version will now be taking place instead

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

All is not lost for local music fans who had been looking forward to this year’s Livestock Festival.

After announcing that the Forty Hall Farm event would take a fallow year in 2026, organisers Livestock Events CIC have revealed plans for a new, smaller-scale live music showcase this month.

Taking place on Saturday, 18th July, ‘Still Not The Livestock Festival’ will bring together local bands, vinyl DJs, food, drink and the community spirit that has been at the heart of Livestock events for more than a decade.

The announcement follows the difficult decision earlier this year to pause the full Livestock Festival. Organisers cited a combination of economic pressures, increasing operational complexity and the challenges faced by volunteer-led community events across the country. There remains hope that Livestock Festival will return in 2027, however.

For this year, the team have worked behind the scenes to create a “more intimate

event” that “remains true to the ethos” that has made Livestock such a popular fixture in Enfield’s cultural calendar.

Paul Dengel, director of Livestock Events CIC, said: “While we were disappointed that it wasn’t possible to deliver the full Livestock Festival this year, we never wanted July to pass without doing something for the community that has supported us for so many years.

“Livestock has always been about bringing people

“We never wanted July to pass without doing something for the community that has supported us for so many years”

together through live music, supporting local artists and creating memorable experiences in a unique setting. We realised that although a full-scale festival wasn’t realistic in 2026, we could still create something special on a smaller scale.

“Still Not The Livestock Festival is exactly that – a chance to spend a summer afternoon and evening with great bands, good food, local drinks and friends at Forty Hall Farm. It won’t be the festival, but

it will absolutely capture the spirit that people associate with Livestock.”

The event will take place in and around the Long Barn at Forty Hall Farm and will feature a programme of live music throughout the day and evening.

The first acts announced include local favourites The Gregory Gang, long-established punk-pop outfit Daddy Those Men Scare Me and Livestock regulars The Vipers, who will headline the event. Between live performances, North London’s vinyl specialists The Vinyl-ers will provide a soundtrack spanning soul, funk, ska, reggae, punk, Britpop

and classic pop.

Further acts and event details are expected to be announced in the coming weeks. Since its beginnings as a small community event, Livestock has grown into one of North London’s best-known independent music festivals, supporting hundreds of artists and raising awareness and funding for local causes.

For more information and to buy tickets: Visit livestockuk.com

Art of the matter

Enfield Art Circle secretary Bill Simpson invites local residents to get involved ahead of the group’s annual exhibition this summer

Nowadays we are often looking for stress relief, like walking in the park, meeting good friends, maybe listening to music, vigorous exercise, or even bungee jumping!

For some people, however, being creative is what helps them feel at ease.

Art in the broadest sense is very accessible, as anyone can practice it and discover an exciting thing to be involved in. But so often art is presented in the grandest way by famous galleries or on television and, of course, there have been many great artists and some wonderful works to be admired.

But art remains accessible because basically anyone can use a pen or pencil and paper, perhaps a box of good quality paints and some water – and away you go!

Create whatever interests you, never worry about the results, as everyone has to start at the beginning. Some people are better at it than others, but that is not what matters. What matters is giving oneself the opportunity to say or draw something



Painting of Enfield Town in the 1950s, by Bill Simpson

very personal.

Enjoy a leisurely afternoon, a couple of hours expressing some colour or sketching, at the same time listening to some favourite music, followed with a tea break and a slice of cake as you enjoy a study of what has been achieved!

You may ponder where you have gone wrong and how you will do it differently next time but, very often one is surprised to discover the end result is better than expected, and begin to realise it is worth taking things further, possibly

with a friend or partner.

Enfield Art Circle is all about this process. We are a friendly group with variable abilities, having demonstrations and workshops once a month, discussing problems and finding solutions.

Each year we have an annual exhibition at Capel Manor Gardens, in August, and two one-day table top exhibitions in spring and autumn. So if you are interested, please join us!

For information about Enfield Art Circle and to get involved: Visit enfieldartcircle.org

New museum to open this month

Trent Park House has been painstakingly restored by developer Berkeley Homes



BY JAMES CRACKNELL

A new museum that will tell the story of how an Enfield mansion house played a crucial intelligence role in the Second World War will finally open to the public this month.

Trent Park House hosted the wartime ‘secret listeners’ who covertly gathered intelligence from high-ranking Nazi officers held at the mansion, and the creation of a museum to highlight this history was one of the promises made when developer

Berkeley Homes won permission to convert the upper floors of the building into luxury flats as part of a wider redevelopment scheme in 2017.

Following several years of painstaking work, partly supported by the National Lottery, the ground floor and basement will now open to the public as the Trent Park House of Secrets museum on Tuesday, 21st July.

From this date the museum will be open every week from Tuesday to Sunday, 10am–5pm, with entry tickets costing £14 for adults and £12 for children and students. Under-fives can

enter for free. Advance booking is available.

As well as the Second World War exhibitions and interactive displays, the museum will also explore Trent Park House’s pre-war history under the ownership of famous socialite Sir Philip Sassoon, who used it to entertain the likes of Charlie Chaplin and Winston Churchill.

Dr Giuseppe Albano MBE, director of Trent Park House of Secrets, said: “For decades the story of Trent Park has been hidden in plain sight.

“Many people were aware that something unusual had happened here during the war, but its full significance only became clear much later, and that is what makes it such a compelling place to explore today. We are opening the house with many secrets to share, and there will be more to discover in the years ahead as the story of Trent Park continues to unfold.”

For more information: Visit trentparkhouse.org.uk

Breakfast and brunch venues bring international flavours



Neil Littman enjoys tasty dishes at three popular local cafes in Winchmore Hill and Southgate

This month I've visited three places that serve breakfast and brunch – including one that also opens in the evenings with a different menu.

Their cuisines are Middle Eastern, Italian and Mediterranean (with other influences). One has been open just over a year, another for over ten years, while the third somewhere between. But what I think they represent is the intention to offer good value and consistent quality at a time when 60% of restaurants in the UK fail in their first year.

The state of the economy is still affecting prices and the survival of the hospitality sector. In the past few months, I have seen several well-established places close, and others reopen with different menus (and names). However, there are other exciting new openings on the horizon which I hope to cover in the autumn.

The first of my breakfast/brunch stops was Hopper & Bean, one of the longest-established cafes in Winchmore Hill. An independent family-run café (led by Chet) for over ten years, they are located on The Green and have a very welcoming outdoor space, seating up to 30 diners. Over time they have become a community hub.

The interior has had a couple of makeovers but still retains the same vibe, and their coffee originates from the Allpress roastery in Shoreditch. They serve an eclectic menu ranging from Mediterranean breakfasts to Mexican dishes including huevos rancheros, courgette corn fritters (my favourite) plus American pancakes and waffles.

Brunch dishes cost between £10.50 and £14.50, and there's a good children's menu available. Hopper & Bean is also licensed and serve cocktails from 11am (if that's not too early!) which are well-priced at £8.50 or two for £14.

My second visit was to Wanasa Middle Eastern restaurant, down the



road in Green Lanes. Their name is Arabic for 'connecting with people in humble settings' and is run by Hiyam, originally from Jordan.

They have an airy interior with wood floors and white walls, while they have a garden area at the back of the café. The food reflects influences from the Levant region, comprising Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. The specials also showcase favourite childhood dishes from other Arabic countries like Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Algeria.

I ordered the vegetarian breakfast with fried eggs, haloumi, hash browns with grilled tomatoes and rocket leaves, plus a chilli dip, which arrived dusted with Manchego cheese with sourdough toast on the side. Including a vanilla milkshake, this came to £21.

My final visit was to Amici Bistro and Restaurant, located in Southgate Green, which had been enthusiastically recommended to me by a couple of readers.

Open for just over a year, the breakfast menu includes standard brunch items mostly based around eggs, but a more adventurous Italian/Mediterranean menu at lunchtime, including pizzas, calzone, pasta and risotto dishes with some meat and fish mains.

I ate there with my regular dining companion, and it reminded us of places where we had eaten on holiday abroad. We had a tricolore salad and prawns, cooked in a spicy sauce, followed by a great sea bass dish and 'tagliatelle alle Norma' (with aubergine, ricotta and tomato) which, incidentally, was one of the dishes served at Dua Lipa's wedding lunch in Palermo recently.

With two glasses of wine our bill (for two) came to £57, including service.

For more information, including opening times:
Visit hopperandbean.com
Visit wanasacafe.co.uk
Visit amicisouthgate.co.uk

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

Submit your listing

We can include low-cost community events taking place in Enfield. For next month's listings, email the details of your event to enfielddispatch@socialspider.com by **Monday 20th July**.

WRITING

Enfield Creative Writing Group
Thursday 9th July, 10am
Community Room, Enfield Town Library, 66 Church Street, Enfield Town EN2 6AX

Enfield Creative Writing Group was setup by Enfield Over 50s Forum and continues to thrive. We meet on the second Thursday of every month. Our topic for July is 'hidden talents'. Please feel free to join us.

Free to join
Email enfieldtownlibraryhub@enfield.gov.uk

BANDSTAND

Lazy Sunday Afternoons at Hilly Fields
Sunday 12th July, from 3pm
Hilly Fields Park, Clay Hill EN2 9AJ

Our music on the bandstand summer programme continues with Soul Agents providing the entertainment this month. Bring your own food and drink and enjoy lazing around on a Sunday afternoon!

Free entry, but raising money for Chickenshed
Visit hillyfields.info

CONCERT

Enfield Community Orchestra Summer Concert
Thursday 16th July, 7.45pm
St Stephens' Church, London Road, Enfield Town EN1 2ET

Come and hear a varied programme of pop classics from the 1960s to the 2000s and beyond! Enjoy a summer evening in the beautiful interior of St Stephen's Church and listen to our popular local orchestra.

Suggested donation £8 (includes tea/coffee, cake and programme)
Visit enfieldcommunityorchestra.co.uk

EXHIBITION

RTSY Art Exhibition
Saturday 18th July, 11am-1.30pm
Myddelton House Gardens, Bulls Cross EN2 9HG

This exhibition will showcase work by over 60 students aged from four to 16 years from RTSY – The Creative School of Art. Throughout the year, students have explored a wide range of themes and techniques and the exhibition is a celebration of the students' creativity, progress and imagination.

Free entry
Visit rtsythecreativeschoolofart.com

FESTIVAL

Chroma: A Festival of Pride in Full Colour
Saturday 18th July, 12pm until late
Dugdale Arts Centre, 39 London Road, Enfield EN2 6DS

Celebrate Enfield Pride with a high-energy music festival spotlighting LGBTQ artists, voices and communities. Expect an exciting programme of DJs and dancing across two stages. Enjoy a vibrant mix of live acts, tributes, drag, MCs, and an incredible headline set from Jo O'Meara of S Club 7.

Early bird tickets before 2pm cost £16.50
Visit dugdaleartscentre.co.uk

MARKET

The Little Children's Market
Saturday 25th July, 10.30am-12pm
Enfield Grammar Upper School, Enfield Town EN2 6LN

Come and grab yourself a bargain! Our baby and children nearly-new sales are big, family-friendly events with thousands of pre-loved toys, clothes, books and equipment – all under one roof, at bargain prices!

Entry for shoppers £2, table hire £17
Visit thelittlechildrensmarket.com/events-in-/north-london

CHILDREN

Tales Big Day Out
Saturday 25th July, 10am and 1pm
Chickenshed Theatre, 290 Chase Side, Southgate N14 4PE

Big Day Out offers a variety of big activities and even bigger shows throughout the building and garden. There is something for everyone. Expect music, dancing, stories, puppet-making and arts and crafts – all delivered in Tales' signature inclusive style, with a splash of silliness!

Tickets £12.50 for children aged up to seven years
Visit chickenshed.org.uk

JAZZ

Googlies Jazz Club
Thursdays, 7pm
Botany Bay Cricket Club, East Lodge Lane EN2 8AS

Googlies Jazz Club features a house quartet plus a different guest artist each week – always one of Britain's leading soloists or vocalists. A two-course meal for £15 is also available – please book in advance.

Tickets £10 members, £12 non-members
Visit googliesjazz.co.uk

New signings arrive at Enfield Town



Central midfielder Amrit Bansal-McNulty has followed manager Billy Holland to Enfield Town from Waltham Abbey
Credit Ben Mammen/Enfield Town FC

Andrew Warshaw introduces some of the new faces at The Dave Bryant Stadium ahead of next season

New Enfield Town manager Billy Holland’s recruitment drive is in full flow ahead of a busy pre-season schedule that gets under way in the first week of July.

At the time of writing, some ten players had committed their immediate future to the club, including three of last season’s relegated squad – skipper Mickey Parcell, evergreen record appearance maker Sam Youngs and winger Billy Leonard – plus a number of players from Billy’s former club Waltham Abbey.

Arguably the most eye-catching acquisition among the new recruits is left-back Junior Moses, signed from Cockfosters down the road and one of the standout players in their recent FA Vase final at Wembley Stadium.

Aged only 19, Moses’ performance caught the eye of several clubs higher up the non-league pyramid, including Town, who managed to get a deal over the line.

A former trialist with AC Milan, Junior posted 19 goal involvements from left-back at Cockfosters last season and also impressed when they upset Town in the London Senior Cup.

“Junior is a real modern full-back,” said Billy. “High energy levels, and his attacking mindset really matches up with how we are trying to.

“I knew he was way better than step five but it was difficult because, after the Vase, a lot of clubs came in for him. He asked whether I could match this and match that and although the answer was no, I told him that what I could do is put him in the shop window, use his strengths and improve his weaknesses. Plus, the style of football we want to play.”

Among his former players, Billy has brought

in attacking midfielder Amrit Bansal-McNulty, a product of Queens Park Rangers’ academy who gets fans off their seats and last season earned a spot in the Isthmian League North Division ‘team of the year’.

Such is the short space of time between the end of one season and start of the next, a series of pre-season friendlies has already been arranged.

Town begin at nearby Haringey Borough on Saturday, 4th July, followed by games against Leyton Orient (home), Stotfold (away), new National League sides Worthing and Hornchurch – both at home – plus an away game at

Bishop’s Stortford and the annual home fixture against the Spurs under-21s side.

While Billy has been unable to persuade more than three of last season’s National League South squad to remain, he is focusing on the positives.

“To be honest I’m happy with the three I’ve got. People need to realise that when a club goes down from a higher division, the budgets are not going to be the same. Players think they belong at a certain level so they are all going to be looking for similar money regardless of whether a club is relegated under their watch.”

The quest for a seasoned goalkeeper was still ongoing at the time the *Dispatch* went to press while, at the other end of the pitch, Billy has acquired former Republic of Ireland under-19 international George Nunn, who spent four years at Chelsea in his early development.

Gavin Macpherson’s successor at The Dave Bryant Stadium doesn’t seem at all fazed by

the fact that several of the new recruits will have had limited success at step three of the non-league pyramid, or that clubs at the same level as Town have outbid him numerous times for prospective additions to the new-look squad.

“Enfield Town has got a big name with great fans, but I don’t mind players going elsewhere for more money. Some of these clubs will offer players the world in pre-season, then have to let them go.

“I’m not going to offer players something I can’t back up. That’s a waste of time. I know what we have and don’t have.”

In the meantime, training has already started ahead of the pre-season fixtures, which come thick and fast before the new Isthmian Premier League campaign gets under way in August.

“The home friendlies look like a tall order but

“People need to realise that when a club goes down from a higher division, the budgets are not going to be the same”

they are deliberately designed to see how we do when we haven’t got the ball,” Billy explained. “When teams have more possession than us, how do we cope with it?”

It seems like a really early start but, again, that’s a deliberate strategy.

“We are embarking on a whole new system, a whole new way of playing. Even – or maybe especially – for the ones who we’ve kept from last season. I want all my players to understand quickly what I’m asking of them.”

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Full-back Junior Moses arrives from Cockfosters
Credit Ben Mammen/Enfield Town FC

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