

NEWS

Broadwater Farm regeneration wins planning approval

PAGE 4

FEATURES

Tottenham community shows its Christmas spirit

PAGE 6

PHOTOGRAPHY

The best pictures of Haringey during the cold snap

PAGE 8-9

COMMENT

Catherine West MP champions Haringey's high streets

PAGE 15



He's usually busy tackling opposition players but in the run-up to Christmas Spurs midfielder Pierre-Emile Højbjerg was instead tackling food poverty on a visit to Tottenham Foodbank at Tottenham Town Hall. Pictured above with staff and volunteers, the midfielder said: "Christmas is about giving and being together – there are people who need what we can give and it is a nice feeling to be able to help."

Lammy demands LTN changes as anger rises

BY ALICE KEMP-HABIB
& SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL
DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Tottenham MP David Lammy has criticised Haringey Council's low-traffic neighbourhood (LTN) trials in the borough – piling pressure on the local authority to implement changes to the schemes. In a statement last month the Labour MP said he was "concerned the changes put in place have led to an increase in congestion due to their scale" and that "many constituents have contacted me about delays to their journeys and their worries about the impact on local businesses".

Three LTNs were rolled out in the borough last autumn, in Bounds Green, St Ann's and Bruce Grove and West Green. The schemes use physical and camera-enforced 'filters' to prevent non-residential traffic from cutting through side streets. But they have attracted criticism for the

amount of traffic being displaced on to surrounding roads, leading to a series of protests outside council meetings in November and December.

Lammy added: "I have raised [my] concerns, and the need to revise the scheme, with the council on behalf of residents. I am pleased that the council has committed to make changes to improve traffic flow. I will continue to monitor the issue closely and liaise with the council over the coming months."

Council leader Peray Ahmet and deputy leader Mike Hakata, who leads on LTNs, have received personal attacks online from anti-LTN campaigners. Lammy called the abuse "unacceptable" and said both councillors are "dedicated public servants". The Tottenham MP also reiterated that he supports measures to tackle climate change and air pollution "which disproportionately affects young people, ethnic minorities and those from deprived backgrounds".

Lammy's comments come after a series of leaked emails revealed that LTN and 'school street' penalty charge notices (PCNs) were expected to raise £5.7million during the next financial year.

In an exchange where several Labour councillors expressed concerns over the council's motivation behind the schemes, Tottenham Central councillor Matt White said the council appeared to be relying on a large number of cars "driving through these supposedly safe streets in order to plug a gap in our budget".

Fortis Green councillor Mark Blake said the council's income targets for LTNs in future years "appear highly speculative" while Noel Park councillor Emine Ibrahim warned of a "huge issue" if the council's budget "relies on fining people for entering LTNs".

Cllr Ibrahim suggested using "moveable physical barriers" such as rising bollards that don't "catch people out and fine them", adding:

"we have to find a way to make this work that doesn't appear to be a money-spinner".

Seven Sisters councillor Michelle Simmons-Safo wrote that she shared Cllr White's concerns and warned it would be "highly controversial that we have a forecast of three years when [currently] the LTNs are in their trial period". Cllr Simmons-Safo said her inbox was full of "emails of anxious and frustrated vulnerable residents and carers who have had fines" and added: "These are not the residents who need to feel the wrath of the expense of a PCN to burden their already stretched budget".

In response, Cllr Hakata said the figures mentioned were "estimates based on initial data collected and experience in delivering other traffic schemes". He added: "It is very much the council's hope and expectation that compliance will be high. If this means that income raised is lower than anticipated, this will be addressed in future budget rounds".

Local news that matters to you

Sun 1st Jan

Tues 31st Jan



Waxing
Gibbous
74%/0.51



Waxing
Gibbous
77%/0.5

ABOUT

At *Haringey Community Press* we believe that the borough 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.

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haringeycommunitypress.co.uk/complaints

Coldfall Wood by Josie Dobrin – see more snow pictures on pages 8–9



AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE EDITOR

Hello and welcome to issue 15. 2023 marks a new beginning for the paper as Miriam Balanescu takes over as editor. She's currently working on her first issue, which will be available at pick-up points around the borough in February. It's been an honour to hold the position for the past seven months and I'm leaving with a fresh appreciation for the area I was raised in. I want

to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported me and the publication during that time – not only the team at Social Spider, but also the readers, members and voluntary journalists whose contributions make the paper as diverse and brilliant as the borough it covers.

I'd like to leave you all with a final call to support the work that HCP is doing. Since launching our

membership appeal in September, we've seen a 23% uptick in sign-ups. This support makes a huge difference, but we're still some way from our goal of breaking even at the end of each month. In the current local news landscape it is incredibly rare to find a paper that is genuinely by and for the community it serves, so please consider buying a membership subscription for as little as £3 a month if you

can afford to do so. I was given a subscription to HCP's predecessor, *Tottenham Community Press*, two years ago and it's taken me on a pretty incredible journey so far!

As always, if you'd like to submit a photograph, letter or story idea, send them to hcp@socialspider.com

Have a wonderful year and enjoy reading.

Alice Kemp-Habib

The LTN debate

Healthcare worker Jessica Bronstein and local resident Julia Saperia share their views on the borough’s LTN trials



“All of our LTNs have been introduced on an experimental basis. We are constantly monitoring what’s happening on the ground, and where something clearly doesn’t work we will make changes, even before the trial period is over” – Cllr Mike Hakata



“Low-traffic neighbourhoods are large traffic-calming schemes designed to cut pollution and make our streets safer. This is not a simple binary choice: pro LTN vs anti LTN. The intention is that we all feel the benefits” – Cllr Peray Ahmet (council leader)



“I am concerned the changes put in place have led to an increase in congestion due to their scale, and many constituents have contacted me about delays to their journeys and their worries about the impact on local businesses.” – MP for Tottenham David Lammy

One of several anti-LTN protests held in recent months Credit Stephen Furner



I work for Haringey Palliative Care Team, which means I visit patients who have life-limiting illnesses in their home. Although we are not counted as an emergency service, we often attend homes urgently to provide end-of-life care, symptom control or emotional support. My office is located within the St Ann’s LTN, and since the trials have been implemented, they have made us late to a lot of visits and caused our morning commute to be longer and more stressful. I need a car for work, but as a result of driving I now sit in standstill traffic, which is frustrating and adds to an already difficult job. The LTNs also mean I have to park far away from my patients’ homes and carry equipment through the streets, which is unsafe and unhygienic, and also not a good use of my time.

It is not so much the LTNs themselves – from which healthcare professionals are now exempt – but the continued adding of one-way streets, ‘no entry’ roads and flower boxes that even people with exemptions cannot pass. I have found myself going around in circles. A journey that should take three minutes now takes 20.

My whole team has been impacted by the LTNs, as have multi-disciplinary teams such as district nurses, carers, consultants and GPs. Some of my colleagues travel into Haringey from the outskirts of London and it’s now taking a ridiculous amount of time for them to get to work. It’s also causing us to take longer routes and sit idle, meaning we are spending more money to refill

our cars with petrol.

The trial is also having a knock-on effect for patients, who are struggling to travel to oncology appointments (for these palliative patients, stressful and extended journeys can be extremely detrimental). We rely on their family members to alleviate our workload, too. They monitor how patients are doing and report concerns. However, families are now struggling to visit their loved ones, with the burden of traffic and extra driving exacerbating an already difficult situation.

I am not saying LTNs should be taken away completely – I can see the benefits they may have to the environment. The LTNs have also meant that when I eventually turn on to a road that only permit holders can use, there is no traffic. But I don’t think healthcare professionals were considered enough when planning the LTN trials. The council has closed every road that is a shortcut – for example, leading from St Ann’s Road to Westbury Avenue – and this pushes traffic into the surrounding areas. I do not believe the roads are wide enough for this kind of traffic, especially with bike lanes. It needs to be reconsidered.

I do not live in the area so speak only as a professional, but I think the roads that are completely blocked off need to be reopened as permit admissible roads. It would also be extremely helpful if we as permit holders and healthcare professionals could access bus lanes during rush hour so we do not sit in the traffic with all the other vehicles.

LTNs stop through-traffic entering residential areas



I’m Julia, a pedestrian, a user of public transport, a mother of young children, a daughter of octogenarians and a person with impaired sight who can’t drive. I’m a local resident and my children go to school in one of the new low-traffic neighbourhoods.

When I visited what is now my children’s school in 2018, I couldn’t believe how the sound of traffic on two sides of the site drowned out children’s voices, both on the walk to school and in the playground. My partner liked the school but was worried about air pollution in growing lungs – it was hard to miss the fumes in the yard where the reception children played. And on top of that, the volume of traffic simply made life dangerous for everyone, on their way to and from school, with pedestrians crammed on to a tiny area of pavement.

The school now sits at the boundary of the LTN. On one side, the only motorised traffic is buses and an occasional car, where once there was a constant stream of cars, vans and motorbikes tearing up the road. Around the corner is a boundary road – a road on the edge of an LTN to where many argue LTN traffic is displaced – where my sense is that the traffic is reduced, as are the speeds. I understand there are studies going on into traffic volumes. The school environment is noticeably quieter and the air smells and tastes cleaner. This is not fantasy.

Along with the road to the local park being far safer to cross, I’m looking forward to a new zebra crossing on the main road outside the school, which is long overdue and will hopefully be in place next month. Many families at the school are similarly happy with the environment in which their children are now learning and that their journeys to and from school are safer.

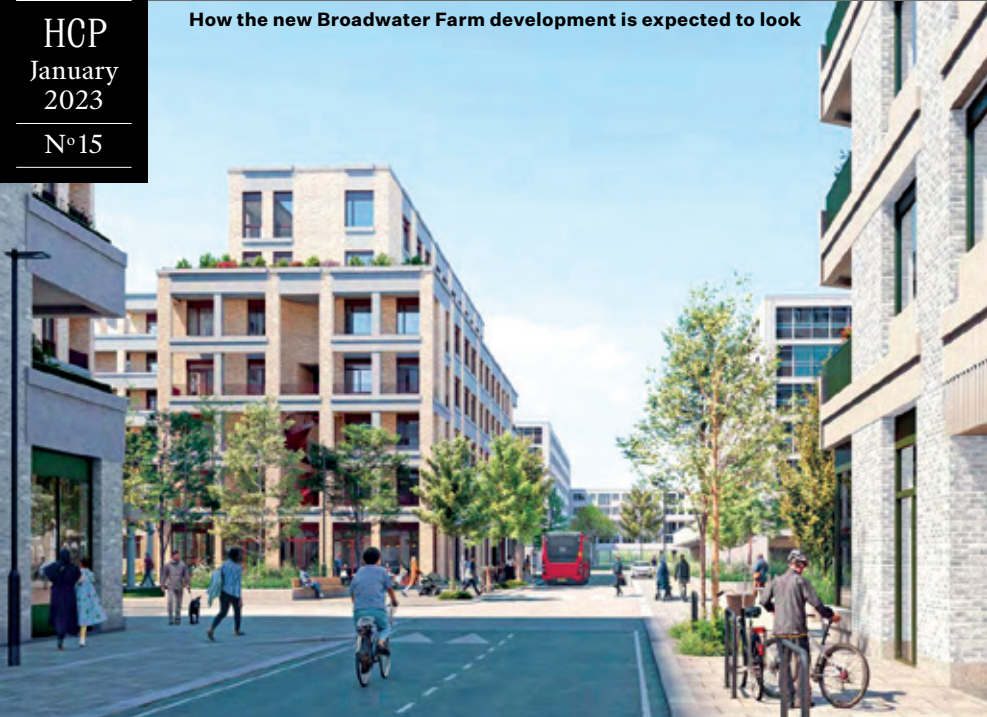
I know local families who are pretty addicted to their cars, for convenience. But among them, there is a shift from “I will go by car” to “maybe I don’t have to go by car.” This could soon become “I don’t need to go by car and so I won’t”. And, to me, that is the exact point of the LTN: to reduce needless car journeys. I feel strongly that private car use is a question of public health, from both the air pollution and climate catastrophe perspectives.

I’m happy that the council has made the bold decision to implement LTNs. I’m sure they are not perfect but I hope that imperfections can be ironed out in a spirit of collaboration. I know there are some who feel their right to drive has been impinged; I hope they read this and are able to empathise with people whose lives are impacted by speeding vehicles, safety concerns and air pollution. Clean air isn’t a privilege, it’s a right; driving a car is not, for the vast majority of people

Jessica – against the LTNs

Julia – in favour of the LTNs

How the new Broadwater Farm development is expected to look



Tangmere is one of the derelict blocks set to be demolished to make way for new housing, although its mural will now be saved

Broadwater Farm regeneration plan gets go-ahead

Decision had been delayed by two months after a mural was given listed status

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL
DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Plans to regenerate part of a Tottenham housing estate and provide nearly 300 new social homes have been approved – after Haringey Council agreed to relocate a listed artwork.

The redevelopment of an area within Broadwater Farm Estate – drawn up after two blocks were deemed unsafe – was approved by Haringey Council’s planning subcommittee last month.

The scheme will involve demolishing the now-vacant Tangmere and Northolt blocks, which were found to be unsafe following structural inspections carried out after the Grenfell Tower disaster in 2017. In addition, the Stapleford North block, an enterprise centre, medical centre and energy centre will be knocked down.

In their place, 294 new council-rent homes will be built – providing a net gain of 52 homes on the estate – along with a new wellbeing hub, a replacement enterprise centre and a shop.

The regeneration plan was backed by 85% of residents who voted in a ballot, although only 55% of those who were eligible to vote took part. The development was subsequently delayed after a mural on the Tangmere block, created to promote reconciliation in the aftermath of the 1985 estate riot, was given protected status by the government. The council plans to remove and restore the mural before installing it in a new location on the estate.

There was only one objection heard at the meeting, from Broadwater Farm Residents’ Association. Speaking during the meeting, Jacob Secker, secretary of the residents’ association, said demolishing the health centre went against council policies since the new wellbeing hub would be considerably smaller than the existing facility.

Jacob added that the development would only provide 35% three and four-bedroom

homes, which he said was a “huge drop” from a 55% target in the council’s housing strategy. He also claimed the council had not been up-front during the ballot process about plans to introduce a controlled parking zone (CPZ) on the estate, adding that a previous CPZ had been withdrawn following a petition against the scheme by residents.

Responding to the concerns, Robbie McNaughton, the council’s head of development management, said the council policies were about capacity to deliver services rather than floorspace, and there had been a “clear steer” from the NHS that the new centre would be “acceptable for meeting local needs for healthcare provision”.

Robbie added that the scheme would “significantly increase” the number of family units, which were designed to meet residents’ needs and address overcrowding on the estate. Planning officer Chris Smith pointed out that the redevelopment would see four-bedroom homes increase from 1% (three units) to 15% (44 units), which he said would more than make up for the loss of one three-bedroom unit.

Maureen Duncan, headteacher at The Brook School, spoke in favour of the plans on behalf of both The Brook and Willow School and said all were “totally supportive of the scheme”, which would be “of immense significance to the estate”.

Maureen added: “It is no secret that there are many families presently living in overcrowded conditions on the estate. The 294 new homes proposed, and a significant proportion of these having three or four bedrooms – I believe the scheme will resolve that issue.”

“There can be no doubt that another positive outcome of the regeneration will be that residents will feel much safer, and that pavements and streets will be opened up, and there will be more play and leisure space, which will give young people a sense of belonging”

Responding to committee members’ questions about measures to prevent mould, Abigail Batchelor, associate director at Karakusevic Carson Architects, assured councillors the

units would be fitted with extractors and be dual-aspect to provide cross-ventilation.

Addressing concerns over the CPZ, David Sherrington, the council’s programme director for the Broadwater Farm scheme, suggested there had been “confusion around language”. He explained that on the housing land it would be called a TMO (traffic management order), but the council had “used the language of ‘introducing parking controls’” during the consultation.

He added: “Under the housing TMO, that would include a free parking permit for every resident, and every permit thereafter comes with a cost.”

Committee members also raised concerns over fire safety, with John Bevan pointing out that other countries have a requirement for two means of exit from tall buildings. Rob Krzysowski, the council’s assistant director of planning, building standards and sustainability, said there was “not a requirement” to have two staircases and added: “The requirement is to have detailed building fire safety engineering analysis, and this is subject to lots of extra checks and balances now.”

The applications for the redevelopment project and the relocation of the mural were unanimously approved by the committee.

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SEVEN SISTERS

Restaurant saved thanks to viral campaign

Chuku's Nigerian Tapas Restaurant owners Ifeyinwa and Emeka Frederick



BY OLIVIA OPARA

A NIGERIAN RESTAURANT WAS saved from closure following a successful social media campaign.

Chuku's Nigerian Tapas Restaurant launched a 'six week charge' at the end of October with a goal of hitting 600 bookings by mid-December, but the restaurant managed to hit the target within days of launching the campaign – even surpassing it with an extra 200 bookings.

The campaign's launch video went viral, gaining almost 700,000

views across Instagram and Twitter, with retweets from high-profile figures including supermodel Jourdan Dunn and Nigerian England rugby star Maro Itoje.

The sibling duo behind Chuku's, Ifeyinwa and Emeka Frederick, said they were "deeply moved" and that support came in "thick and fast". Ifeyinwa added: "From the bottom of our hearts, we want to say thank you. When we launched the six week charge, we thought that 600 bookings might be too ambitious. To have surpassed that by over 200 is incredible and a

testament to the power and importance of community.

"Things definitely don't stop here – we want to keep sharing our take on Nigerian cuisine and culture with you."

During the campaign, many across Tottenham and beyond dined at the restaurant to show their support. Notable diners were Nigeria's football captain and Watford FC defender William Troost-Ekong, Labour MP Diane Abbott, Olympic gold medallist Christine Ohuruogu, TV and radio presenter Yinka Bokinni, *Top Boy* actor Jolade Obasola, and *Great British Bake Off* quarter-finalist Benjamina Ebuehi.

Located in Tottenham High Road near Seven Sisters tube, Chuku's opened in 2020 with the mantra "chop, chat, chill" just five weeks before the first Covid-19 lockdown was announced. But the multiple lockdowns that followed, paired with staff shortages, left the restaurant struggling to survive.

Plans are underway this month for a celebration of the successful campaign, as a way to thank everyone who supported it.

ST ANN'S

Hospital's housing redevelopment approved

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

A MAJOR HOUSING SCHEME planned for the site of disused hospital buildings has been approved.

Catalyst Housing Association and developer Hill Residential won permission to demolish parts of the St Ann's Hospital complex in St Ann's Road and build 995 homes in a series of flats up to nine storeys high.

Opened in 1892 as a fever hospital before becoming a general hospital in the 1940s, St Ann's has recently undergone redevelopment and now occupies around a third of the original site. The surplus land was bought by the Greater London Authority in 2018 to increase the delivery of affordable homes.

Haringey Council's planning subcommittee approved detailed plans for 239 homes and outline plans for a further 756 homes at the site during a meeting at the end of November. The development is set to provide 595

The plans for nearly a thousand homes at St Ann's Hospital



affordable homes and 400 for private sale, along with a supermarket and other commercial uses such as affordable workspaces.

The scheme drew 389 objections and comments from the public, and a number of residents addressed the committee to raise concerns over its impact on the environment, neighbouring residents and children attending a local school.

When the plans were first submitted to the council, campaigners warned they would lead to the loss

of nearly 50% of the trees on the development section of the site. A report presented to the committee by planning officers acknowledged that 114 of the 227 trees on site, and 30 of 32 tree groups, would need to be removed. However, it added that the plans had been amended to provide additional replacement trees, which would lead to "a net increase of 357 trees across the site".

Following a long debate on the plans, the committee voted unanimously to approve the application.

WEST GREEN

Black Boy Lane renamed 'La Rose Lane'

BY ALICE KEMP-HABIB

BLACK BOY LANE HAS been officially renamed 'La Rose Lane'.

A legal order was issued last month after Haringey Council's corporate committee voted to change the street's name after the late poet, essayist and Haringey resident John La Rose.

The decision was made in response to concerns that the name Black Boy Lane had racist connotations, and comes following two years of consultation and debate.

The council is offering residents £300 to help with the transition and has assured locals that house numbers and postcodes will not be affected. Organisations including Royal Mail will continue to recognise the old name of the street for a period to minimise inconvenience.

John La Rose was an influential figure in the struggle

for social justice and recognition for Black authors, artists and thinkers. He played a key role in founding New Beacon Books in Stroud Green, and later the Caribbean Artists' Movement.

Council leader Peray Ahmet said: "I'm delighted that we're able to pay tribute to John La Rose with a new street name. John made such a huge contribution to Black life both here in Haringey and across the UK and played an important role in gaining recognition for Black authors and artists, as well as championing inclusive education."

Renaldo La Rose, grandson of John La Rose, said: "John's family are really proud that John's life and work is to be recognised by having a road named after him. John's work was of national and international significance but much of it started here in Haringey."

BOWES PARK

The Step opened in Myddleton Road in 2011 and was central to the street's revival Credit: Elizabeth Bell



Taking The Step forward

BY ALICE KEMP-HABIB

CAMPAIGNERS IN BOWES PARK have won a £300,000 grant to help revive a local pub.

The Step in Myddleton Road closed in March 2020 and was purchased by property developers who gutted the interior, with the intention of turning it into flats. However, the planning application received more than 500 objections and community benefit society (CBS) status was established in 2021 as part of a campaign to buy the building from its current owners, renovate the premises, and ultimately reopen it as a pub.

Now, the group has secured £300,000 from the

government's Community Ownership Fund. The award is conditional on the group securing £250,000 in donations or loans, which it is well on the way to doing with locals having pledged more than £177,000 so far.

Dan Jones, chair of the Save The Step campaign, said: "We are delighted to have received this crucial investment from the government that will enable us to take a big step towards reopening what was once the beating heart of our close-knit community."

The Step, which opened in 2011, was a much-loved staple of Myddleton Road, previously hosting live music, quiz nights and art exhibitions.

Tottenham community shows its Christmas spirit

The ongoing cost-of-living crisis left many families struggling to properly celebrate Christmas – but community organisations in Tottenham stepped up to help.

Staff at Morning Star Nursery set up a ‘toy bank’ and asked parents to donate new toys. The family-owned business, based in Forster Road, donated the toys to local families with ‘no recourse to public funds’ (NRPF) who find it difficult to put presents under the Christmas tree – partnering with Haringey Council’s children and young people’s service to distribute them.

People and families with NRPF are ‘subject to immigration control’ under Section 115 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. This means that they cannot claim payments such as benefits and housing assistance. Morning Star Nursery manager Beverliegh Bossman said they are “suffering” as a result and added: “There are people with children who are struggling and they just have to get on with it.”

Women With A Voice (WWAV) is a community organisation set up as a safe space for women who have experienced domestic abuse, female genital mutilation (FGM) and modern-day slavery. Based in Northumberland Park, WWAV hosts a group cook-up for the women supported by their service and also facilitates wellbeing programmes and activities, providing 30 food parcels every week.

Natasha Johnson, founder of Women With A Voice, said: “Many families are facing hardship since Covid and we have

Olivia Opara talked to organisations in Tottenham as they helped vulnerable residents at Christmas



Morning Star Nursery in Tottenham set up a ‘toy bank’ for local families who couldn’t afford Christmas presents

realised that there has been a rise in foodbanks and women and their families needing support.”

This Christmas, WWAV provided 50 ‘festive hampers’ to help vulnerable women “put a proper meal together” on Christmas Day and tackle food poverty during the festive season. Each hamper included festive food and snacks, tinned curries, ready-made meals and toiletries.

“The idea behind it is that no family should go hungry during the festive season,” said Natasha, who also runs Kitchen on the Street, a community organisation that provides free three-course meals every first and third Saturday of the month.

Kitchen on the Street partnered with Blooming Scent Cafe, The Trampery and Source Divine VIP to host a ‘community festive dinner’ on Christmas Day. It began with pampering sessions by Source Divine VIP, a hair-dressing salon on West Green Road, providing free haircuts and styling. A three-course Christmas dinner of different cultural foods was served and there was also a card-making session, a Christmas-themed karaoke and a Christmas movie showing in the reception area of The Trampery in Tottenham High Road.

Gina Moffwat, owner of Blooming Scent Cafe, which is adjacent to The Trampery, said she wanted to “make a little difference” this Christmas. “I want to give something back. So I thought, ‘what a lovely way to do so’ in the community that I love the most.”

Campaigning against energy injustice

I was shocked and deeply dismayed to find out last year that energy companies were making record profits but still planning to increase energy bills despite the cost-of-living crisis.

The idea of very profitable companies making even bigger profits by financially squeezing already struggling customers really got me fuming and that is why I decided to join the Haringey Don’t Pay UK campaign.

Haringey Don’t Pay UK is one of hundreds of Don’t Pay UK campaign groups across the country calling on energy customers in their local area to strike and cancel direct debits or withhold payments to energy companies until they significantly reduce the amount of money they charge for gas and electricity.

We have only been up-and-running since August last year and everyone involved in the Haringey Don’t Pay UK campaign is a volunteer. We are always looking for new members to help raise awareness of the campaign or to help with handing out leaflets or flyers in the borough, so if you have some free time, or just feel strongly about this

Colin Joseph from Haringey Don’t Pay UK on why he wants local people to stand up to energy companies



Haringey Don’t Pay UK volunteers campaigning in Tottenham

issue, please get in touch.

The Don’t Pay UK campaign has three key demands. These are an immediate reversal of the price hikes; an end to the enforcement of prepayment meters (usually used by the

poorest customers); and an emergency social energy tariff so that no-one goes cold this winter. Emergency price banding for energy would work similarly to the tax system, whereby the richer you are the more you

pay, with poorer people therefore paying less per unit for their energy.

Already over 250,000 people UK-wide have pledged to strike by not paying their energy bills but the more people that join the campaign, the stronger and more influential we will become. As I write this (just before Christmas) we are already in the middle of a cold snap that is forcing residents to turn up their central heating to keep their homes warm. But what if they can’t afford to pay the higher bills that will result?

There are now more than 25 ‘warm banks’ in Haringey run by local businesses and community organisations, where residents who cannot afford their energy bills can go to stay warm. Meanwhile, utility companies are making record profits by raising energy bills and are not passing on any of these benefits to their customers.

Get involved with Haringey Don’t Pay UK and find out more about the national campaign:
Email woodywood2@blueyonder.co.uk
Visit dontpay.uk

To find your nearest warm bank:
Visit haringey.gov.uk/community/haringey-warm-welcome

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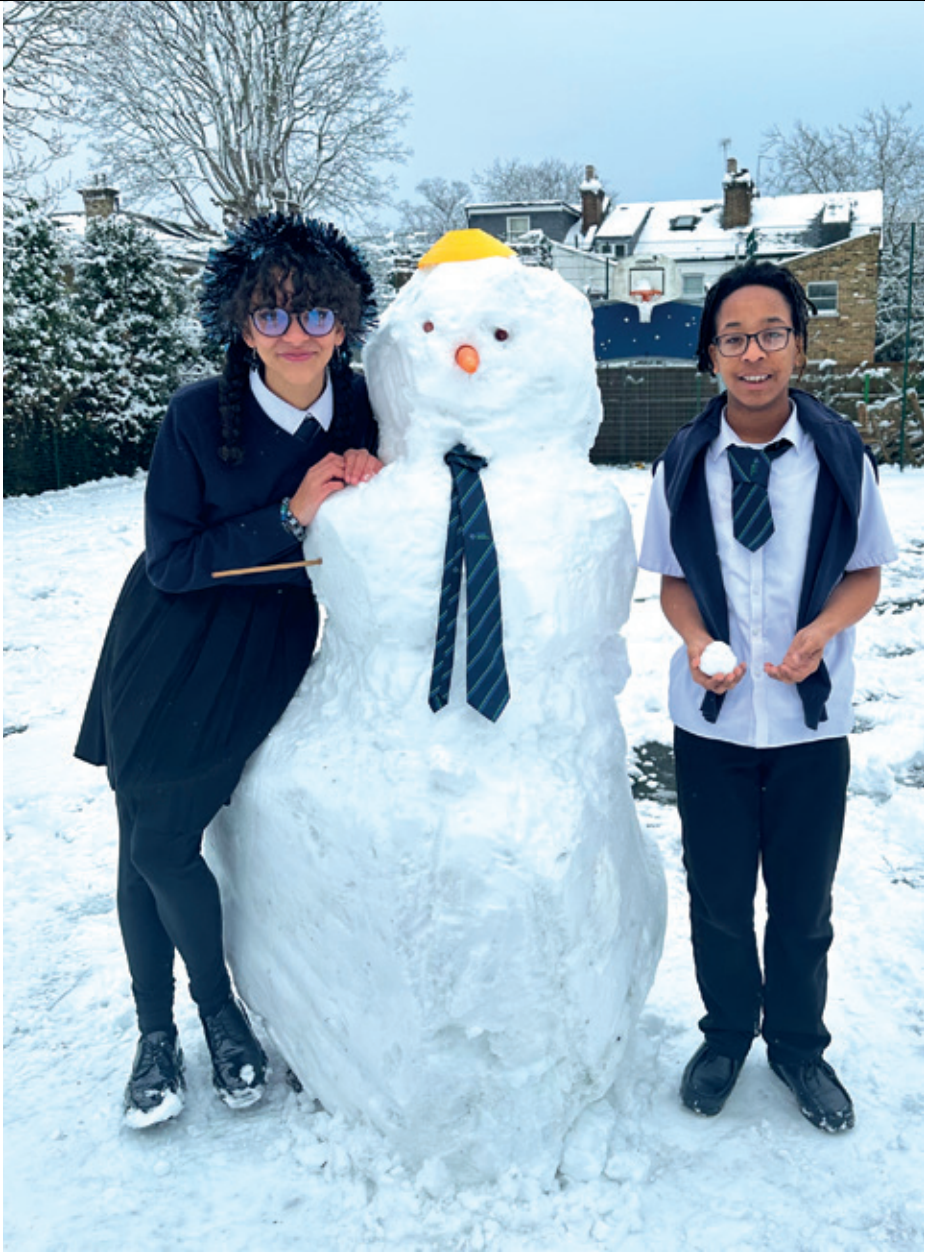


Haringey in the snow



This page
Top
Alexandra Park by Patricia Pearl
Bottom
Bruce Castle by Claude Isambard

Page right
Top left
Students at Haringey Learning Partnership
in the snow by Gerry Robinson
Top right
River Lea by Douglas Anderson
Bottom left
Tottenham Marshes by Andrew Johnson
Bottom right
Parkland Walk by Harry Owen



P H O T O G R A P H Y

Five minutes with Eddy Frankel

Home is...
Tottenham, naturally. I live deep in the 'Bermuda triangle' between Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and Tottenham Hale. Not a lot happens here, but I can see the cockerel on top of the stadium glowing at night from my bedroom, and I'm moments away from the marshes, so it's a pretty ideal place to live.

Which shops do you rely on?

Nazar on the High Road is my go-to, it's so good for fruit, vegetables, olives and Turkish bread. If I'm feeling fancier I pop across the road to the brilliant Fieldseat Cafe, and I spend more time and money than I should admit at Loon Fung wholesalers. But if I'm being honest, my heart truly belongs to my local corner shop, Tilson Stores. It's not the best, but it is the nearest, and that's what matters most.

Where do you go for a good time?

The Post Bar does some seriously heavy gigs every now and then, but you'll mainly find me watching football at The Bluecoats on Tottenham High Road or enjoying probably the best pub in London, The High Cross, near Monument Way.

What makes Haringey special?

There's such an incredible mixture of cultures and ideas here, and it feels like it hasn't (yet) been swallowed up by the endless tide of Hackney escapees, so it still has its own vibe and atmosphere.

Eddy Frankel is the founder of OOF, a football-focused contemporary art gallery based at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. He spoke to *HCP* about The High Cross Pub and Hackney escapees



Where do you go for a moment of quiet?
Quiet isn't something I particularly need or seek out. But if I really had to be alone with my thoughts, it's the marshes I'd head to.

A work of art that changed you?

Yves Klein's whole body of work – especially his monochromes – is what inspired me to study history of art.

Where do you get your culture fix?

A little place called OOF Gallery.

What's your one rule for life?

Just do stuff. Make the things you want to make, try the things you want to try.

Your go-to coffee spot?

Craving Coffee, between Tottenham Hale and Seven Sisters, is the one.

What should *HCP* readers be watching, reading or listening to right now?

I'm currently reading Tade Thompson's *Rosewater*, which is brilliant and intense. But musically, I've got to give a shout out to Tottenham's own ATVM, one of the best young death metal bands around.

What are you working on at the moment?

The latest issue of OOF Magazine has just come out, so I'm now starting to commission the next issue. Our Mark Titchner exhibition will be ending in February too, so we're working on our next show as well.

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Council sets out 2023/24 budget plans as tax rise proposed

11

HCP
January
2023
No 15

Residents are being invited to have their say on Haringey Council's tax and spending plans for the next financial year.

The council last month launched a public consultation on the proposed budget for 2023/24, which it says is focused on protecting the borough's most vulnerable residents.

Although it includes plans for a 1.99% increase in core council tax and 1% rise in the 'precept' used to fund adult social care, the consultation report notes that a final decision will be made in light of new powers granted to local authorities by the government to raise council tax bills by up to 5%.

The budget includes plans to invest almost £11million in adults' and children's services. This includes £2m to help cope with increased demand for adult social care and the growing complexity of needs that has been seen since the Covid-19 pandemic. A further £4m has been earmarked to address inflationary pressures in adult social care, including rising energy costs.

Proposed investment in children's services includes £2m to address budget pressures, which are partly due to a rise in the number of young people in semi-independent provision.



▲
Credit
Stephen Furner

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

A further £1m has been set aside to cover the growing costs of social care placements. Other spending plans include £350,000 to continue free school meals provision and

£1m for transport for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Money-raising proposals include £6.4m from "traffic and route management improve-

The budget is being developed against a backdrop of economic uncertainty, high inflation and reduced central government funding

ments", which includes income from enforcement cameras in 'school streets' and the three controversial low-traffic neighbourhood schemes rolled out last year. The council also plans to save £2.2m on its adults, mental health and learning disabilities service, achieved partly through a focus on "early intervention and prevention and use of assistive technology".

Council leader Peray Ahmet and cabinet member for finance Sarah Williams said the 2023/24 budget was being "developed against a backdrop of an unprecedented combination of economic uncertainty, high inflation and reduced central government funding".

They added: "Despite the increasingly challenging circumstances, our budget once again sees continued investment in those things that are at the heart of our values as an administration.

"We're particularly proud of our huge investment in care for our most vulnerable residents and our enhanced support for those who are suffering most from the cost-of-living crisis."

The budget consultation will run until 20th January. Residents can find out more details on the proposals and how to provide feedback by visiting the council website at haringey.gov.uk/local-democracy/policies-and-strategies/your-haringey-your-future.

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Simone Daniali

Work on borough-wide art project begins

Three new murals will be unveiled across Haringey this year

BY FRAN DI FAZIO

Consultation has begun on a new, borough-wide public art project.

Funded by Haringey Council and facilitated by Bud Studio, the Town Centres Creative Art

Project will commission local artists to produce murals and shutter artworks in Stroud Green Road, Blue House Yard (Wood Green), and Crouch End. Planning for the

new artworks began in December, when Haringey locals were invited to share their ideas during a community workshop.

Bud Studio – which is responsible for the bookshelf

mural which adorns Wood Green Library – used the ideas generated to inform the artists' briefs for the project.

Zoe Alleyne, Bud Studio's co-founder and managing director, thinks it's important to involve local people in public art projects. She said: "I don't think you can add artwork to an area until you've asked people who live and work there what they actually want, or if they even want it at all. It needs to be their artwork; it needs to feel like it belongs to them."

Hanna, a local artist who attended the workshop in December, echoed her thoughts: "It's really important to collect ideas and exchange experiences," she said, adding that she would like the final pieces to include abstract imagery, floral compositions, and typography.

Cléa, another attendee, said: "I'd like to see scenes that represent London's mixed community, with bright and fluorescent colours. I think after the darkness of the winter, which also reflects the

distance, you should have work that brightens up a bit."

After the initial workshop attendees were supplied with art materials to realise their own canvas paintings. From a preliminary look at people's ideas, Zoe observed overarching themes of unity and diversity, as well as a preference for natural motifs and bright colours.

Participants to Bud Studio's community workshops will also have the opportunity to vote for their favourite artists in online polls. The results will play a role in the final commissions.

The project is being delivered as part of Haringey Council's 'High Streets Recovery Action Plan', supporting the recovery and renewal of local sites for business and socialisation after the Covid-19 pandemic. The Town Centres Creative Art Projects will be rolled out in 2023. Bud Studio is set to host another community art workshop on Monday, 9th January at Hornsey Library.

For more information about the project:
Visit budstudio.co.uk

I'd like to see scenes that represent London's mixed community, with bright and fluorescent colours

LISTINGS

Comedy

Sunday Night Comedy

Sunday, 15th January, 7.30pm
The Village Green, 122 Fortis
Green Rd, Muswell Hill N10 3HN

The Village Green pub is hosting its first stand-up comedy night of the year. Suitable for ages 16+, the show will be hosted by local comedian, improviser and award-winning writer Mark Maier. Performing on the night will be Ian Stone, known for appearing on 'Mock the Week', Mike Gunn from 'Comedy Roadshow' and the comedian and writer Juliet Myers.

Tickets £16.50

Tickets wegottickets.com/event/565145

Exhibition

Peace on Paper

Wednesday, 4th January –
Monday, 30th January
Lauderdale House, Waterlow Park,
Highgate Hill N6 5HG

'Peace on Paper' is a collection of pen and pencil drawings by Zurab Gogidze, featuring portraits and figure studies of Highgate cemetery, the moon and shadow, mermaids, fishermen, the sea and sky. Zurab, who works as a gardener and gravedigger's assistant, explores the idea of calm and peace and will make an appearance on Saturday, 7th and Sunday, 29th January.

Free entry

Visit lauderdalehouse.org.uk/whats-on

Nature

Bird Survey at The Paddock

Friday, 6th January 10am–11am
The Paddock Community Nature
Park, Ferry Lane N17 9NG

Open to all abilities, The Conservations Volunteers are hosting a bird survey and will provide training on how to identify local birds and bird songs at the paddock. There will also be a short talk on a bird species and a guided transect survey of the whole site. The survey is family friendly and participants are encouraged to dress weather appropriately.

Free entry

Visit bit.ly/3hcdPNw

Martial arts

Sanjuro Martial Arts

Saturday, 7th January, 2pm–3pm
Chad Gordon Campus, 20B
Waltheof Gardens N17 7HS

This Sanjuro Martial Arts class is SEN designed for autistic and neurodivergent adults. Running for over two years, the class provides practical techniques and knowledge of Sanjuro Martial arts in an accessible way. The class is facilitated by instructor Anthony, overseen by Sensei Glenn and encourages self development and team work within a safe and friendly environment.

Free entry

Visit sanjuromartialarts.com

Music

Bowes Park Folk Club

Thursday, 12th January,
7.45pm–10.30pm
Mum's Bistro, Myddleton Road
N22 8NG

Bowes Park Folk Club is starting the new year with an open mic night at Mum's Bistro. With featured performances from local acoustic folk musicians, the night is open to all. Past performers include Ian Coles and Charlie Graham of Somebody Else's Troubles.

Free entry

Visit bowes-park-folk-club.mailchimp.com

Film

Hornsey Library Silent Cinema:

Les Demoiselles de Rochefort

Sunday, 8th January, 1pm
Hornsey Library, Haringey Park,
Hornsey N8 9JA

Hornsey Library will be having a feature showing of the French film, 'Les Demoiselles de Rochefort' (1967). This musical comedy follows the lives of twin sisters, Delphine and Solange, who harbour hopes of finding love and success in Paris. The film's plot is a Shakespearean farce with a jazz score by the prolific French composer, Micheal Jean Legrand. The film is PG and booking is required.

Free entry

Call 020 8489 4560

Concert

Crouch End Festival Chorus

Saturday, 28th January, 6.30pm
Alexandra Palace Theatre,
Alexandra Palace Way N22 7AY

The Crouch End Festival Chorus is collaborating with The Hanover Band in a classical concert of Bach's 'Mass in B minor'. They will be joined by four soloists: Maria Fontanais-Simmons (mezzo-soprano); Benjamin Hulett (tenor); Henry Waddington (bass-baritone) and Anna Dennis (soprano). David Temple will be conducting the show.

Tickets from £12.50

Student tickets from £7

Visit alexandrapalace.com/whats-on

Festival

London International Mime Festival

Thursday, 19th–Sunday, 22nd
January | Tuesday, 24th–Sunday,
29th January, 3pm and 7pm
Jacksons Lane, 269a Archway
Road, Highgate N6 5AA

The London International Mime Festival (LIMF) is returning to Haringey with a series of performances at Jacksons Lane. The festival will feature international acts such as the trained juggler, Andrea Salustri. LIMF celebrates and showcases contemporary circus-theatre, puppetry, live art, extreme dance and non text-based drama.

Tickets £18

Visit jacksonslane.org.uk/events

For next month's listings, email the details of your event to hcp@socialspider.com by Tuesday 17th January



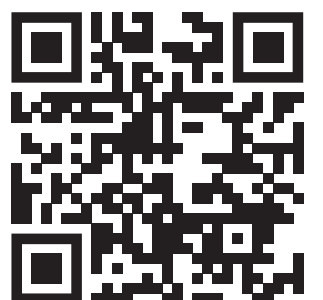
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‘While this cost of living crisis worsens, mental health in Haringey will continue to be at risk’

In our latest cost-of-living column, Conall Ó Brolcháin from Mind in Haringey discusses how the crisis is impacting mental health in the borough

The cost-of-living crisis has had a huge impact on the community of Haringey which can be seen in almost every facet of our lives, from rising prices in the supermarket, to skyrocketing utility bills, to unprecedented increases in rent. For mental health in our community, this impact is no different.

My name is Conall Ó Brolcháin and I am the administration and communications manager at Mind in Haringey. We are an independent charity providing vital mental health services to our community, including a one-to-one counselling service, activities such as gardening and yoga, peer support services and advocacy. We work with a diverse group of service users from all over the borough, and it's clear that the crisis is impacting our community



Credit Tom Haymer

across the board.

As this situation worsens, we have noticed an uptake in referrals for many of our services as well as an adjustment in the types of requests that are coming through. Themes of housing issues and debt, though always common for our advocacy service, are more pervasive than ever. One service where we have seen a notable impact is the Young People's Project, which provides one-to-one support for 16–25 year olds in Haringey. Since September,

referrals for this project have been rising steadily, with an approximate 40% increase in referrals compared with the previous summer months. The type of support required by young people is also worth noting. Jermaine Nicholson, who works on the Young People Project, said: “Our young people need support, they need more support in affording the costs of day-to-day life. We are getting requests for food vouchers, for heaters for their homes.” This is a clear indicator of the pressure

that the current economic climate is putting on young people in Haringey.

Another project where we've seen an increase in uptake is our breakfast club. This is a drop-in service on Wednesday mornings where anyone is welcome to come and share a free breakfast with us. We have seen a weekly increase in the number of people joining us. Though we are happy to welcome them and enjoy this opportunity to share a meal with our community, it is also an indictment of the situation in Haringey at the moment, mirrored by the increase in demand for local foodbanks.

Overall, our mental health is heavily impacted by our material surroundings. The stress of rent increases, huge utility bills and unaffordable groceries can contribute significantly to causing longer term mental health issues. While this cost-of-living crisis worsens, mental health in Haringey will continue to be at risk of worsening. Mind in Haringey will remain ever-present in fighting to improve the mental wellbeing of our community as we battle, together, through this difficult period. Historically Haringey has been a place of great resilience, we will endeavour to be part of that in the present and going forward.

For more information about Mind in Haringey, including the referral process:
Visit mindinharingey.org.uk/our-services

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People power!

Dear HCP

Following a High Court decision, seven asylum seekers were told they would be removed from a small hotel in Muswell Hill and taken to Napier Barracks in Kent. They were placed in the hotel by the Home Office, and were well liked by their new friends in Muswell Hill. They were able to tell the stories of why they fled here and began to contribute to the local community.

Clearly the government want to boast about numbers on a plane and not people who can talk themselves about their traumatic pasts, their families and their future hopes and dreams. They want to abandon these people in impersonal barracks away from any support.

But the support and love was there. Over 50 people joined a peaceful protest at very short notice, and the police and Home Office were forced to stop the removals. But they will be back. Please join the work of Haringey Welcome and other support groups.

Sean O'Donovan
Muswell Hill

Help for early years

Dear HCP

It's a tough time to be a parent in London – as we emerge from the pandemic into a cost-of-living crisis. Many families are under more pressure than ever before. Research from Unicef UK found that over 250,000 parents with young children in London are struggling financially or with their mental health.

There are huge variations in support across the country – waiting lists are long, provision is patchy, and in some places, not there at all. Basic services like health visiting, mental health support, affordable childcare and early education, should be there for everyone, but they're not.

I hope you can join me in calling on the UK government for a 'National Baby and Toddler Guarantee', which would set out the basic services that every young child in the UK is entitled to – whoever they are and wherever they are born.

Rebecca Wright
Crouch End

I ain't afraid

Dear HCP

I lived in Rutland Gardens in Haringey for a good 25 years. I had several haunting experiences there. I wonder if such ghostly happenings occur in other homes nearby?

Here is one of my experiences. My father passed away. I was in Japan. My next trip home was for Christmas. I brought a Christmas present for my mother, a laughing, rolling, toy dog. It cheered her up.

One night, while sleeping in my old bedroom, I was awoken by the doorknob rattling loudly. The rattling continued for about ten seconds. I knew it was dad. Dad was still there. Perhaps he was unaware that he had passed on from this world.

Now, that happened one time during my two-week stay. I told friends. "Oh, it was probably the wind," they said. Well, I had slept in that room a good 25 years. There had been many a windy night but the doorknob had never rattled in response before.

During that same two-week period, in the dead of night, in the living room, I was awoken by the toy dog bursting into laughter. What/who had activated it? I'm sure dad was playing with it. After that, I kept the dog nearby. Lorries would trundle past. Their vibrations did not spark the toy dog into laughter.

In the evening, I put the toy close to the TV. The volume was loud to help my mother's hearing. Music and laughter blared out. The toy dog lay dormant despite the vibrations running through it. But, in the dead of a still, silent night it sparked into life. Dad! I would return and stay in my old bedroom about three times a year and the same thing would happen with the doorknob. It would rattle once, and once only, during a two-week stay. I knew it was dad.

After about two years, the rattling began to weaken. I guess dad was slowly moving on. I can remember the final rattle. It lasted for about a second and it was weak.

Now, I'm wondering, were such occurrences experienced in our home alone? Do any of our neighbours have inexplicable hauntings? Is Rutland Gardens a ghost street?

David Baresch
Author and ghost hunter



High streets are at the heart of our communities

Catherine West, Labour MP for Hornsey and Wood Green, on the importance of reviving our high streets

Even before the pandemic, our high streets were changing with more people shopping online and big department stores from BHS to M&S closing their doors. The pandemic undeniably accelerated this change, and as traders across Haringey emerged from locked down shops and deserted streets, they faced a triple whammy of soaring business rates, energy bills and fewer customers.

In the two years since the first lockdown, we've lost 9,300 retail outlets nationwide and this year alone over 13,000 retail jobs.

It's why I pushed for a parliamentary debate, so I could tell the minister first-hand the issues that traders from Wood Green to Stroud Green, Muswell Hill to Crouch End have raised with me and call for more support for our brilliant local businesses.

Our high streets matter. They're not just a place to shop; they're at the heart of our communities. The pandemic taught us many painful lessons about what we value, one of which is how bereft our communities become when our town centres are no longer open.

When I asked traders for their concerns, top of the pile was business rates. One Stroud Green small business owner told

me high street retailers already face higher overheads than their online competitors, but unfair business rates mean they feel actively penalised for placing themselves in the heart of the community. How can that be fair? A Labour government would scrap the failing system and even the balance between shop fronts and online giants.

Second among their concerns was soaring energy costs, a particular issue for high-energy food businesses or hairdressers. The chair of Crouch End Traders who runs a local bakery described it as the "perfect storm" – soaring costs mean prices must go up but struggling customers can't pay more. Government support to date has been short-term and failed to provide businesses with the assurance they need, and the government is failing to help businesses cut bills. One trader told me how much they'd welcome grants for solar panels saying, "a lot of us want to be greener but can't afford the initial outlay".

Traders also spoke of the wider problems affecting the high street, like the imminent closure of the post office in WH Smiths, Wood Green. I've long campaigned against bank and post office closures as they're terrible for customers and for small businesses who can't safely

deposit cash locally and for our high streets. When banks close, they all too often take their free ATMs with them, and we now have the ridiculous situation of 24% of ATMs charging a fee to access your own money.

Defending our high streets isn't about rejecting change. I spent a wonderful afternoon with Mary, the founder of The RecordShop, in Wood Green Mall. Mary set it up to help young people in Haringey and beyond gain music skills and experience and it hosts open-mic nights, events and markets. Her vision for The RecordShop, one that brings arts and culture to the heart of a town centre, shows us that there is room for a renewed relationship with our high streets with the right support.

I hope the minister was listening to the voices of traders and customers across Hornsey and Wood Green. If our high streets are going to thrive over the difficult year ahead – they need more backing.

If you are a Hornsey and Wood Green constituent you can contact Catherine West MP:
Call 020 7219 6141
Email catherine.west.mp@parliament.uk

“
High streets are not just a place to shop; they're at the heart of our communities
”

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Catherine West has represented Hornsey and Wood Green since 2015
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