

# ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº. 23 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

AUG 2020

## NEWS

Councillors explain why they quit Labour Party

P. 3

## HEALTH

Public health funding still lags behind other boroughs

P. 10

## ARTS

Appeal launched to help save Chickenshed Theatre

P. 12



**DINERS HAVE BEGUN** enjoying fresh food at The Green in Winchmore Hill, where a road has been closed to allow local cafes and restaurants to place tables and chairs outside. After a three-month lockdown necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic, Enfield Council introduced a new 'pavement licence' to enable more businesses to offer al fresco dining and support the borough's economy, as they adapt to social distancing measures Credit: Neil Littman

## Tube and rail upgrades shelved

BY JAMES CRACKNELL & JESSIE MATHEWSON, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

**T**wo major railway upgrades deemed crucial for serving Enfield's growing population have been shelved by Transport for London (TfL) after its finances were hit by the pandemic.

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan said he had been forced to ditch a Piccadilly Line signalling upgrade that would have allowed trains to run every 90 seconds, boosting capacity by 60%.

Similarly, the long-touted Crossrail 2 project planned to serve the new station at Meridian Water, as well as Ponders End, Brimsdown and Enfield Lock, with trains into central London every five minutes, has also been paused.

Doubts had already been cast over the future of Crossrail 2 before the pandemic, as reported by the *Dispatch* in January.

Earlier this year, former TfL boss Mike Brown described the £2.45-billion Piccadilly signalling upgrade as the network's "number one priority". The capital's transport authority had highlighted the need for government support to fund the scheme, but given the strain on TfL's finances since the pandemic, a number of major projects are now deemed too expensive to pursue.

New walk-through trains for the Piccadilly Line are still set to be delivered by 2024, and on their own would boost capacity by 20%, but without new signals the trains would be forced to run to the same timetable as at present. It is the only tube line serving Enfield, with four stations in the west of borough.

Mayor Khan told a City Hall budget meeting last month that speeding up the Piccadilly Line would be vital for the capital – but that it cannot go ahead "until we've resolved the finances". He added: "It would increase the frequency of trains... it would increase capacity hugely, so we need it, but that's paused."

"Those capital projects where we're contractually obliged to follow through, we're going to follow through – but those that [we] aren't contractually committed on, where we don't have a funding source, will be paused."

TfL faced a huge revenue hit with passenger revenues down 90% at the peak of the crisis, but later agreed a £1.6bn bailout with the government to keep services running until October. Bosses say they cannot plan for capital investment

without long-term security.

London Assembly member Caroline Pidgeon, a Liberal Democrat, said: "Getting agreement on funding and the green light for the Piccadilly Line upgrade is a critical test of whether Sadiq Khan and Boris Johnson can put aside their differences and for once put the interests of London first."

Crossrail 2, like the Piccadilly Line signalling, is seen by Enfield Council as a crucial infrastructure upgrade. At a transport policy forum last December Neeru Kareer, the council's head of strategic planning and design, said the project was "about transformative impact" and would help reduce inequality between the east and west of Enfield borough. It would also "propel delivery" of Meridian Water, the council's flagship housing redevelopment.



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# ED.

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**Publisher**  
David Floyd

**Editor**  
James Cracknell

**Designer**  
Jonathan Duncan

**Head of Advertising**  
Klaudia Kiss

**Head of Operations**  
Paige Ballmi

**Engagement Manager**  
Penny Dampier

**Contributors**  
Jessie Mathewson, Simon Allin, Yasemin Brett, Emma Friddin, Monty Meth, Alastair Gavin, Susan Jamson, Andrew Warshaw

## CONTACT

Call 020 8521 7956

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

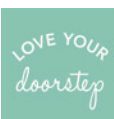
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# Climate action plan agreed

## Council reveals ambition to plant 100,000 trees in north of the borough as it sets out net-zero carbon strategy

BY SIMON ALLIN,  
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

**T**he creation of a new woodland with 100,000 trees will help to cut the borough's carbon emissions to net zero by 2040, claims Enfield Council.

The woodland creation project forms part of the council's Enfield Climate Action Plan, which sets out a range of measures to slash carbon emissions from transport, buildings and other sources.

Due to be created on 60 hectares of council-owned farmland to the north of Trent Park, part of the historic Enfield Chase, the woodland will play a role in carbon offsetting – tackling emissions that cannot be eliminated. It is projected to capture around 234 tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

The council aims to cut its own carbon emissions to net zero by 2030 by ensuring all its vehicles are electric, refurbishing buildings to make them energy efficient and divesting its pension fund from fossil fuel companies, among other measures.

As well as cutting emissions

produced directly by the council, the action plan includes a commitment to tackle “scope three emissions” – those from sources that are not owned or controlled by the local authority.

It acknowledges the whole borough will take longer to become carbon neutral and aims to achieve this goal by 2040.

With transport in Enfield accounting for an estimated 39% of the borough's total emissions, more cycling and walking infrastructure will be created to reduce car use.

Low traffic neighbourhoods, school streets and play streets will play a role in cutting emissions, along with more charging points for electric vehicles.

All of the borough's buildings are expected to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040. This will be accomplished through measures such as building homes to low-carbon standards, retrofitting existing housing and switching to low-carbon power sources.

The council also aims to double its current below-average recycling

rate by the mid 2030s and ensure no waste is sent to landfill by 2040. The local authority has already agreed, through North London Waste Authority, to build a new incinerator in Edmonton – a project opposed by local environment groups.

While the council is committed to carbon reduction, having declared a 'climate emergency' in 2019, the action plan states that it cannot do so without support from government – including extra funding.

Enfield Climate Action Plan was adopted at a meeting of the cabinet earlier this month. Councillor Ian Barnes, the deputy leader and chair of the council's climate change task force, said: “Our action plan is ambitious and innovative and will enable us to play our full role in meeting targets for reducing carbon emissions and mitigating the effects of climate change.

“This is a far-reaching plan, which we will be delivering at a very challenging time for local government, so we will be monitoring progress, including through an annual report, and making sure the plan continues to be fit for purpose with a review every two years.”



A tree-planting day was held at Weir Hall Park in Edmonton last year – the council now wants to plant 100,000 trees in the borough

# Future of Enfield's history in doubt

BY SIMON ALLIN,  
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

**A** conservation group has urged Enfield Council to reveal more information about plans for a museum and archive that contain a wealth of historical artefacts.

Enfield Society has been pressing the council to reveal plans for the Museum of Enfield and Enfield Local Studies Library and Archive, both based at the Dugdale Centre in Thomas Hardy House, but says it has so far received no response.

In March, the local authority agreed to create offices for its children's services department on the first and second floor of the Dugdale. Staff are due to move into the building from September. The council says the museum – currently occupying spaces on the ground and first floors – will

remain but with all permanent displays moved to the ground floor.

Members of Enfield Society say they are “extremely concerned” about the fate of the museum and archive – warning the changes could threaten their accreditation by the Arts Council and National Archives and deprive them of eligibility for grant funding. They also warn the shake-up could be at odds with the borough's heritage strategy.

In a letter to council leader Nesil Caliskan, the residents' group wrote: “The remaining rooms on the ground floor of the Dugdale Centre are wholly inadequate for a display of the museum's permanent collection.

“Failure to provide adequate accommodation could result in a fragmented service across the borough.”

The Museum of Enfield contains around 17,000 artefacts from across the borough, dating all

the way back to prehistoric times, but only a small number are on display at any one time. Enfield Local Studies Library and Archive features historical documents dating back to the 13th Century, including photographs, newspapers and journals. Previously based at Palmers Green Library, it moved to the current building, which was specially adapted to host it, in 2008.

Val Munday from Enfield Society said: “I don't know where the council are going to fit the permanent collections. There is a theatre and café on the ground floor of the Dugdale Centre, and not really room for display space.

“If you have a school going to visit, it is not really satisfactory – accommodating them on the ground floor is going to be extremely difficult.

“Local studies are going to move, but we are not sure where. The

[first] floor of Thomas Hardy House is specially reinforced, and the temperature controlled, so it is going to be a major upheaval.

“People like it in the centre of town because it is accessible. Visitor figures for both the museum and archive have gone up since the move to Thomas Hardy House.”

Enfield Society says the council should hold a full consultation with stakeholders before any decision is made on relocation.

A council spokesperson said: “The museum will remain at Thomas Hardy House with permanent displays relocated to the ground floor. We are working on a detailed design and will share proposals in due course.

“Options for the location of the archive are currently being reviewed. Accessibility will be a key consideration. We will again share proposals in due course.”



# Shopping mall revamp planned

**T**he owners of Edmonton Green Shopping Centre have announced a major revamp, including plans to build new homes.

Crosstree Real Estate Partners bought the site for £72million in late 2018 and is now pushing ahead with a large-scale redevelopment – although the three big tower blocks there at present will remain. As well as the main indoor shopping mall, the site includes several car parks and a covered market, all of which will be part of the revamp. Detailed plans have not yet been revealed but a planning application is due to be submitted shortly.

Crosstree launched a virtual exhibition last month to share its thinking behind the early plans for the centre's redevelopment. It followed a series of drop-in sessions earlier this year where people were encouraged to give their thoughts on the future of



A sketch showing how the revamp of Edmonton Green could look

Edmonton Green. The company is now working with LDS Architects to prepare the designs to “revitalise and improve” Edmonton Green so it becomes a “vibrant destination” for the local community. It says the proposals aim to address issues with anti-social behaviour

and include three key features; new public spaces and redesigned streets, a new purpose-built market building; and new homes.

Any development is expected to take several years to come to fruition and would be started at the south car park, to avoid disruption

to the main shopping centre. Matt Mason, partner at Crosstree, said: “Edmonton Green Shopping Centre is a local hub for the community that has a lot of potential.

“During the past year we have been engaging with local communities to understand what is important to them, how we can improve the centre, and how they would like it to look in future. We are now able to share our emerging plans and would really like to hear people’s feedback, which will help inform the next phase of design.”

Further public exhibitions and engagement events are planned prior to the submission of a planning application to Enfield Council later this year.

**For more information and to get in touch with Crosstree:**

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## Family's care home concerns

**T**he relative of a resident at a care home hit by the borough's worst outbreak of coronavirus has spoken out about her experience.

The daughter of an elderly resident of Elizabeth Lodge, where there were 17 confirmed Covid-19 deaths in March and April and several others suspected as being caused by the virus, said she believed the outbreak began very early in March – long before any lockdown restrictions were in place.

She did not wish to be named, but told the *Dispatch* her mother nearly died. “She hasn’t walked since,” she said. “She used to be mobile and push along a walker. But she was left weak from the virus for a long time, she developed a blood clot on her leg. She has dementia and might have forgotten how to walk. She is unable to find her balance.”

The daughter revealed that family members were not informed about the extent of the outbreak at Elizabeth Lodge until late April. “When I visited on 1st March I met someone whose father was in the same unit and he was ill. I found out a few months later he actually died that night and they think it was Covid-19. It was already too late because it was spreading like wildfire.”

In April, she was told her mother may die. “It is unbelievable my mum survived – she is made of stern stuff. Little by little she pulled through. When she was on death's door, they allowed me to come in and say goodbye. They took my temperature but the person who did it wasn't wearing a mask.

“I asked how many deaths they had but they wouldn't tell me. My mum was never diagnosed with Covid-19 because they weren't allowed to be tested. Why were they not testing in the middle of the outbreak?

“The government poorly prepared care homes, it should've been obvious they'd be affected.”

According to Elizabeth Lodge operator Care UK, the first suspected case was identified in late March. While PPE supplies were sufficient, in April government guidance omitted wearing masks. Care UK's regional director Deliana Katsiaounis said: “I'm sorry if communication with any family member fell short. As the pandemic progressed, we put in measures to improve communication with relatives.”

# 'Why we quit Labour'

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

**T**wo councillors who quit Labour to become independent members have spoken to the *Dispatch* about their reasons for leaving the party – claiming they had been left unable to do their jobs properly.

Southgate councillor Derek Levy and Winchmore Hill ward member Dinah Barry left Labour earlier this year despite saying that they still believed in “Labour values” and wanted to fulfil the manifesto they were elected on in 2018. But they claim the leadership of Enfield Labour group had effectively frozen them out

of discussions on policy.

Cllr Levy said: “I have made a positive decision to become independent – I am quite independent-minded anyway. I decided to leave Labour because it has become clearer than ever before that it has become impossible to serve the residents who elected me for Southgate and give them the service they require.

“We were being denied access to information and policies – we had been sidelined. Why would I be a member of a club that didn't want me?”

Cllr Levy and Cllr Barry have now formed a new grouping on the council called ‘Community First’. Although only the two of

them are in the group at present, they said other councillors who feel similarly are welcome to join.

Cllr Barry said: “If their intentions are to serve residents and not themselves, they are welcome to join us. It is an opportunity to talk ideas through.

“[In Labour] we couldn't do the best job for our residents, we had become hamstrung. I had issues of conscience and couldn't vote with the Labour group and I was told I couldn't abstain. I couldn't work like that.

“We explored all possible avenues before we resigned.”

The current divisions within the Labour group in Enfield date back to at least 2018, when former leader Doug Taylor was deposed by current leader Nesil Caliskan two weeks after Labour won an increased majority in that year's local election. Cllr Levy and Cllr Barry both supported Cllr Taylor – saying he offered them “respect, inclusivity, recognition and open debate” – but say they had tried to work constructively with Cllr Caliskan before the relationship broke down. A complaint made by Cllr Levy against Cllr Caliskan

led to the council leader being found in breach of the council's code of conduct last year.

Cllr Levy said: “Even when we were in the group and wanted to speak, the ruling group managed the agenda in such a way that others weren't allowed to speak or were too far down the pecking order.

“It became a party of exclusivity rather than inclusivity. We were expected to act like poodles. You are supposed to be able to contribute – we were letting down our residents, but it wasn't our fault.”

Labour Party rules state that a councillor can't quit a local group without also leaving the party, which forced the two councillors to resign even though they still supported Labour at a national level.

“It was the Enfield factor that drove it rather than the wider Labour Party,” added Cllr Levy. “The manifesto on which we were elected reflected the beliefs and values that I supported. We haven't changed – the Labour Party in Enfield has changed.”

Cllr Caliskan was approached for comment but did not respond before the *Dispatch* went to press.

Cllr Levy represents Southgate ward



Cllr Barry is a ward member for Winchmore Hill



# Leading the way

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

A podcaster who rang up a national radio broadcaster to discuss the Black Lives Matter movement ended up co-hosting a show on the same station.

Denise Headley, a former Labour and Conservative councillor in Enfield, is a benefits advisor by day but hopes to launch a broadcasting career. She seized her opportunity when LBC host Iain Dale began discussing Black Lives Matter demonstrations back in June.

Denise told the *Dispatch*: “There was a conversation on the radio about Black Lives Matter and how the protesters were not socially distancing. I rang up Iain Dale and said he had a ‘prism of whiteness’ and he didn’t see the perspectives of the people who were marching and the people who had a negative

experience of systemic racism.

“Iain Dale said he felt he was able to understand a different viewpoint from talking to me. The person who owns the radio show, his father was listening and they said they would like me to come in. It was a galactic experience – the stars aligned.”

Denise was invited to co-host a one-off show but did such an impressive job she’s been invited back several times since – and is now eyeing up a regular slot on the airwaves. She is a presenter on Colourful Radio, a podcasting platform for people of colour, but said: “It is massively daunting to go from a podcast to talking live to a quarter-of-a-million people.

“The first show was an hour and now in total I have done five hours of radio. I am getting some training and I would love to have a career in broadcasting – I am a very talkative person

anyway and I’m very political.”

Followers of local politics may recall Denise’s twelve years as a councillor in Enfield, during which she quit Labour to join the Conservatives in 2009 after being de-selected by her old party. She continues to be a member of the Tories but has been critical of its under-representation of black people, as well as similar issues in the media.

Denise said: “There is no black version of [Andrew] Marr or [Robert] Peston. You don’t see black political commentators.

“The Conservative Party has to understand it is the internal structures because that is where the problems lie. They need to have far better monitoring of their selections. It is a plague on all our houses – it’s a problem in all political parties.

“If you are seen as being black and ambitious in this country, people are afraid of you. I want there to be conversations about race from people who have experienced it and lived it.

“Now my face is pressed against the window. It doesn’t mean I am there yet. Since Black Lives Matter there have been more appearances on TV for black people but what I don’t want to see is what I call the ‘Dr Oetker approach’ – sprinkles on the top when the cake is the same.

“The whole cake needs to change.”



Denise Headley behind the mic at LBC

# Local Covid-19 data shows unequal spread

BY SIMON ALLIN,  
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

The latest statistics on the impact of coronavirus on Enfield show how the virus has had a disproportionate impact across the borough.

Council data shows a higher number of Covid-19 deaths in more deprived areas in the east of the borough and a disproportionate impact on people in care homes, those with underlying conditions, ethnic minorities, and routine and manual workers.

Public health experts presented the statistics at a meeting of the health and wellbeing board last week, where the government faced renewed criticism over care home testing and the provision of Covid-19 data to councils.

The figures show there were 385 Covid-19 deaths in Enfield up to 26th June, 93 of which – almost a quarter – were in care homes. The virus peaked in Enfield when 38 cases were recorded on 16th April. Roseanna Kennedy-Smith, from Enfield’s public health intelligence team, said recent data showed there are now “between nought and three cases in a day”.

“In terms of where we are seeing the cases, cumulative cases are generally highest in wards that score least favourably or low in terms of the deprivation index,” she added.

Cockfosters bucked the trend with 77 cumulative cases, which Roseanne said is “potentially due to the number of care homes located in the ward”. The figures show Cockfosters and Southgate saw the highest number of deaths from Covid-19 in care homes, with more than 20 in each ward.

When care home deaths were taken out of the figures, Upper Edmonton saw the highest number of fatalities (25), followed by Jubilee (18) and Enfield Highway (17).

“When we exclude care home deaths, we can see deaths are occurring in the most deprived wards – these were the wards where deaths were the highest,” Roseanna said.

Mortality figures showed there were a higher proportion of deaths from Covid-19 among those from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups than those from a white British background. The statistics also reveal a disproportionate impact on those with underlying conditions, routine and manual workers – such as carers, drivers, labourers and carpenters – and health and social care professionals.

Roseanna said: “We are seeing a high risk of death in routine and manual workers. This is something we might have expected – these are people-facing jobs and at a high risk of being exposed to Covid-19 due to their professions.”

# Tributes paid to long-serving councillor

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL  
DEMOCRACY REPORTER  
& JAMES CRACKNELL

Politicians from across the spectrum have paid tribute to late Enfield councillor Chris Bond.

Cllr Bond, who had represented Southbury ward for Labour since 2006 and previously served Ponders End and Enfield Lock wards in a 34-year political career, died on Friday 17th July after a long illness. He had been a councillor in Enfield since 1986 and his roles on the council included cabinet member for environment and chairman of the licensing committee. He was also a member of the local police co-ordination group, Community Action Partnership in Enfield (CAPE).

Council leader Nesil Caliskan said: “Chris was a committed and passionate councillor who represented the residents of Enfield with the utmost dedication.

“In his capacity as cabinet member for environment, he was a passionate advocate of our wonderful parks and open spaces and helped to deliver some major transformational projects. He was committed to climate action and creating a more sustainable Enfield, with many of his sustainability projects gaining national recognition.

“Chris was Labour through and through and a proud trade unionist. He will be much missed by his fellow councillors, council staff and residents. We send our deepest condolences to all those who loved him.”

Cllr Bond first moved to the borough aged four and attended St Edmunds School in Bounces Road before going to St Ignatius College in Stamford Hill. He began working for the Post Office in 1968 before it became British Telecom, for whom he continued to work until retiring in 2000. He had joined the Labour Party in 1974 and the Co-operative Party, a Labour affiliate, in 1979.

Enfield Southgate MP Bambos Charalambous said: “Very sad to hear of the death of Cllr Bond. He was a friend and colleague for over 20 years. His 34 years of public service for Enfield Council was immense. His sound judgment and advice were invaluable. His friendship and kindness will always be remembered. RIP Chris.”

Joanne McCartney, the London Assembly member for Enfield and Haringey, said: “Such sad news. Chris was a lovely man who went out of his way to help residents and colleagues. I will miss my friend.”



Chris Bond was first elected for Labour in 1986

A keen cricket and rugby fan, Cllr Bond himself explained that his reason for standing to become a councillor was to represent local residents whose voice “is too often not heard by those elected or those that work for those organisations supposed to work for the people of Enfield”. He added that he was “a firm believer that people should get more involved in local community issues”.

Conservative group leader Joanne Laban also paid tribute to Cllr Bond. She said: “I liked and respected him immensely. Chris was someone anyone could get on with. He certainly made me laugh, and at Enfield Council you certainly need to laugh at times. My condolences to his family.”



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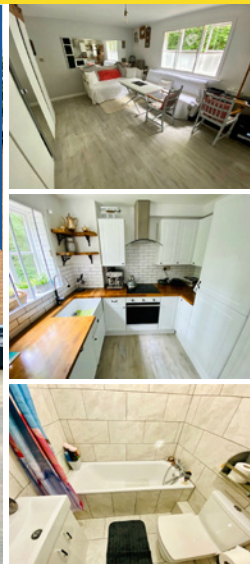
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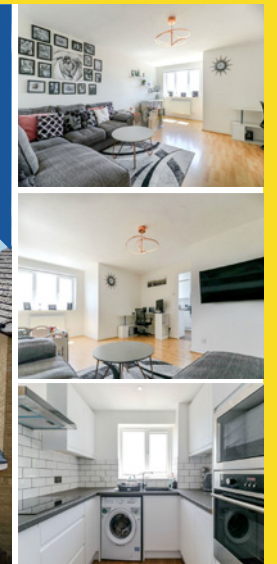
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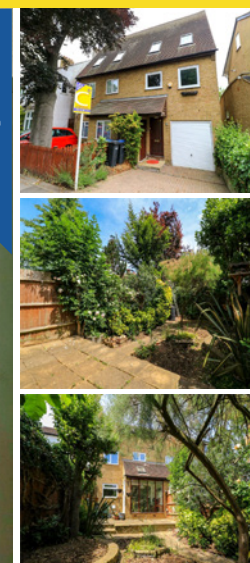
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## Anger over councillors' pay rise

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER & JAMES CRACKNELL

Opposition members and a newly formed group of ex-Labour councillors have slammed a decision to increase spending on allowances.

Dinah Barry, who recently left the Labour Party to form a group on the council called 'Community First' with Derek Levy, branded the £36,000 increase in councillors' allowances "shameful" at a time when other politicians have taken pay cuts.

The pay rise is made up of an increase in the number of posts that are eligible for special responsibility allowances (SRAs) because they have duties over and above their roles as ward councillors.

It includes an extra associate cabinet member – awarded £7,608 a year on top of their basic pay – and allowances for the heads of new committees such as the environment forum. Basic allowances, which are paid to all elected

members, are not increasing.

The row took place at the first full meeting of Enfield Council since the pandemic began and was held via Microsoft Teams. Cllr Barry claimed the biggest rises were among posts "in the gift of the leader" and said creating paid posts was a form of "patronage".

Members of the Conservative group also sharply criticised the increased spending on allowances. Tory leader Joanne Laban said: "It has a potential increase of £36,000. I don't think that is a good look for the borough as we come out of Covid-19."

Fellow Conservative Mike Rye suggested the increase was about "trying to build up the payroll vote for whoever is leader of the majority party".

But members of the Labour administration defended the increase, which is partly down to a shake-up of the council's scrutiny function. Mary Maguire, the cabinet member for finance, said the changes were about "equality", pointing out that the fostering panel is "extremely

important" – but for years members have not been given SRAs.

Council leader Nesil Caliskan added: "If councillors do not want to take an allowance, they are not forced to. All you have to do is inform officers, and they will make sure you are not paid it."

"Not everyone has a trust fund or a very healthy pension, and if we are serious about making sure representation in local government is fair, you cannot make the argument that we have just heard from councillors that some special responsibilities should be paid more and some, like the fostering panel or chairing the equalities committee, should be paid nothing."

"That is not fair, it's not right, nor is it appropriate – because if we did that, we would be facilitating discrimination."

At the same meeting, councillors voted through a contentious re-organisation of its committee structure. The shake-up comes in response to a review by the Centre for Public Scrutiny – a charity that aims to improve public scrutiny and accountability – and was, according to a council report, "based on feedback received from members who felt that standing panels would provide better accountability, transparency, and improve their involvement".

But some changes, in particular the merger of the conservation advisory group, Green Belt forum and public transport consultative group into a single environment forum – led to fears there would be less scrutiny of key areas.

Cllr Caliskan said the changes "enhance the committee and scrutiny structures" and "allows more councillors to be involved in crucial policy discussions". Cllr Laban said her group welcomed the new separate panels but warned against the mergers of other committees, which have been condemned by local groups such as Southgate District Civic Voice.

"A lot of stakeholders have raised their concerns," the Tory leader said. "Bringing them together is not the right thing. We need to show that we are committed to the Green Belt."

## Slavery arrests

Arrests have been made at a farm in Crews Hill as part of a large-scale investigation into modern slavery offences.

Police officers obtained a search warrant for the Cattlegate Road site last month following a multi-agency operation. They deployed an armoured truck to gain entry to the semi-industrial venue, which had numerous security measures installed. Three men were arrested on suspicion of modern slavery offences.

The operation involved more than 150 people, including around 100 police officers, joined by colleagues from the government, London Fire Brigade, Enfield Council, Environment Agency and National Food Crime Unit. Eleven people were found inside the premises, who were given a range of treatment, and £75,000 in cash was also seized.

Detective Chief Inspector Richard McDonagh said: "This activity forms part of an investigation into the unregulated distribution of food from this site. It is suspected that numerous victims have been exploited for the sake of forced labour. It was crucial police intervention took place in order to protect those we believe are being exploited and arrest those suspected of forcing them into labour."

"Modern slavery and human trafficking are often hidden in plain sight. We need the public to recognise the signs and report their suspicions to the Modern Slavery Helpline or the police."

Home Secretary Priti Patel said: "Through the hard work and co-operation of law enforcement and immigration agencies, we have helped to disrupt a gang suspected of the most heinous exploitation and trafficking of vulnerable people."

Councillor Nneka Keazor, cabinet member for community safety and cohesion, said: "Modern slavery has no place in a civilised society and I am pleased Enfield Council was able to play its full part in support the police operation in our borough."

"We work closely with our community and officers to eradicate this awful crime and I am confident we will continue to root out and eradicate this scourge from society."

## Boost for pandemic response



At Winchmore Hill Cricket Club are, back row from left, Emma Rigby (Love Your Doorstep), Emma Kolaru (Enfield Town Schools' Partnership) and Clare Donovan (Cooking Champions); plus front row from left, Cooking Champions team members Elliot, Rebecca and Niki.

A scheme that has been helping vulnerable people across Enfield during the Covid-19 pandemic has been given a £10,000 grant to support its work.

The Love Your Doorstep consortium, made up of more than 40 local community organisations and supported by Enfield Town Schools' Partnership, was set up in March to deliver a borough-wide programme to respond to the pandemic.

It has received the grant from the London Community Response Fund administered by City Bridge Trust, the City of London Corporation's charity funder.

The money will be used to fund core staffing and running costs and enable Love Your Doorstep to continue its delivery of support for a further three months. Emma Kolaru, partnership manager at Enfield Town Schools' Partnership, said: "The pandemic has

brought pain and hardship to people across the community but vulnerable children and adults, the elderly and the homeless have been hit hardest of all."

"We have also witnessed the extraordinary response within our community from volunteers, key workers and charities and organisations in the public and private sector who have supported everyone through these challenging times."

"This united response has

strengthened partnerships between these sectors and support has been made available faster and been more effective."

Dhruv Patel, chair of City Bridge Trust, said: "The Love Your Doorstep scheme is doing fantastic work on the frontline of the pandemic, providing invaluable support to vulnerable and disadvantaged residents, NHS and care workers across Enfield."

One of the affiliated organisations to benefit is Cooking Champions, which has shifted from making around 50 meals a week for homeless people to preparing and delivering around 1,500 meals a week to vulnerable families across the borough from its base at Winchmore Hill Cricket Club.

Clare Donovan, founder of Cooking Champions, said: "The grant means we can ensure children on free school meals and vulnerable families, do not go hungry over the summer."

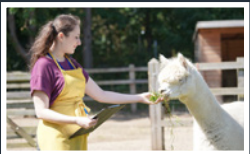
"We are committed to providing fresh, nutritious meals, made with care by our volunteers to these families, something that seems to have been sadly lacking from government care packages."

To report a suspicion contact the Modern Slavery Helpline confidentially:  
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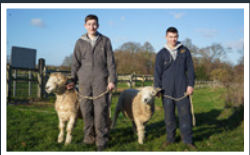
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# Why we're committed to local journalism

*The director of Dispatch publisher Social Spider, David Floyd, on how the community interest company is determined to make local news sustainable*



Local news is facing an existential crisis. Corporate publishers are increasingly overseeing a grim process of managed decline as they try to preserve profits while revenues decrease.

Those of us who are in local news because we believe news matters reject that answer, but that doesn't mean we can ignore the question; in the age of the internet, what are local newspapers for?

The Cairncross review, commissioned by the government in 2018 to look into "the sustainability of high-quality journalism" offers an important, if narrow, take. The review's report, published last year, uses the term 'public interest news' to define journalism that requires "specific government intervention to ensure it survives". The point essentially is that local news is the democratic equivalent of the Health and Safety Executive; most people are not interested in it – or keen to pay directly for it – but we wouldn't like the results of it not being there.

It's important to note that while Cairncross (uncontroversially) describes how business models that previously supported "humdrum reporting" no longer work because of the internet-inspired collapse in revenues, it also (controversially) argues that online alternatives have significantly affected the wider reason for local newspapers to exist.

It states that "Facebook now frequently acts as a hub for local groups" but, while this is true, local newspapers also have attributes that Facebook groups and other local online forums cannot emulate.

While some local online forums are focussed on 'curtain-twitching', many of them also do a lot of good; whether it's co-ordinating practical help for people in need during the Covid-19 lockdown, organising and promoting local campaigns, or providing an outlet for discussion.

***"It's necessary, it's possible, and it's what we're committed to in Enfield"***

The key difference is that Facebook groups are outlets for non-professional individuals. They don't employ journalists and editors, and they don't directly fill the gap left by an absence of local journalism.

As well as *Enfield Dispatch* we publish three other not-for-profit community newspapers, all existing to hold power to account, provide people with information, and amplify the views of the local community. Local newspapers don't have a monopoly on any of these activities but they have a particular role in all of them which cannot be (or, at least, is not currently being) fulfilled by anyone else.

The work of local councils – both the decisions of councillors and the day-to-day implementation by officers

– is scrutinised by opposition councillors, challenged by campaign groups, and complained about by residents. All these are important, but the role of local journalists is distinctly different; providing the facts, challenging decision-makers, explaining what they're doing and why, and enabling local people and groups to put their different views across.

Holding power to account is not just about big policy issues. It's also about telling the stories of people negatively impacted by it – when they have done everything they can to get a response from the authorities and got nowhere. Newspapers can play a particularly useful role in enabling the voices of local people and groups to continue to be heard over extended periods of time, as complicated issues are considered, debated and resolved. Even the biggest local Facebook group is an inherently opt-in activity – what about the people who don't opt-in to the same groups as you?

Unfortunately, the fact that local news publications can fulfil important and useful functions is not itself enough to guarantee their continued existence. There may be some situations of market failure

where communities want newspapers they can't collectively pay for and subsidy is necessary – philanthropy and state subsidy can both play a role in

that. But we should not support the development of an industry of subsidised publications that are, in the words of Cairncross, "of limited interest to the public".

The positive alternative is to create local papers that fulfil the public service goals of news and are also valued by residents and organisations to the extent they will support them to keep going and to grow. It's necessary, it's possible, and it's what we're committed to doing in Enfield with the continued publication of the *Dispatch*. We'd like to thank all our readers, members and contributors for their ongoing support.

This article is an edited extract of an ongoing blog series. Read more online: Visit [medium.com/@startspreadingnews](https://medium.com/@startspreadingnews)

## Highs and Bowes

*In our latest councillor's column, Bowes ward member Yasemin Brett applauds the community's pandemic response*

It's a privilege to serve as a local councillor. I want to take this opportunity to actively recommend participating in public office. It is fantastic to empower people to transform their lives by providing information on services, to be there to listen, and to help frame a solution.

Local government impacts on all our lives every day, from the streets we walk on, to the air we breathe, and it is a shame central government funding to Enfield Council has been almost halved since 2010.

I would like to acquaint *Dispatch* readers with Bowes ward. I have been serving this area since 2002 with my Labour Party colleagues Achilles Georgiou and, more recently, Katherine Chibah. Bowes is one of the gateways into Enfield from Haringey and is a hugely diverse ward, boasting the highest number of Polish and Gujarati speakers in the borough. There are also significant numbers of Bulgarian, Greek and Greek Cypriot speakers. Curiously, the best English breakfasts are served along Green Lanes – they are even served at night!

Throughout the Covid-19 crisis I have been consistently impressed by the resilience and kindness of Bowes residents towards one another. By organising into street-based WhatsApp groups they have cooked, shopped and generally looked out for each other. Some residents created art displays in support of the NHS and a project run by residents which saw them put flowers in their window to help make the area look more attractive, while also raising money for

The Trussell Trust.

Many residents said how pleased they were with the improved air quality and noise reduction as the pandemic lockdown saw a fall in traffic volumes. Bowes is a cut-through to the North Circular but it shouldn't be – Bowes residents deserve a better environment. We have fought for and retained all of our green spaces and

have been working with Transport for London to get flowers planted along the North Circular. But long-term traffic reduction in the area, beyond the pandemic, continues to be our biggest challenge. We are working with residents to address this.

Life expectancy is at least improving for Bowes residents, which is a good indicator for the ward. Thank you for taking the time to read this and feel free to get in touch with me.

Cllr Brett is one of three councillors representing Bowes ward, alongside Achilles Georgiou and Katherine Chibah (all Labour). Ward surgeries are currently being held online. Get in touch to take part:

Call 07943 698919  
Email [cllr.yasemin.brett@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.yasemin.brett@enfield.gov.uk)

Cllr Brett has represented Bowes since 2002





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## Enfieldian Coach Tours

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We are pleased to announce that we are back operating our programme of regular Day Trips and Holidays and look forward to welcoming our passengers on board our coaches for the remainder of 2020. Full details of our Day Trips and Holidays are set out in our brochure which is available from our shop in Enfield Town. We have set out below the more popular departures for August.

Tuesday 4th August	Historical Thames Sailing Barge Luncheon Cruise	£59
Thursday 6th August	Ramsgate or Broadstairs	£25
Sunday 9th August	New Forest and the Ocean Liners	£28
Monday 10th August	St. Ives Market and Isle of Ely	£25
Tuesday 11th August	Brighton	£25
Wednesday 12th August	Worcester	£27
Thursday 13th August	Margate or Broadstairs	£25
Friday 14th August	Eastbourne	£25
Saturday 15th August	Chatsworth House (inc. admission)	£45
Monday 17th August	Seaside Surprise!	£20
Tuesday 18th August	Southwold	£26
Thursday 20th August	Hastings or Rye Market	£25
Friday 21st August	Southend	£20
Saturday 22nd August	Bournemouth	£25
Tuesday 25th August	Floral Felixstowe	£25
Friday 28th August	Clacton	£25
Saturday 29th August	Longleat and Koala Creek (inc. admission)	£44
Saturday 29th August	Margate or Broadstairs	£25
Sunday 30th August	Mississippi Riverboat Cruise (inc. cruise)	£35
Sunday 30th August	Brighton	£25
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# LETTERS

## Send us your letters

Got an opinion on something in Enfield? We accept letters of up to 150 words from people and organisations in the borough. Email [EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com](mailto:EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com) before the next deadline on **Tuesday 18th August**

## Dugdale fears

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

Grassroots and heritage groups are often the lifeblood of local communities. Organisations such as Enfield Society, Love Your Doorstep, residents' associations and 'friends of' groups help hold Enfield together. They advocate on behalf of residents, support the vulnerable, and preserve our rich and diverse history. Over the past year I have seen local groups present petitions to Enfield Council and plead with councillors to have their concerns heard. On too many occasions these concerns have been dismissed. Now, the Museum of Enfield and other community groups are facing an uncertain future regarding their use of the Dugdale Centre, with little support. We cannot continue to ignore and dismiss these incredible groups working so hard to make Enfield a better place. It's time to listen to the concerns and do everything we can to help them flourish in their vital work.

Cllr Clare De Silva  
 Bush Hill Park (Conservative)

## Why Jeremy?

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

I have always understood that our elected councillors make policy and they appoint paid officers to implement them. So I was puzzled to see Enfield Council's director of law and governance, Jeremy Chambers, replying to your readers' interesting observations on the Meridian Water project (*Defending Meridian Water*, Page 9, Issue 22). Who asked Jeremy Chambers to put pen to paper, when it is elected councillors who will be accountable to the community for the multi-million Meridian Water development?

Thomas Devine  
 Merryhills Court, Oakwood

## Meridian debt

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

I was interested to see the recent article by Al Sims (*Criticism of Meridian Water must be heard*, Page 9, Issue 21) and the letter in response, oddly, from Jeremy Chambers, director of law and governance at Enfield Council (*Defending Meridian Water*, Page 9, Issue 22). One would have thought the response would come from the

leader of the council, who is responsible for this project. The situation at Meridian Water is worrying, whatever council spokespeople may say. The debt incurred overall is approaching £2billion and a significant proportion relates to Meridian Water. There have been a series of setbacks over the past ten years and so far not one home has been built. The Conservative group is also concerned that, when built, Meridian Water will be too dense, too high, and be unattractive to private purchasers. The consequence will be the council's inability to recover the hundreds of millions spent.

Cllr Edward Smith  
 Conservative lead on housing

## Vote reform

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

In your interview with Enfield North MP Feryal Clark (*No time to waste*, Page 7, Issue 22) she said she was interested in devolution and was concerned about the over-centralisation of power. She claimed those countries that appear to be more successful in combating Covid-19 had a great deal of devolved power. It would be interesting to know if her interest extends to supporting proportional representation (PR) for our voting system. Feryal backed Labour leadership candidate Lisa Nandy, who is undecided on this, partly because of the (incorrect) perception that it means breaking the constituency link. Hopefully instead Feryal agrees with Enfield Southgate MP Bambos Charalambous, who supports PR.

Keith Hubbard  
 Theobalds Park Road, Crews Hill

## Litter threat

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

Trent Park is home to a variety of wildlife, including countless species of birds and squirrels, while also being a place of relaxation and exercise. However, it seems the wonders of the park are being taken for granted, as people have decided that, when a bin is full, it is acceptable to dump their rubbish – posing a terrible risk to the ducks and other wildlife. To keep our beloved park clean, there must be harsher consequences for those who litter, as well as provisions for emptying the bins more regularly.

Rsaal Firoz  
 Gloucester Gardens, Cockfosters



# Enfield public health funding still lags behind

Monty Meth from Enfield Over 50s Forum continues to fight for fair funding

Having gained the second highest percentage increase in public health funding among all London boroughs for the current financial year – an increase of 4.5%, below Harrow's 5.5% – Enfield Over 50s Forum is mounting a new campaign for 2021/22.

The small funding rise this year followed a letter-writing campaign to the former public health minister, Seema Kennedy, and a Westminster Hall debate specifically highlighting Enfield's case, secured by former Enfield North MP Joan Ryan. But it only takes Enfield up from £48 per head of population, to £50. We are still way behind the £78.50 average for London. Neighbouring Haringey gets £71.90 per head, Islington £108.14, Camden £101.25, Hammersmith and Fulham £121.27, Westminster £124.87, and Kensington and Chelsea a whopping £135.39 per head.

When I wrote last year to Public Health England's chief executive Duncan Selby, pressing for an end to the persistent under-funding for Enfield, all he could do was pass the buck to Simon Reeve, deputy director of public health systems and



Minister for public health, Jo Churchill MP, has written to Enfield Over 50s Forum about the borough's funding allocation Credit parliament.uk

strategy, tucked away in the Department of Health and Social Care. Duncan told us: "Responsibility for determining the overall quantum of funding for public health and the individual allocations for each local authority rests with ministers rather than Public Health England."

His reply exposes what the coronavirus crisis has brought into the open – that Public Health England lacks the autonomy and financial clout to function effectively and independently. It is now widely reported to be unlikely to survive the inevitable Covid-19 pandemic inquiry.

Responsibility for public health was handed to all local authorities by the coalition government in 2013 and, incredibly, its funding formula has remained unchanged for seven years. The start-up figures I have obtained show that while Enfield kicked off with £36 per head of population, Camden began with £108 per head, Haringey £62, Islington £112, and Kensington and Chelsea £126. So we were always lagging behind, and too little has been done to expose this anomaly. Enfield has levels of poverty and deprivation that make us the ninth most disadvantaged borough in London. With one-in-three children living in poverty and 42% of residents currently furloughed on low pay, we need adequate funding to end the health inequality between people living in the east and west of the borough.

We now have a new minister for public health, Jo Churchill MP, who has

responded to us in writing to say that she appreciated "our concerns about the allocation of funding for public health in Enfield". The minister added: "We want local government funding to be decided in a fair, robust and evidenced-based way, reflecting the most up-to-date evidence on relative needs and resources."

**"We need adequate funding to end the health inequality between people living in the east and west of the borough"**

We need to hold the minister to her words, but the omens are not good. A recent cross-party appeal by Labour and Conservative council group leaders for an equitable share of funding for Enfield's coronavirus test and trace programme has so far been ignored by health secretary Matt Hancock.

Enfield Council's Covid-19 costs have risen to £68million and are still going up at a time when its income has been reduced. For example, there's been a 20% increase in applicants claiming council tax support. Housing benefit and social care costs are also on the rise. Although the government has promised to match what all councils have been forced to spend on community help during the pandemic, Enfield still needs tens of millions more to recover its unanticipated coronavirus spending.

## Getting the information you need about local services

Emma Friddin from Healthwatch Enfield on how residents can ask questions of health leaders

Do you have questions you'd like to put directly to the senior leaders and management of a particular local health or social care service in Enfield? Do you belong to a local community organisation or group? If so, we can help.

Thanks to our online live question and answer sessions, we've made it possible for you to do exactly that. We've started hosting these sessions with different health and care services, ensuring they give members of the public a chance to hear directly from the people who run services and

the opportunity to ask questions about how they are adapting and planning in response to Covid-19. Almost 100 local people have joined our online events so far and more than 90% of attendees have told us they found the events informative.

We have already held sessions with leaders from North Middlesex University Hospital Trust; Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust (which runs Chase Farm Hospital); Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust; and Enfield GP Federation. At the time of writing, we have

another planned with Enfield Council's public health department, and many more in the pipeline. If you want to find out what has been discussed, we have these sessions either recorded for you to listen to or relevant fact sheets published on our website.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, a large majority of our engagement work was face-to-face with patients and residents at various venues. Just before lockdown, we held our annual conference, attended by over 150 local people, to talk about the changing shape of health services

in Enfield. Local residents attending said they wanted to get clearer information, more involved in shaping services, and equal access to services for everyone.

You can read our new report from the conference on the Healthwatch Enfield website. We have been working hard to find new ways of making sure we are still able to engage with as many people across Enfield as possible throughout the coronavirus pandemic. If you belong to a local community group, organisation or club and want to hear more about how we can work with you

to help local people get the information and advice they need, get in touch with us today!

Our annual report tells the story of our work over the past year and how we have connecting with more people in the community than ever before. You can read it and all our other reports on our website.

For more information about Healthwatch Enfield and to get in touch:

Call 020 8373 6283  
Email [info@healthwatchenfield.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchenfield.co.uk)  
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# Help save Chickenshed

**Susan Jamson from Chickenshed Theatre on why help is needed to secure its future**

It was with great sadness that we had to close our beautiful theatre building in the middle of March because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We put all our usual activities on hold and launched 'Virtual Chickenshed' so that we could continue to connect and support the children, young people and adults who participate in our many programmes both at our theatre and through our outreach projects.

At Chickenshed, we provide workshops, education, mentoring and a place to belong for more than 1,000 children and young people. We also reach a further 5,000 young people every year from London and areas of identified disadvantage through our outreach programmes. Over 60% have experienced isolation and exclusion because of mental or physical ill-health, disability, bullying, gang pressure, interactions with the care system, or being a young carer themselves. It is often



Chickenshed Theatre has been working with young people since its inception in 1974

a combination of these things.

We have made sure that we are always there for these children and young people, and the thousands of others who, over 47 years, have considered Chickenshed their 'second home'. They tell us it is the place they can be safe to be who they really are.

During the last few months we have been delivering all our workshops and lessons virtually and have provided mentoring sessions to ensure that our young people feel cared

for and valued. We have seen their needs become more complex and the risk of isolation has increased.

We are now looking beyond lockdown and making plans for the future. These plans are based on continued uncertainty and changing government guidelines. Two weeks ago our local MP, Bambos Charalambous, kindly raised Chickenshed's situation at prime minister's questions in the House of Commons, which resulted in Boris Johnson committing to sup-

port Chickenshed. We are hopeful that this cross-parliamentary advocacy will be converted into actions – but we can't be complacent and assume that support will come along.

The uncertainty of receiving any arts and theatre funding, together with vulnerability of charities in general, means that we have to look for other ways to protect our activities and programmes. We are concerned about our capacity to retain the resources to nurture our

young people both virtually and in person as the unknown impact of Covid-19 continues into the future.

With this in mind, we have launched an urgent appeal. We have already reached out to some of our closest community members and have raised just over £50,000 so far. We now need to raise a further £450,000 this year to provide the security to continue running our programmes. We are asking for your help – any help at all will make a such huge difference to children who, without our safe and welcoming care, can and do fall through the cracks.

You can support Chickenshed by sponsoring a virtual seat from £50 upwards with our 'Take Your Seat' campaign via [chickenshed.org.uk/take-your-seat](https://chickenshed.org.uk/take-your-seat); you can donate to us directly via [justgiving.com/campaign/keepChickenshedsafe](https://justgiving.com/campaign/keepChickenshedsafe); or you could join in with your own fundraising challenge! We already have 30 people who have taken on mini-fundraising challenges – it is incredibly easy to organise, just get in touch.

Chickenshed has always been about 'us' – our amazing Enfield community. Thank you for your support and friendship.

**Get in touch with Susan to discuss your own fundraising ideas:**

**Call** 07736 956 662

**Email** [susanj@chickenshed.org.uk](mailto:susanj@chickenshed.org.uk)

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# Poems from the pandemic



Poet Cheryl Moskowitz has collaborated with schools in Enfield on her new poetry collection

BY ALASTAIR GAVIN

In June and July, as schools began to re-open, Enfield Council took the inspired decision to distribute a pandemic-related poetry collection for free to every year six pupil in the borough.

The Corona Collection – A Conversation is a new book of poems by poet and educator Cheryl Moskowitz, who has close links to many schools in Enfield, including Highfield Primary School in Winchmore Hill

where she had a unique three-and-a-half-year tenure as poet-in-residence.

Shortly after the lockdown was announced at the end of March, Cheryl started writing poems to document children's experiences of the pandemic, inspired by conversations she had with children and their families in her local neighbourhood and also with pupils and staff remaining at schools. She wrote this poem as a conversation starter:

*Just supposing... you woke up tomorrow / and there weren't all these rules / like YOU HAVE TO STAY HOME! / and YOU CAN'T GO TO SCHOOL! / And whatever you wished for / where to go, what to do / who to be with, how many / was all up to you / Where would it be / doing what, and with whom? / Would you go to the park / or fly up to the moon? / You could go on a picnic / or stay in your room / If you woke up tomorrow / restrictions all lifted / what kind of a world / would you want to be gifted?*

The responses revealed important truths about what children (and adults) were valuing and missing most, and their hopes for the world post-coronavirus. By the end of May, the collection had grown to

48 poems, exciting the interest of Linda Stone, the council's head of curriculum standards, who saw the poems as an ideal way to complement the personal, social, health and economic curriculum, and arranged for the printing and distribution of 4,300 copies to year six pupils who were going back to school, as well as those remaining at home.

These were accompanied by specially-written physical and digital resources to encourage valuable conversations around mental health and wellbeing. The national children's literature organisation Pop Up Projects also got involved and printed 2,000 copies for distribution to its 56 partner schools nationwide.

Councillor Rick Jewell, the council's cabinet member for children and education, described the poetry collection as "a fantastic example of how the glorious richness of the poetry culture in Enfield is helping people through these tough times and sparking really important conversations".

Cheryl hopes education authorities nationwide will be inspired to follow Enfield's lead.

**For more information:**

**Visit** [coronacollectionpoetry.com](https://coronacollectionpoetry.com)

## LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice Of Application For A New Premises Licence/Club Premises Certificate

Notice is hereby given that Zeyto Kurter has applied to the Licensing Authority of London Borough of Enfield for a Premises Licence/Club Premises Certificate\* to permit:

- 1. Retail on sale of alcohol from 10:00 to 23:00, Monday to Saturday and 10:00 to 22:30 on Sundays.**
- 2. Late Night Refreshment From 23:00 to 23:30 Monday To Saturday**

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The public register where applications are available to be viewed by members of the public can be accessed online by visiting <https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/business-and-licensing/> and following the link to the Licensing Register. Email [licensing@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@enfield.gov.uk) to request a copy of the application within 28 days from the date of this notice. Any person wishing to submit relevant representations concerning this application must give notice by emailing [licensing@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@enfield.gov.uk), giving in detail the grounds of the representation no later than: **19/08/2020**

Representations received by post will not be accepted during the Covid-19 emergency period. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Authorities Sub Committee and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

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**Dated:** 23rd of July 2020





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## AROUND THE BOROUGH

## EDMONTON

## Firefighters re-united with rescued boy



Brian Mottram (centre) was rescued as a baby by firefighters Simon Cullen (right) and Billy Merrifield (left)

A MAN WHO WAS RESCUED from a house fire as a baby has been reunited with the firefighters who saved his life.

Brian Mottram was 18 months old when a fire broke out at his Thornby Gardens home in 2002. Brian's dad Clive tried to get back inside but couldn't get near because of the thick smoke.

Thankfully, firefighters Simon Cullen and Billy Merrifield from Edmonton Fire Station arrived in time and entered the property wearing breathing apparatus to rescue Brian from an upstairs bedroom.

Brian, now aged 19, suffered 44% burns and was rushed to a specialist burns hospital, where

he was given just a one-in-20 chance of survival. Miraculously, he pulled through. Last month Brian visited Edmonton Fire Station along with partner Jessica and father Clive. He met the crew, including Billy who still works at the station and Simon, who has since left London Fire Brigade.

Simon said of the rescue: "We were told the child was in the room and I remember hoping he wasn't because of the state of the room, but then we found him."

"At first I thought he was a doll but quickly realised he wasn't and just carried him outside into the front garden."

At the station, Brian spoke to Billy and Simon about the fire. He said it was emotional but worth it: "It's helped give me a bit of closure and get answers around exactly how I was rescued. The guys were really great."

Clive, who had the idea to visit, added: "I wanted to take him there both for Brian and for the firefighters – so they could see someone they saved 18 years ago."

"If I had a gold medal I would hand it to Simon. If it wasn't for him, my son might not be here."

## SOUTHGATE

## Business hub

ENTERPRISE ENFIELD IS THIS month moving its operations to the Southgate campus of Barnet and Southgate College, opening a new North London Business Hub to help local businesses "recover and grow".

The agency has been providing valuable support services to start-ups and established business

owners for 35 years. But with the pandemic causing a deep recession, Enterprise Enfield's new hub will help entrepreneurs develop resilience strategies and offer start-up advice, webinars, co-working space, and support to people who have lost their jobs.

Chief executive Despina Johnson says: "Enterprise Enfield is committed to assisting businesses to survive and recover from the impact of this current crisis."

## ENFIELD TOWN

## New homes

PLANS ARE DUE TO BE submitted for 90 new homes in Church Street, on the site of an existing office building. With Metaswitch, recently taken over by Microsoft, soon moving to its new office site in Genotin Road, developer Dominvs Residen-

tial is keen to build new homes in place of the existing Metaswitch building, next to St Paul's Centre. Dominvs says the six-storey scheme will include "high-quality homes and amenity space for families". The developer adds that 30% of the homes will be designated 'affordable' and that the scheme will "respect the character of the area".

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## COCKFOSTERS

## Campaigners attack TfL plans

BY SIMON ALLIN,  
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

CAMPAIGNERS STAGED AN online protest against housing plans they claim are an "affront to local democracy".

Members of the 'Save Cockfosters' group livestreamed their demonstration on Facebook, in protest against proposals by Transport for London (TfL) and Grainger to build 351 homes on two car parks at Cockfosters Station.

Although the plans will even-

tually be voted on by Enfield Council's planning committee, the mayor of London can 'call in' such large applications and potentially override the decision. A Save Cockfosters spokesperson said: "As head of TfL, the mayor of London is applying to develop in our borough. We have an excellent case against the plans, as they are contrary to Enfield Council's local planning policies and the mayor's own London Plan policies."

"However, if our council does its duty properly and says 'no'

to the plans, guess who gets the final say on whether it goes ahead? Yep, that's right, the mayor of London! It's an affront to local democracy."

A spokesperson for Sadiq Khan said: "The Cockfosters development is a key part of the mayor and TfL's work to deliver the homes Londoners desperately need – 40% will be genuinely affordable and the concerns of local residents have been taken into consideration at every stage of the planning process."



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## Net gains



Nine netball courts in Broomfield Park will be revamped and receive new floodlights to allow year-round usage, reports Simon Allin, Local Democracy Reporter. The home of North London Netball League won permission for its upgrade at a meeting of Enfield Council's planning committee. Deputy leader Ian Barnes said he'd spoken to England Netball president Lindsay Sartori, who has volunteered at Palmers Green Netball Club for 37 years. "She talked about the success of netball," said Cllr Barnes. "Team England won gold at the 2018 Commonwealth Games – two of those stars, Sasha and Kadeen Corbin, played at Broomfield Park, and frequently return to offer support."

## Town crowdfunding boost

BY ANDREW WARSHAW

In the space of just one month, Enfield Town FC – formed in 2001 as the country's first supporter-owned club – reached its £10,000 fundraising target to help meet the cost of improvements to Queen Elizabeth II Stadium.

When the season shut down in March, with no income from match days, like many non-league clubs the Towners reached out to their fans for help. They launched a crowdfunding campaign called 'Shine a Light' in early June, with a six-week window for contributions, primarily to fund new floodlights and plug the gap in lost gate receipts.

Club officials were astounded when the amount required was achieved with a fortnight to spare. Indeed, by the time the 21st July deadline came round, contributions had reached almost £12,000, with additional funds likely to be used for further stadium improvements.

The Isthmian League Premier

Division club received more than 200 donations from as far afield as the USA, Australia, Germany, Belgium and Israel, by Town supporters who work or have moved abroad. It is precisely this collective spirit and inclusive ethos that makes the Towners, who created the template upon which the likes of AFC Wimbledon were later modelled, so unique.

Director Ram Ismail told the *Dispatch*: "We have been blown away by the amount of support. The Covid-19 pandemic hit every household hard, as well as the many hundreds of non-league football clubs. The club's members and other supporters never cease to amaze with their loyalty and enthusiasm."

Enfield were lying seventh and pushing for a play-off spot in March when all the season's results were expunged and, although no firm date has yet been set for the start of the new season, the Isthmian League has a proposed provisional start date of Saturday 19th September. With a number of player comings and

goings over the next few weeks as the squad takes shape for the new season, club chair Paul Reed is taking a cautiously optimistic approach as he, manager Andy Leese, and other directors and backroom staff, plot a path ahead.

Although the club's under-23 squad is being disbanded, the decision was not taken lightly. Paul, in a message to supporters, said: "It followed careful consideration around important issues such as pitch use, associated finances, and the strong likelihood of a much shorter season with fewer midweek dates available."

"I can re-assure you the club is still committed to the development of young talent, and this has been demonstrated by our academy being established this summer."

As for the first team, whenever matches do resume, ambition will be equally strong. "We will, like many clubs, be operating with a smaller budget," added Paul. "But I'm sure we can deliver a side to challenge at the right end of the table again."

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Here at *Enfield Dispatch* we do things differently. We combine professional journalism with voluntary contributions from people who live and work in the borough and create content which is responsive to and reflective of the community.

These are challenging times for print media with many newspapers closing and advertising revenue in decline, but our not-for-profit model offers a new approach to creating local journalism which is inclusive and accountable.

## How you can help

As a not-for-profit publication we rely on the generous support of our community. We look to our readers, who recognise the value of independent journalism, to help support us.

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