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Local news that matters to you



The team of volunteers at Selby Food Hub Credit Luchia Robinson

Tackling food insecurity

An update on how the Selby Food Hub is addressing food poverty

By Luchia Robinson

The Selby Food Hub is in its eighth month of operation, having first opened in April to tackle food insecurity, in response to Covid-19 in Tottenham.

By mid-August the team of volunteers based at the Selby Centre – coordinated by community

organisers, Sally Sturgeon and Moussa Amine Sylla, from the Selby Trust – had given out over 20,000 food (and essential items) parcels, over 800 ready meals and had collaborated with various organisations including the NHS and Haringey Council to reach over 3,000 local people.

Moussa said: “The idea is to take

a humanitarian approach to the crisis rather than a bureaucratic procedural approach. We believe that if you come to the Selby Centre and you queue, that means that you need food, and for us, that’s it.

“We want to serve those who do not have access to the system’s support because there are a lot of people living in Tottenham that

do not have access to public funds or support systems, especially in the context of Universal Credit. We’ve seen people coming because, between claiming benefits and having their first meeting, they might have had to wait about eight weeks.”

Selby Food Hub operates twice a week serving families, individuals and patients in great need, referred to them by GPs, social prescribers and schools.

Following the government’s announcement of a second lockdown in October, the Selby Food Hub has seen a recent growth in visitors.

“In an average week, [prior to the second lockdown], we’d be giving away 1200-1500 food parcels, but

now we’ve easily started giving 2,000 food parcels, which to us represents 2,000 mouths being fed on a weekly basis,” said Moussa.

To date, the value of the food and essential items donated by the public has amounted to approximately £50,000. These consistent donations have enabled the food hub team to sustain supplies. The harnessing of strong relationships with mutual aid groups across the borough has been pivotal in ensuring food items remain well stocked.

Sally and Moussa are now applying their knowledge and experience towards supporting the Haringey Food Network – a borough-wide initiative funded by Haringey Council, which aims to meet the needs of families experiencing food insecurity.

Moussa said: “The Food Network Coordinator will be working with us collaboratively to develop a network of food provisions all across the borough. This is quite interesting and uplifting in terms of recognising the work we do.

“There is a lot of hidden work and expertise to what we do and the way we do it.”

The Selby Food Hub has welcomed 68 volunteers since it began. “Collaboration is key,” said Moussa.

“Our values and ethos are people led – not coming from top down,

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WELCOME

Steadfast In Difficulties

December 2020 N°. 41

At Tottenham Community Press we believe that Tottenham deserves a newspaper that is written by and for local people, and which celebrates community in all its diversity. We believe that local news brings people together around the issues that matter most to them and ensures everyone can have a voice in local decision-making. Now more than ever we believe that the media should be responsive and accountable to the community it serves.

- Publisher**
David Floyd
- Editor**
Luchia Robinson
- Designer**
Jonathan Duncan
- Head of Community News Operations**
Paige Ballmi
- Head of Advertising and Membership**
Klaudia Kiss
- Head of Engagement**
Penny Dampier

Contributors
Stephen Furner, Simon Allin, Bella Saltiel, Basil Clarke, Orla Falls, Maria Joseph, Alice Ekwalla, Haringey Green New Deal Hub, Karin Lock, Christina Egan



Tottenham Community Press
Selby Centre, Selby Road,
Tottenham N17 8JL
Email tcp@socialspider.com
Phone 020 8521 7956/
07762 689 995

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Creating street art in Stoneleigh Court Credit Stephen Furner

Introduction from the editor

Hello, welcome to issue 41. This Christmas season will, without a doubt, be a very different one for us all – drawing us closer to the conclusion of what’s been a globally tumultuous year. This month TCP caught up with the team at the Selby Food hub (front page) for an update on how they are working to address food insecurity within the community this Christmas and beyond. Local businesses have also been affected by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. A way that you can support them, if you have the means, is to shop locally this Christmas. You’ll find some available offers on page 8. We focus on the High Road West development (p.5-7), speaking to local residents and businesses,

and assessing the next steps in the regeneration scheme. Messy Play sessions at the Engine Room, Tottenham Hale, are proving vital for families in need of respite and support (p.12). Social and physical health programmes coordinated by Embrace UK have also been launched, ensuring local Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities have access to necessary provisions as we head into 2021 (p.12). 2021 will come with its own challenges and triumphs and we will continue to keep you informed of them as they happen here in Tottenham. Keep in touch by sending your story ideas to: tcp@socialspider.com. Wishing you well this Christmas.

Luchia Robinson

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NEWS



Credit Luchia Robinson

“There are a lot of people living in Tottenham that do not have access to public funds or support systems”

Continued from Page-1

but bottom up. We listen to people, and understand their need, vision and aspirations. We try to create a system of support whereby they can develop any of those aspirations. That helps to connect with others, and also spread the word and the idea to other cells and groups “I’ve never seen such a solidarity in Haringey.” Hannah Marshall, started volunteering at the food hub when it first started, she said: “My experience has been really good. Initially in the lockdown it was a really great way of actually doing something and being around people, and I needed it, after spending a huge amount of time on my own. “It’s amazing to give food to people who need it. It’s hard work, it’s quite physically demanding but there’s a good atmosphere. “The atmosphere with the public is friendly and relaxed and that’s really important.” One of the recent challenges the food hub has faced was supplying young people with food throughout the October half term break. A national call to action from Manchester United and England footballer and campaigner, Marcus Rashford, to guarantee the hardest hit families don’t go hungry, highlighted the work being done on the ground in local communities, and the work still yet to be done at a governmental level. Sally said: “Our big thing was to make sure the children got fed. During the bank holiday we gave out 600 lunch bags. “We have the philosophy that a hungry man is an angry man, and it works the same for the youth. We made a determined effort to

make sure that the young people that came here all got a lunch pack, because if they were going home and there was nothing, at least they got something here. “They’re mature enough to know what’s going on, and they are probably as frightened as we all are about what the future holds – but there’s a reassurance in knowing that something in the community is behind them.” Moussa and Sally predict that there will be more challenges to come, as more people face impending unemployment. Sally said: “Apart from the 32,000 people that were furloughed in Tottenham, there are loads of people who have no recourse to public funds, who are in the grey economy, working part time, on zero-hour contracts. We knew that all of those people would suffer first, and this goes all the way across the line, as self-employed people, and even people that are working, are finding themselves with more serious problems because they now have to make the decision whether to pay for their gas and electricity or whether they eat.” Moussa and Sally are working on developing new opportunities, strengthening their community links even further, and ensuring donations keep coming in, in order to establish their people-led operations system as a blueprint for Haringey, and further afield. Sally said: “The visitors know that we have said, from day one ‘what we get in, we will get to you’. We’re in it for the long haul.”

To purchase essential items: amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/7W28Z2IVONZH?ref_=wl_share To donate funds: gofundme.com/f/coronavirus-appeal-selby-food-hub To volunteer: sally@selbytrust.co.uk

Lost dog heartbreak

Man tells of heartbreak after his dog was lost and rehoused

By Simon Allin, Local Democracy Reporter

A man has spoken of his heartbreak after the dog that helped him deal with his brother’s death was rehoused after it was lost. Walter Bocchetti, an Italian pizza chef who lives in Wood Green, bought Nennella – meaning ‘baby’ in Neapolitan – four years ago. But the Staffordshire bull terrier cross went missing from his friend’s house in Tottenham, where he left her to attend a job interview, on 21st September. Since then, Mr Bocchetti has been searching for his beloved pet – and a Facebook group campaigning to reunite the pair now has more than 2,500 members. Mr Bocchetti said: “I am very despairing. This has broken my heart. “I bought my dog four years ago. I had a big pain in my heart from my brother. She was very welcome in my house – she picked me up. She is very important. “They told me Nennella jumped the wall and went. “I put requests everywhere. I went everywhere looking for her – I did not stop for one second. Seven hours a day searching.” In law, pets are classed as chattel, meaning they are personal property. Nennella was found and rehoused by Haringey Council after seven days, which is its standard practice when owners cannot be traced. The council also said Nennella was not tagged or microchipped, which would have given it an opportunity to return her to her owner. Mr Bocchetti said he did not know dogs should be microchipped. He tried calling the council’s dog warden service during the seven-day period but could not get through to anyone. “I gave my heart to the dog. Seven days is very little time – maybe one or two months,” he added. Mr Bocchetti said that if the new owner knew how much he cared for Nennella, they might return her to him. Bypb.org, an organisation that

helps people in civil matters involving pets, has been supporting Mr Bocchetti. Patrick Walsh, from byph.org, said: “This is not about blaming anyone – we just want Walter and Nennella to be reunited.” “I went everywhere looking for her – I did not stop for one second. Seven hours a day searching” Cllr Matthew White, Haringey Council’s cabinet member for corporate services, said: “We and our contractor take this matter extremely seriously and understand that this is an emotive issue. “It is our responsibility to ensure that we respond to reports of stray dogs in the borough, so that we can collect and care for them in the best possible manner. When we are able to locate dog owners, we take active measures to ensure that they are successfully reunited. “Our options are limited when a dog has no identification, and unfortunately on this occasion there was no tag or microchip that would have given us the opportunity to return the dog to its owner. This is always our aim. “We can confirm Nennella was rehomed to another family after a period of seven days. Similar to many other councils, this is our usual practice, and we work closely with registered dog charities to ensure that dogs are rehomed safely. “We sympathise completely and understand the distress this may have caused. We have explored all available avenues, but unfortunately it is not possible to return Nennella to her previous owner.” More information on the campaign is available here: Facebook /bringnennellahome For information on microchipping your dog: Visit gov.uk/get-your-dog-microchipped

Walter and Nennella



NEWS

Saving the Cloud Garden

Locals lobby to ensure patch of land is not sold for development

The Friends of Bruce Grove Cloud Garden have handed a 950-name petition to the leader of Haringey Council Cllr Joseph Ejiofor, calling for the land behind 7-9 Bruce Grove to be saved from development.

The group is asking that the council secures the land for the community and for nature. They propose officially calling the space the Cloud Garden in homage to the scientist Luke Howard, a former resident of number seven, who in the early nineteenth century gave the clouds their names.

Handing over the petition, mainly signed by Tottenham residents, group member Beverley Willie said: “Bruce Grove is very densely built-up and needs more natural green space – the old gardens behind 7-9 Bruce Grove are threatened with development. Instead they should be preserved for nature and opened up for local people. We want the council to use its powers to save it.”

Thanking the group for the petition, Cllr Ejiofor said he fully supported the campaign.

“The Council is committed to saving this site for nature and local people. It has strong planning protection and we are firmly opposed to it being built over. We will do whatever we can to achieve this. We thank the Friends group for their work in highlighting the site and building local support for it.”



Beverley Willie (right) hands petition to council leader, Cllr Joseph Ejiofor Credit: Quentin Given

Council demands Covid financial support from government

Haringey council has renewed calls on the government to deliver on its promise to provide adequate funds to support residents and local businesses through the coronavirus pandemic.

To date, the council has spent millions to implement pub-

lic health measures, support residents and businesses and adapt council services. This has included: creating a food distribution operation at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and Alexandra Palace; making additional funding available to care workers and intro-

ducing the London Living Wage across all care settings; spending £1.6million a year to expand the Council Tax Reduction scheme, and increasing the maximum level of support to 100% for working age claimants with children.

These measures, however, have greatly impacted the council’s present and future finances. The borough is once again calling on central government to fully reimburse local authorities.

Haringey Council has sent a letter to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State asking for immediate actions to take place (see text box). Cllr Joseph Ejiofor, Leader of

Haringey Council, said: “We simply cannot afford for central government to go back on their word now and I have sent a strong letter to outline the support that is needed to protect our residents and the NHS.

“We must focus on delivering services on the front line now – we can’t be looking over our shoulders worrying about how we pay for it tomorrow.

“Westminster were adamant that we have to protect our residents and stop the spread of this global virus. Local authorities were told that we should do what is necessary and that national government would reimburse us later.

“We have stepped up during this pandemic working closely with our communities to ensure our assistance covers a wide range of welfare needs – now we need the assurance that national government will keep to its word and fund local government appropriately.”

Haringey Council is calling for:

- Extra support for the most vulnerable with a winter support package, additional assistance and help for those who are deemed clinically extremely vulnerable, and a £20 increase to Universal Credit
- Financial security for local authorities in 2020/21 and 2021/22, via confirmed grant funding
- Safe and secure housing including the extension of the ban on evictions, and a return to ‘Everyone In’ rough sleeping policy to at least the end of March 2021
- Protected incomes and employment including no-one’s income falling below the national minimum wage when the current furlough scheme ends in March 2021
- Urgent and immediate action to improve and localise Test and Trace.
- A fully funded emergency support package for hardest hit sectors including culture, leisure, arts, sport and hospitality, with a particular consideration of the small business sector
- A commitment to work with all councils as leaders in our communities and transparency on the criteria by which future decisions on restrictions will be made
- Greater support for local authorities’ enforcement role and more funding for police capacity to support local authorities with enforcement action

“We need the assurance that national government will keep to its word and fund local government appropriately”

Cllr Joseph Ejiofor, Leader of

FOCUS: HIGH ROAD WEST

Living in limbo

Residents on Love Lane Estate frustrated by lack of communication with council

By Bella Saltiel

Residents on the Love Lane Estate say they have been “left in the dark” on the future of the High Road West (HRW) regeneration plan.

The HRW plan – a partnership between Haringey Council and property developer, Lendlease, will see the west side of Tottenham High Road regenerated to facilitate a £1billion pound development, which includes 2,500 market-rent homes, 750 affordable homes (households paying up to 45% of their net income on housing costs) and 500 council homes.

The scheme intends to tackle homelessness and inequality by increasing jobs and housing in the east of the borough. However, in order to be completed, property around HRW will be demolished, including the Love Lane Estate. Tenants who might be displaced are now asking that the council rethink its plans to include more of the community’s suggestions.

Delayed Vote

The council will need to secure necessary funding from the Greater London Authority, and provide evidence of Love Lane residents’ support. A ballot, to follow a six-week consultation on the resident rehousing offers, was previously scheduled for September 2018, but then delayed several times before being pushed to summer 2020. It has been delayed yet again because of Covid-19 restrictions.

There are 45 secure tenants, 26 resident leaseholders and 200 temporary residents currently living on the estate. The ballot is a decisive moment for temporary residents who are not guaranteed housing in the new development.

Over the years, the makeup of the estate has changed, precipitating concern about community cohesion. 167 secure tenants have moved off the estate since plans for the development were approved in 2014 and 17 resident leaseholders have sold their properties.

The Love Lane Residents Charter (presented to the council in 2014) written

by the Love Lane Residents Association stated ‘we are worried that the redevelopment will destroy our existing community..’ therefore ‘the test of the success of the regeneration is how many of our residents chose to stay.’ So far, just 30% of the original secure tenants and resident leaseholders remain.

Ongoing uncertainty

Uncertainty has driven people away, says Maud*, an elderly resident living as a secure tenant, and the latest delays on the ballot just prolong the uncertainty. Lloyd Grandson, a resident leaseholder, says “things have ground to a halt with the lockdown,” but communication has

often been sporadic with “no progress made for eight years now.” “A lot of the consultation has been done behind closed doors” it is “a constant source

of frustration that nobody speaks to us.” The council maintain they have consulted extensively with tenants.

To proceed, the council will need to buy resident leaseholders homes. They will be offered market rates and an extra 10% compensation. However, the new properties on the development will be worth more than the market value of their current homes. Lloyd worries it will be unaffordable. Thinking of the years he has spent working to pay off his current mortgage, he feels a sense of injustice and worries he will not be able to get a second mortgage now that he is over the age of 60.

The council hopes some of these problems can be solved through shared-equity – which would see them co-owning the property. Lloyd shrugs this option away as a mere token saying it will still leave him financially worse off if he cannot leave a legacy for his children. He is thinking of selling up, as he says: “I can’t live in limbo for another eight years.” Lloyd could suffer a financial blow if he sells now because properties in regeneration areas are less valuable.

Some residents are in favour of regeneration. Parts of the estate have needed an update for years, says Florence*, another resident leaseholder, but she has become less certain as the years go

on, wondering if she will be left a casualty in a whirlwind of change if she cannot afford a new property without taking out another mortgage.

The demolition of the Love Lane Estate was originally part of the Haringey Development Vehicle, an unpopular scheme, scrapped in 2018, that would have seen public land transferred to Lendlease in a 50-50 ownership. The council settled with Lendlease out of court, and continued their partnership in the new HRW development scheme. Shops along Tottenham High Road will also be demolished.

The Peacock Industrial Estate (a community of freehold business owners and traders) are being offered a new space in Enfield, to make way for the proposed homes, a new library and learning centre, a refurbished community hub, civic square and green spaces, shops, restaurants and cafes.

Businesses forced out

Businesses that could be displaced oppose the development. Tottenham Business Group started a campaign to support the ‘right of businesses to remain in place’ including Chick King and The Peacock Industrial Traders. Compensation is on offer but for these businesses who have spent many years working and developing reputations in the area – it’s not about the money.

Everything has changed since the new Tottenham Hotspur Stadium arrived on the High Road in 2019, some say. A colossal building that looks just as a resident described, “like a spaceship” came to land adjacent to the Caribbean takeaways and mini markets, and boarded up doors.

Pioneered by Spurs CEO Daniel Levy and the last Labour council in the wake of the 2011 riots, the new stadium was set to stimulate growth in a neglected area. Many of the shop fronts facing the stadium are owned by Tottenham Hotspur Football Club (THFC), and landowners like Spurs

will have an impact on the outcome of the regeneration, since they will need to sell property to the council.

In total, the club owns 65 buildings in Tottenham. The Council says that it is “engaging with all landowners [and] any discussions with any individual party are commercially confidential.” Money is flowing in and out of the area, but small businesses are not included in plans for development.

THFC has support from those who think that without them the high street would fall into disrepair. As the largest employer in Tottenham, the club has created many jobs for residents and the new stadium has increased the value of housing in the local area by 26% since 2014.

Owned by Spurs

Criticism comes from those who are left behind. Those whose businesses lose profit to in-house catering on match days, those

who were displaced with rising rents, and those who think that THFC has too much power. Erik, who

used to work as a barber in a salon, (now an empty shop front opposite the stadium), suspects that creeping rents drove up the price of his chair, forcing him to move elsewhere. Many of the properties owned by THFC change hands frequently, some remain empty.

TH Property LTD (the development arm of THFC) is expanding quickly with plans in place to build 1,500 homes. They have already secured planning permission to develop 330 homes at the Goods Yard site, close to White Hart Lane Station, which will add to their affordable homes portfolio at Berland Court (in Shelbourne Road), Cannon Road and 500 White Hart Lane.

Local activist Martin Ball says the club is ‘building Spurs Land’, but their bulging property portfolio and plans do not contribute to the deficit in council housing. They are “socially cleansing the area,” he says, because they do not want to see a council estate opposite their

stadium. Temporary residents campaign group Tag Love Lane and the Peacock Industrial Estate traders have taken to social media to condemn the council for the same reason.

With the area fast becoming a prime property destination, residents on the estate worry they will be side-lined. Tag Love Lane tweeted: ‘... the contact [by the council]

Continued overleaf

FOCUS: HIGH ROAD WEST

Living in limbo

Continued from Page-5

turns into a mini HRW consultation/promotion for a ‘Yes’ vote on the ballot. Not very neutral is it.”

Cllr Charles Adje, cabinet member for finance and strategic regeneration, said: “The council has committed to providing new homes on High Road West to council tenants and resident leaseholders from Love Lane. Our ambition is to work with the GLA to explore ways to increase the number of council-owned social rent homes for this scheme which could support a wider number of local residents in housing need.

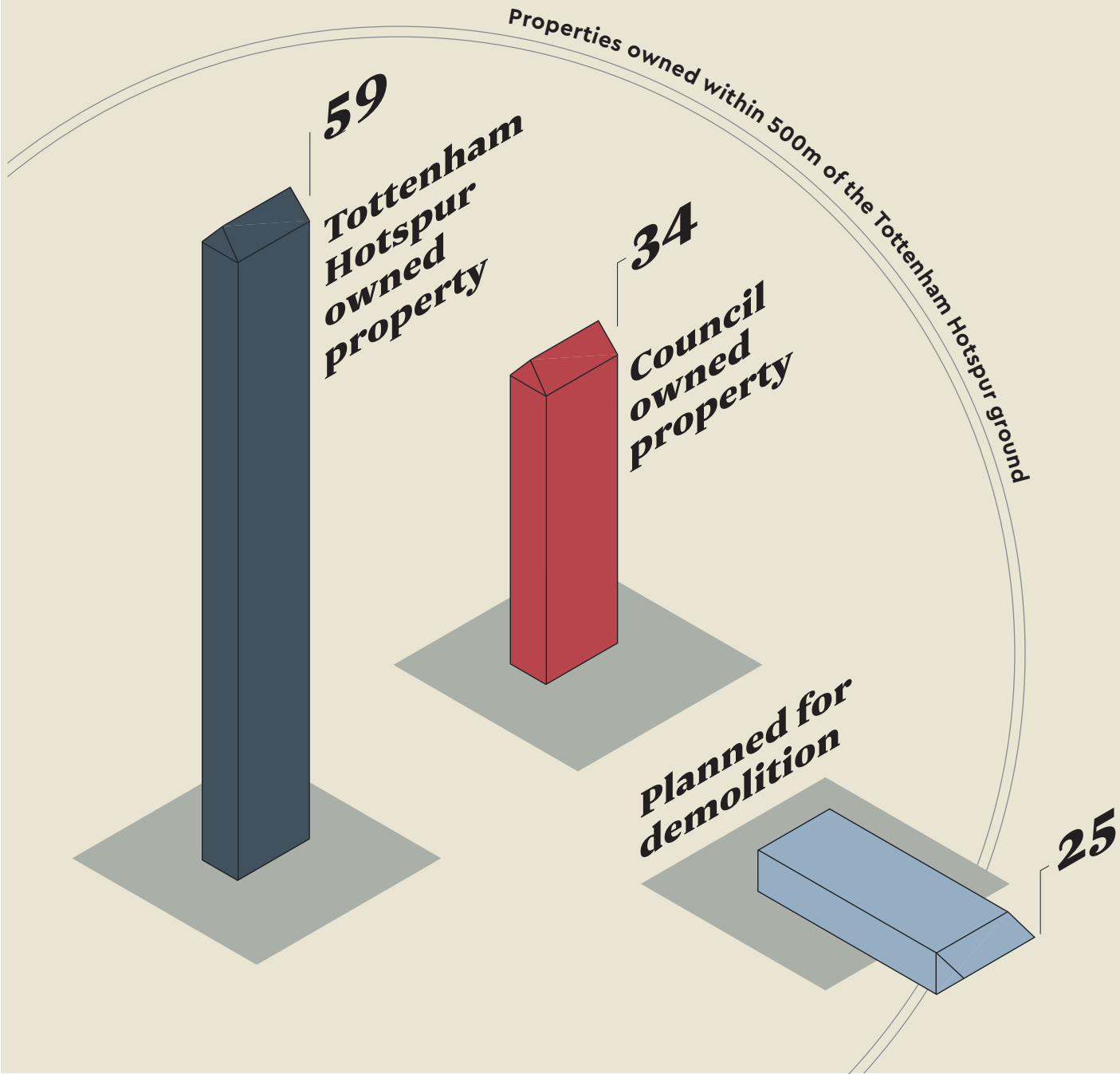
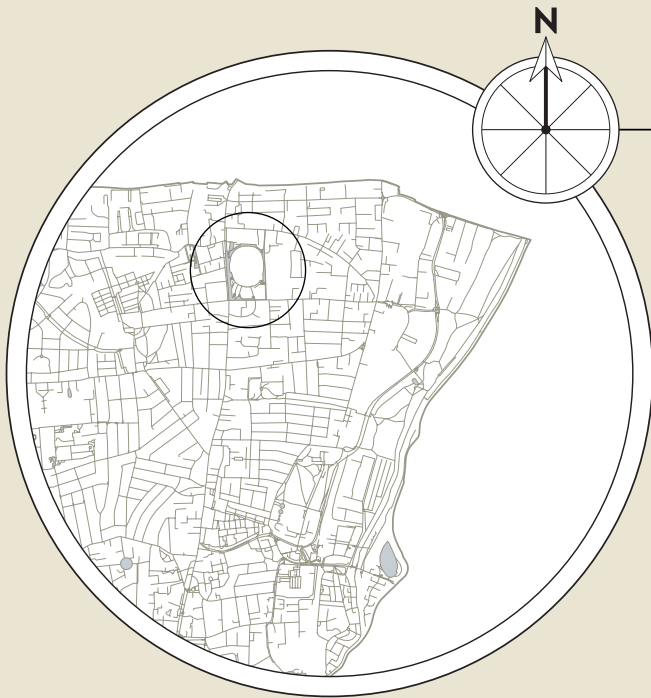
“The council is committed to meeting the GLA’s requirement for a resident ballot on whether the regeneration scheme should go ahead and will only proceed when the additional homes and funding have been secured.” However, the council is struggling to regain residents’ trust. Living in temporary accommodation has left tenants suspicious of a housing team who haven’t been able to offer them a permanent home.

With 3,100 homeless households in temporary accommodation across the borough and 10,000 households on the waiting list for permanent social housing, the council faces significant pressures. Although the number of households presenting as homeless has dropped in the last ten years it has not been accompanied by an increase in social housing lets. As a result, it is not unusual for families to languish in temporary accommodation for decades.

Damian Tissier, the Independent Tenant and Leaseholder Advisor working on behalf of Love Lane Estate said: “The traumatic impact of such schemes is seriously underestimated.”

Although sympathising with Haringey housing officers because of the pressures on social housing, Damian “is deeply concerned about several cases of historical mistreatment where homeless households have been denied access to council housing.”

Experiences like this have corroded the relationship between Haringey Council and temporary



residents, many of whom are now living on the Love Lane Estate, and are not assured the safety of permanent housing.

Losing hope

Procicovia Musoke has lost hope in the capacity of her housing needs being met.

Procicovia arrived in the UK in 1998 as a refugee fleeing political persecution in Uganda. She has moved homes eleven times over the 22 years that she has been living in the borough.

Now living on the Love Lane Estate since November 2019, Procicovia was neither given the opportunity to view the property, nor told that the estate was up for demolition, when she moved in.

Working as a care assistant on zero-hour contracts she has struggled to afford private accommodation. When bailiffs came to her door in 2014, she was not provided with emergency housing by the council and spent the night in her car with her children.

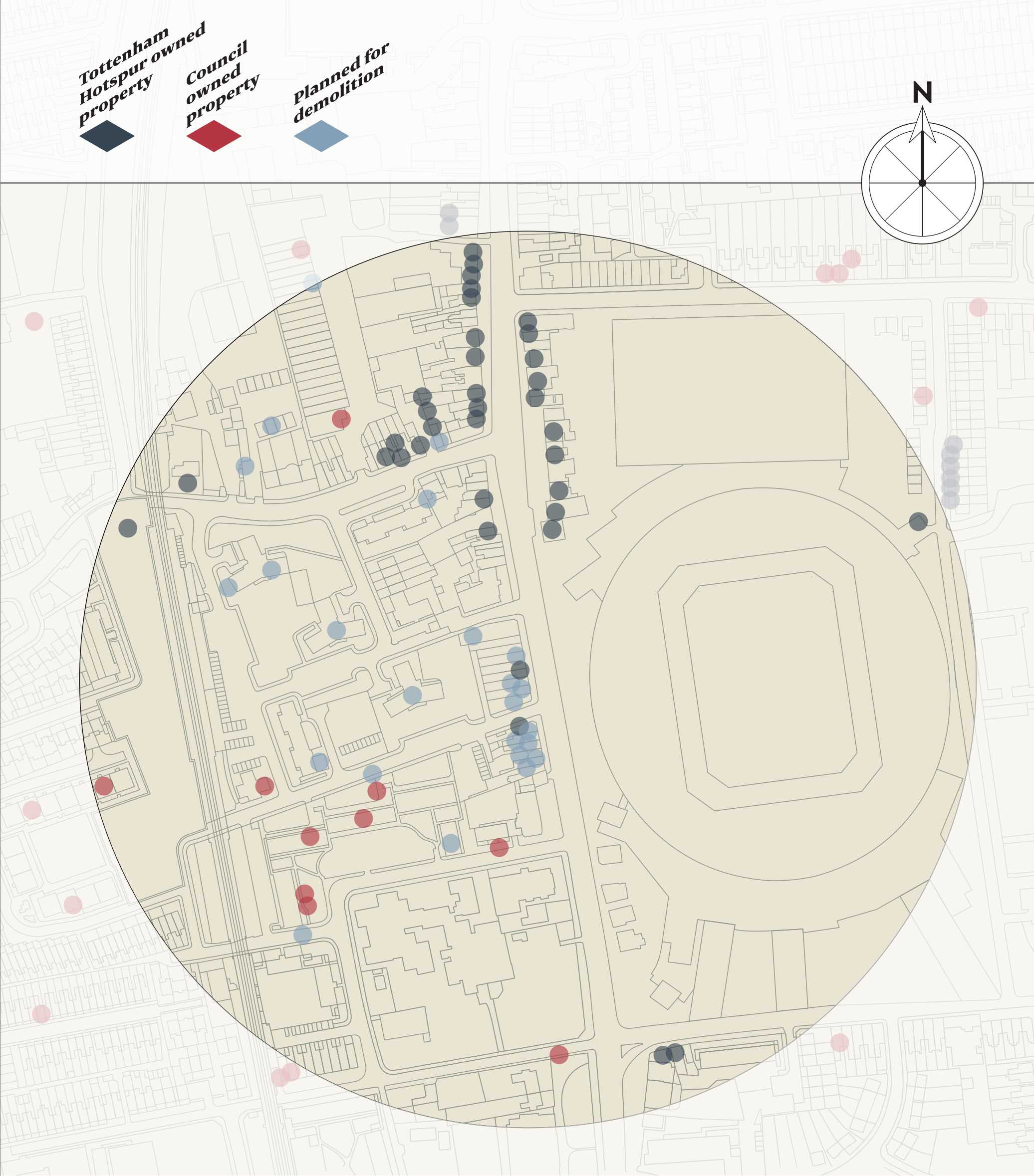
Procicovia said: “I will always be grateful that I was given political asylum in the UK. When I left my country, I was looking for survival, but the way I have been treated since, particularly over my housing situation, has often made me feel that I do not have much of a life anymore.

“Many are the times I have been in despair. I still haven’t found a permanent home. I can’t go back to Uganda. I am full of regrets.”

Procicovia wonders if the HRW development will see her displaced again. Regeneration can solve some of the borough’s unmet housing needs but residents and the vulnerable are still asking – ‘will High Road West provide a safe home for me and my children?’

*** Name changed for privacy**
Note: Tottenham Hotspur Football Club did not respond to requests for comment

Research for this article was supported by a project run by the Centre for Investigative Journalism, and funded by the Trust for London.



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The money raised will help support those affected by a cancer diagnosis this Christmas, be it themselves or their loved ones. The draw takes place on Monday 14th December, so buy your £1 tickets now online or call 020 8366 9674.

Visit www.nightingalesupport.org.uk/product/christmas-affle-2020/



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Nathaly Portrait Photography Christmas Mini Sessions 2020

Mini Sessions are great if your little one is trying a photoshoot for the first time, or ideal if you want to update your family pictures. Images will be delivered 14 days after the shoot. I have a big backdrop where I can fit families (2 adults and up to 3 kids – siblings only). We can do multiple variations, standing, sitting on a sleigh and sitting on the floor. Session up to 30 minutes.

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FEATURE

Reaching out to rough sleepers

By Basil Clarke

If you find yourself homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless and don't qualify for temporary accommodation with the council, who will come to your rescue?

In Haringey or Enfield boroughs, it will most likely be the homelessness prevention charity All People All Places (APAP). It will help you stay where you are, or, if you're already homeless, provide emergency accommodation and support you to find somewhere more permanent.

APAP began operation ten years ago in Haringey and four years later in Enfield, coordinating volunteer-run winter night shelters set up in places of worship, finding accommodation for guests to move on to, and working with them collaboratively to create a pathway plan for their future. Over the winter of 2018/19, these shelters provided 1,063 bed-nights, put up 91 individual guests, and found somewhere to live for nearly half of them.

APAP support workers can help clients find accommodation without an upfront deposit, source missing documents, register with a GP, complete with benefit claims, and much more. They build trust and provide a safe environment for clients to open up about their underlying problems and begin to deal with them.

In autumn last year, APAP's operations expanded. In addition to the night shelter



APAP provides temporary shelter for rough sleepers while trying to arrange permanent accommodation for them

model, where a different church or synagogue houses guests one night a week, APAP set up static shelters; in Haringey, a former care home, in Enfield, a disused industrial unit. They took on additional staff to run them, and APAP became a year-round professional operation with 18 staff.

The expansion came just in time, because the arrival of Covid-19 made it necessary to house rough sleepers for the duration of lockdown. But it also meant that the dormi-

tory model APAP used was unworkable – it would take only one person with the virus to infect everyone else breathing the same air. Single rooms became essential.

The former Haringey care home could be adapted without too much difficulty, but in Enfield the industrial unit could not. The solution was for Enfield Council to take over a hotel in Edmonton, which APAP helped run until it closed in August.

Currently, APAP has one shelter operating,

in the former care home, with room for 30 guests. Instead of the guests moving between churches, a different church group or community group comes to the shelter each night, providing food and keeping guests safe and engaged. In January this will be joined by a six-bedroom house in Enfield, where guests can stay while APAP works with them to find somewhere to live. APAP could easily fill more such houses, but can't yet afford them.

To support clients, including people not yet homeless but at risk of becoming so, APAP has a day centre in Haringey and is planning to set up a resource centre in Enfield, providing access to support workers and laundry facilities.

Expansion and professionalisation have not diminished the importance of voluntary support, whether from individuals or community groups. Volunteers provide food and toiletries, take turns to run the shelter, maintain and clean the buildings, and help raise awareness of the charity – much of whose income comes from small individual donations.

In the face of growing unemployment and debt, likely to lead to evictions, APAP needs every helping hand and every penny it can get. Could you or your community group step in to help at shelters or to raise money?

For more information and to offer support:

Email info@allpeopleallplaces.org
Visit allpeopleallplaces.org

Advertisement



Haringey Giving Week

30th Nov - 6th Dec

Give local to support Haringey's community organisations this Christmas.

Their services are needed this year more than ever.

Donate ♥ Fundraise ♥ Partner

[@HaringeyGiving](https://twitter.com/HaringeyGiving)
[#HaringeyGivingWeek](https://www.haringeygiving.org.uk)
www.haringeygiving.org.uk



All donations will support vital local community projects ♥

Text+ #61VE003 to 70970 to give £5

Text+ #61VE003 to 70191 to give £10

To make a donation and get involved, visit our website and follow us on social media.

Haringey Giving is administered by The Bridge Renewal Trust, a registered as a Charity in England and Wales, number 1131941.




COMMUNITY

New creative business directory launches to support local talent



Franklin Boateng
Credit: Agenda Brown

A new website has been launched to showcase Tottenham's creative talent. The creative business directory, Made by Tottenham, features profiles of local people and businesses across media, visual arts, architecture, design, crafts, fashion, music and performing arts. The directory aims to: raise the profile of creatives within and beyond the local area; establish new connections locally and across the wider London creative community; showcase and discover talent; and facilitate direct employment, paid opportunities and commissions, as well as inspire a new generation of creatives. Tottenham is one of London's most creative

areas, with almost one in five residents working in the creative industries – London's fastest growing sector prior to the pandemic. Made by Tottenham is supported by the GLA and Haringey Council as part of the Creative Enterprise Zone programme. The initiative celebrates the local creative economy by providing business advice and guidance, skills and training, as well as a platform for news, events and opportunities. Local creative individuals and organisations can sign up and create their profile on Made by Tottenham, enabling other businesses, prospective collaborators and the wider community to browse and discover their work. Cllr Gideon Bull, cabinet member for



Josi Hendriks
Credit: Agenda Brown



EuroArt Studios
Credit: Agenda Brown

local investment and economic growth, said: "Tottenham has always been home to creatives and makers, from the silk and lace factories, furniture manufacturers and piano makers of the past, to musicians, producers, designers, artists, filmmakers and many more creatives that inhabit the borough today. "The Made by Tottenham creative business directory shines a light on the incredible talent available locally." Franklin Boateng, social media and business consultant, said: "I think it is amazing that there are a lot of people like myself that work in Tottenham but still don't know who else is in Tottenham working hard. "Tottenham is one of the best creative hubs of

the UK, we just need to know and see who is here." The directory is managed by the economic development team at Haringey Council with support from Hazel Brown and many local creatives who contributed their time to developing the platform. David Lammy Member of Parliament for Tottenham, said: "I am so proud to represent one of the most creative communities in the country. In these challenging times, I'm grateful to Made by Tottenham for their tireless support of the creative industry, showcasing the indispensability of local talent to the national economic recovery."



Crafty Nolo Markets
Credit: Agenda Brown

For more information:
Visit madebytottenham.com
Instagram [@madebytottenham](https://www.instagram.com/madebytottenham)

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COMMUNITY



Credit Sandra Razika

Messy play delivering much needed support to families

By Maria Joseph, Coordinator, The Engine Room

Whilst the majority of the borough’s children’s drop-in sessions have been closed down, the Engine Room in Hale Village continues to provide a Covid-19 secure service to families in need of respite. The messy play sessions provide a safe space where adults can bring a baby or toddler in their care to play and interact with other babies and children of their age group. For children this is an important stage of their pre-school language and social development, where they learn to share and communicate with others.

For adults, especially first-time parents without family support systems in place, caring for an infant can at times be an overwhelming and lonely experience. The drop-in provides a supportive environment where parents, carers, and grandparents are able to network with one another, receive physical and mental support, as well as useful words of advice or encouragement if they have any fears or concerns.

Messy play includes a variety of engaging activities and toys, with each activity catering for a different learning experience. The baby mat hosts a variety of multi-sensory toys and books where adults can interact with their child

in a relaxed atmosphere. There are building and construction activities, a home corner, messy craft, physical activities, and one of our favourite activities – the ball pit. The session is rounded off by a sing along segment which I lead.

The drop-in has faced quite a few challenges because of the coronavirus crisis, which meant the service was shut down for six months. The uncertainty of future restrictions led to us having to reduce the numbers per session, in addition to there being assessments on which equipment can be used during the pandemic. Not being able to offer refreshments has also been difficult.

The Engine Room carried out a full risk assessment of the drop-in prior to reopening, and changes

in operation practises include implementing Track and Trace, appropriate social distancing, sanitising hands upon arrival, wearing masks, and anti-bacterial wipe-as-you-go regimes.

It is good to be able to support the local community in this way when so many free or affordable early years services have been cut. We feel it is in the whole community’s interest that we are able to promote good mental health through Covid-safe socialisation.

Sessions are currently running every Thursday from 10.00–11.30am in the main hall of St Francis at the Engine Room, Hale Village. They are run by church community worker, Maria Joseph and are assisted by Father Andrew. Access to a session can be pre-booked via phone to the office: 0208 808 5490 or directly to Maria through the WhatsApp group. Bookings are taken on Mondays.



Credit Rosie Skinner

Social and physical health programmes launched for local BAME communities

By Alice Ekwalla, Project Manager, Embrace UK

Embrace UK, a community support centre based at the Selby Centre, is delivering a new project called Golden Lives. The project is aimed at people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities who are over 55, as it is evidenced that BAME communities are being disproportionately affected by Covid-19. Therefore, older categories have dual vulnerabilities.

The main purpose of the project is to alleviate the negative impact government restrictions and lockdown have had on our older generation. In doing so, Embrace UK has created a program which promotes communication via phone and digital platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams to engage older generations in activities and workshops that are free of charge.

These activities include photography workshops, forums and debates, befriending services, mentoring/counselling sessions, fun quizzes, games and arts/crafts. Participants can take part from the comfort of their homes using their tablet, computer or telephone/mobile phones. The activities can also be tailored around the interests, passions and abilities of each individual. Having this kind of support in place for older people is vital as creative activities offer numerous benefits in reducing stress and anxiety. The activities can help to boost confidence, self-esteem, create networks and develop friendships.

Golden Lives will run until the end of March 2021 with a possibility of it being extended. It is managed by me, and a team of volunteers – Ewelina, Marianna, and Ekloida – who are dedicated to supporting communities in Haringey and making a tangible impact to the lives of the most

vulnerable people by contributing an array of skills whilst gaining expertise in community and project management.

In addition to running Golden Lives, Embrace UK is working on another project, alongside staff at Bridge Renewal Trust Haringey and the public health teams at Haringey and Islington Councils to promote cervical screening programmes among women from BAME communities in the borough.

Local and national studies have shown that BAME populations have a lower awareness of both cancer symptoms and cancer screening programmes. Different perceptions and barriers to screening are experienced by these women, and some communities do not recognise the terms ‘cervical screening’ or ‘smear test’. As a result, uptake is low.

It is estimated that in England cervical screening now saves approximately 4,500 lives per year and prevents up to 3,900 cases of cervical cancer per year in the UK. Cervical screening can find abnormal cells, which can then be stopped from developing.

We are hosting focus groups in order to understand why BAME populations have a lower awareness of screening programmes, and we are launching a local campaign to tackle all the barriers to screening high-kind of support in place for older people is vital as creative activities offer numerous benefits in reducing stress and anxiety. The activities can help to boost confidence, self-esteem, create networks and develop friendships.

This project will help ensure there are improvements in cervical screening coverage across groups that are harder to reach.

Women from BAME communities, aged 25–64 and residing in Haringey are welcome to participate in the focus sessions which begin this month. Each participant who joins our one-hour virtual, focus group discussions will receive a £25 voucher for participating.

For more information: Email alice@embraceuk.org Visit embraceuk.org

“Having this kind of support in place for older people is vital”

Organising during a global pandemic for an improved Tottenham

Why Tottenham needs to Build Back Better

By Haringey Green New Deal Hub

Organising community action during a global pandemic and national lockdowns is no easy task. But that’s what we at Haringey Green New Deal Hub, a team of six local volunteers, have been doing over the last few months.

We’ve been working on the Build Back Better campaign launched by Green New Deal UK, a non-profit organisation formed in 2019 by organisers who are committed to social, racial, economic and climate justice.

Residents of Tottenham and Haringey more widely, face a variety of challenges that a Green New Deal would radically improve. The area has large communities that are systematically marginalised in the UK, who are bearing the brunt of Covid-19. Our borough is one of the most deprived in London with high rates of homelessness, unemployment, people living in temporary or poor quality rented accommodation, and in fuel poverty.

Clean travel options (like walking and cycling) are very poor in Tottenham.

Covid-19 has revealed chronic inequalities in our society that mean the most vulnerable people have been hit hardest. Nobody has been unaffected by Covid-19 – whether through illness, the loss of family members/friends, job insecurity or redundancy, or anxiety and isolation. Build Back Better seeks solutions to all of these challenges.

“Residents of Tottenham and Haringey more widely, face a variety of challenges that a Green New Deal would radically improve”

Build Back Better is supported by non-governmental organisations, unions, academics and youth voices. It is a call to our government to produce a post-Covid recovery plan that prioritises people, invests in the NHS and creates a strong economy that is capable of tackling the climate crisis. The recovery we want is a transformative

Green New Deal. It will base the economy on 100% clean energy in a way that tackles inequality and enhances the lives of ordinary people, workers and communities. It should create thousands of new, well-paid, secure, unionised jobs across the country.

We have been making contact with other grassroots community groups in Haringey, building relationships and seeing how we can collaborate to help each other’s work. Firstly, we asked if they would sign up to the Build Back Better campaign letter that we wrote to MPs David Lammy and Catherine West. We received support from over 20 Haringey community groups, and we delivered the letter to David and Catherine via an online meeting a few weeks ago.

We are really happy that both MPs are behind our campaign and we look forward to working with them as we move forward.

For more information on how to join or support us: Email haringeygnd@gmail.com Twitter [@GND_Haringey](https://twitter.com/GND_Haringey)



Haringey Green New Deal banner drop outside St Ann's Hospital Credit: Haringey Green New Deal Hub

COMMENT

LETTERS

Calm in the storm

Lydia Odelana Ferry Lane

I would like to encourage the readers of TCP to stay calm in this unprecedented time we are in.

As most people are working from home now, parents need to be there for their children, having home-cooked meals ready for them as they come back from school, helping them with their homework, making sure they watch moral and educational programmes on television before they sleep daily.

For all you parents and grandparents, fortify your meals with fruits, vegetables and water or tea regularly.

Exercise yourself daily. It is well.

No need to speed

George Dunstall The Roundway

I am making contact with regard to the issue of speeding along The Roundway and surrounding roads. It is a significant and long-standing issue along this stretch of road and I am keen to try and galvanise some support locally to get the council to address this.

I am engaged locally with several residents groups and the relevant councillors, but I am keen to raise the profile of this issue amongst residents who may feel the same. Certainly in The Roundway, which is 30MPH, vehicles consistently travel at speeds well in excess of this and it is a problem along both Downhills Way and Lordship Lane too.

For those of us resident on these roads, it is a real and disruptive issue and one that I feel can be easily and fairly cheaply addressed. If this is something you would be interested in engaging with me on, get in touch: theroundway2020@gmail.com

I would welcome your thoughts and support on the issue.

LITERATURE

The truth and lies laying beneath democracy

Karin Lock reviews ‘*This Is Not Propaganda*’ by Peter Pomerantsev

Facts are important; they allow transparency, accountability and impartiality. Yet in our upside-down world of spin, opinion and revision, facts are becoming harder to pin down. With advances in digital technology blurring the boundaries between truth and manipulation, are we in the throes of a ‘war against reality?’

One helpful guide to our post-truth world of fake news, bogus Facebook groups and banned YouTube videos is Peter Pomerantsev’s latest book: *This Is Not Propaganda*. The art of psychological and information warfare is nothing new but here the author’s arguments take on an original format, using his family’s history to mirror the present.

Opening with a biographical excerpt of his Ukrainian father Igor’s arrest by the KGB, the writer describes the run-of-the-mill manner in which the famous secret service agency operated. It was their job to persecute dissidents so why not carry out interrogations by the seaside in Odessa to get in some swimming and sunbathing time.

Those who have challenged power – what some call the military-industrial complex – will recognise the familiar phone-line click that warns Igor his calls are being monitored. *This Is Not Propaganda* describes in detail what happens next to Igor: friends disappear, family members are harassed and banned books destroyed.

Fast forward 40 years, and in an information-overloaded planet, more information does not equal more freedom. For the author, information abundance gives the powerful “new ways to crush and silence dissent.” Meanwhile

social media companies turn a blind eye at unchecked online abuse, much of it racist and misogynistic.

Pomerantsev travels the globe showing how our digital age is reshaping reality. Bot herders in troll farms coordinate fake accounts to bully activists. Cyber attacks paralyse a small country’s infrastructure and hackers leak emails to sway elections. Governments mimic protest movements with counter groups using similar symbols and masks to diminish the power of real resistance.

Journalists receive death threats, forced to hide behind avatars.

Propaganda lies at the heart of publicity, and the hypnotic effect of social media is where it works most effectively. Every time we post or tweet we become part of that subtle propaganda machine. The data held on our likes, purchases and affiliations is “rearranging our relations and identitiesto serve the interests of someone we can’t see.”

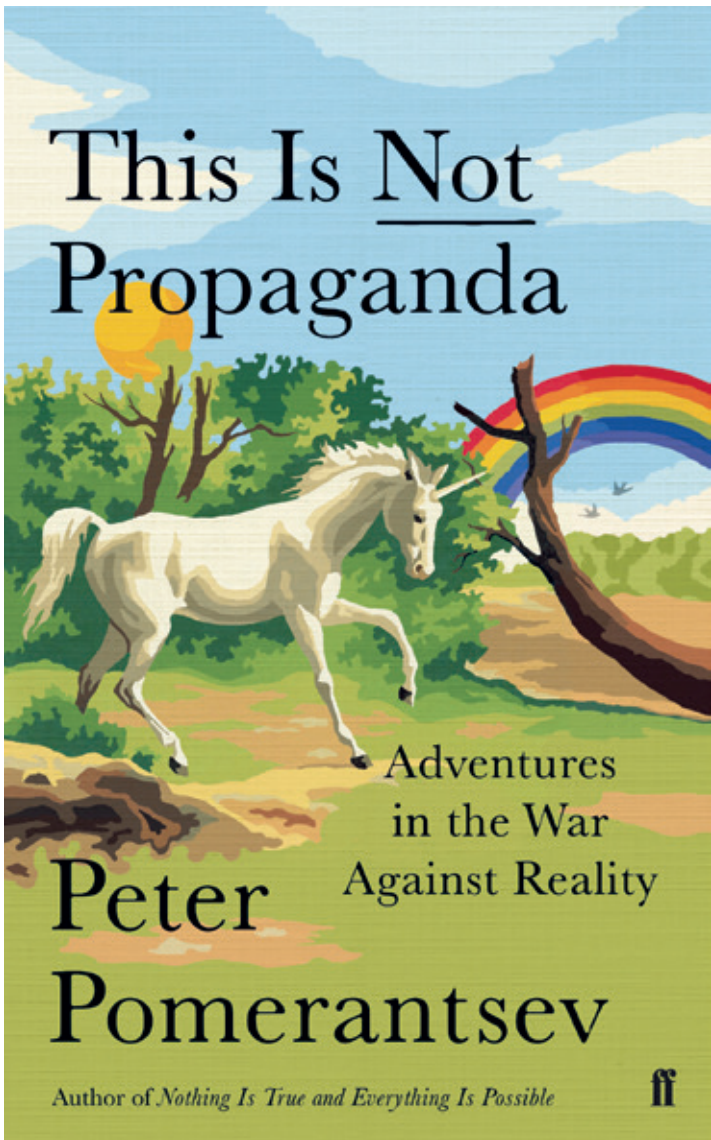
This Is Not Propaganda proposes a different lens to view how we interact

with our world. Faced with conflicting versions of reality, we often select one that suits our own values. With so many narratives competing for our attention, and “with the idea of objectivity discredited, the grounds on which one could argue against them rationally disappears.”

In 1988 the American linguist Noam Chomsky wrote that mainstream media ‘manufactures consent’ through mass persuasion. We modify our behaviour to fit in with what we are told is dominant public opinion by a billionaire-controlled media. Pomerantsev suggests that it is only the marginalised, or those not afraid of being isolated, who are in a position to change society.

This book is horrifying and fascinating in equal measure. Despite having more tools to mobilise for positive societal change than ever before, our simulated world of “opinion, support or hate” has resulted in

“apathy, division and mistrust”. *This Is Not Propaganda* invites us to look behind both political messaging and social media to reassess just how democratic our society can be once facts lose their relevance and truth is upturned.



“This book is horrifying and fascinating in equal measure”

POETRY CORNER

Hidden rivers

This is the time to walk along the hidden rivers hand in hand; this is the time to write a song out of a strangely quiet land.

This is the time to breathe again, to stand and stare, to skip and run... The water rippled by the rain, the water dappled by the sun.

This is the time to dance across the sea of sorrel and of yarrow, to sink into the gilded grass without a worry of tomorrow.

This is the time to hear the heart of the neglected earth rejoice, to find the long-forgotten lark in your beloved’s humming voice.

By Christina Egan

Do you have a book review or poem to share? Get in touch: Email tcp@socialspider.com

Goods Vehicle Operator’s Licence

Cyprofood Ltd of UNIT A1 – A3 Brantwood Industrial Estate, Brantwood Road, London, N17 0DX is applying for a licence to use UNIT A1 – A3 Brantwood Industrial Estate, Brantwood Road, London, N17 0DX as an operating centre to increase the number of their goods vehicles from 4 to 8 and 0 trailers.

Operator’s Licence Nr: OK1070357

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.

Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner’s office.

ARTS & CULTURE

Mural springs up in Springfield Road

Orla Falls meets the people behind one of the murals from the London Mural Festival

It was the overnight arrival of a three-piece suite, television and fridge-freezer that convinced neighbours on Springfield Road N15 that things needed to change.

For 20 years, a wall at the end of their street leading to Broad Lane had attracted London’s fly tippers.

Mark Duggan had been killed by police a hundred metres away and youngsters who’d looted from the retail park across the street during the resulting riots had been handed hefty jail terms. The ensuing gentrification in the area meant many

could only dream of buying one of the thousand new homes being built nearby. It felt like there was no community anymore.

Residents knew they were onto something when organisers of the first ever London Mural Festival launched a ‘call for walls.’ They requested art that would speak to under-represented neighbours, uplifting them during another challenging year. The festival doesn’t do commissions, so no money changed hands – the owner of the property on Broad Lane simply signing a release form to confirm permission and approve the artist’s design.

The heroines of our mural are siblings in their early twenties. “We’re similar in lots of ways but we’re very different people,” says NJ. “I come across as an introvert and Hillary is more of an extrovert. That’s how we met Neequaye – Hillary spotted him painting outside his workshop and started talking to him.”

Neequaye Dreph Dsane is a well-known artist, with a background in portraiture and illustration. He’s a lecturer at Portsmouth University and a former secondary school teacher who is influenced by art history and comic books, in equal measure.

Dreph’s vocation is celebrating unsung heroes and heroines, it’s a distinct style that has set him apart from others. Over the past 30 years he’s created a body of work across Asia, Africa, the UAE, Europe,



Credit Neequaye Dreph Dsane



Artist, Neequaye Dreph Dsane
Credit: Neequaye Dreph Dsane

“It’s nice to be celebrated for just being yourself”

and Central, South and North America.

Dreph speaks of the summer evening that he first met Hillary and NJ with fondness, he said: “We spent some time talking and I shared my creative process with them. What struck me about them was that although they are different in so many ways, the oneness between them was so evident. I knew immediately that I wanted to celebrate their sisterhood.



Hillary and NJ
Credit: Orla Falls

“Soon after I was invited to paint the closing mural of the London Mural festival. The shape of the wall and its location were perfect for what I had in mind.”

The sisters were able to help shape how the piece would look and feel.

“It’s nice to be celebrated for just being yourself. I’ve never seen someone who looks like me portrayed like this before. He really got us as people,” explains NJ.

Hillary adds: “The mural is beautiful. It really encapsulates our Black British sisterhood, with all its vulnerabilities and strengths.

“The pandemic has taught us that we don’t live alone, and the importance of having one another’s back so we can lift one another up – Nathalie (NJ) has been my rock. I look forward to having my own daughter some day and I’ll enjoy showing this to her.”

The Springfield Road mural has become a new focal point for the community, watched over by its two guardian angels.

Dreph said: “The mural took six days and was a pleasure to paint. As a former Seven Sisters resident, I’m happy that the artwork has been so warmly received by so many in the local community.”

You can visit another of Dreph’s murals on Tottenham High Road, opposite Bruce Grove station, and also online: www.dreph.co.uk

For more information: LMF@globalstreetart.com

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NORTH MID CHARITY

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Support independent local journalism

What we do

Here at *Tottenham Community Press* 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.

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You can do this by becoming a member either as an individual or as an organisation. See the rewards opposite and once you've decided what package you would like, visit our website: tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk/join

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Member organisations

Slimming World Enfield and Tottenham



touching hearts, changing lives

To become an organisational member email: klaudia@socialspider.com

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