

Opposition Priority Business: Enfield – The environment in which we all live

In parallel with continued population growth and its associated infrastructural needs, particularly in the areas of transport, education and housing we are seeing an increase of the transient proportion of the population which is destroying communities and eroding the fabric of local society.

We are increasingly concerned that the current administration is failing to preserve those aspects of our Borough which our residents value and make this a place that they wish to stay in and put down roots.

In **planning** we continue to witness the supine way in which the majority side councillors fail to challenge the erosion of conservation areas, and the quality of developments generally.

In matters of protecting the **green belt** we remain concerned over the salami slice tactics which are being allowed to continually erode its value.

In the **street scene** we are seeing a failure of ingenuity and understanding of the local environment that sees layers of traffic schemes each attempting to correct the faults of the previous scheme.

On **our roads** we are seeing increasing congestion, met only by hostile anti-car measures from this administration, who seem to fail to recognise that it is our residents who are the ones stuck in the traffic.

And in our **shopping areas**, we are seeing the failure to support local businesses through the levers this Council has already at hand.

During the debate we will be setting out and offering comments and some immediate actions, in addition we would be happy to discuss and flesh out the following actions in the appropriate constitutional bodies:

- Planning - improved training for councillors, with minimum training requirements before councillors are allowed to participate.
- Increased resources into conservation area and green belt protection and enforcement.
- An end to piecemeal traffic changes, and instead a comprehensive review of traffic flows with a view to removing complexity and clearing ways through the borough for traffic to flow.
- Reduction in business rates, which are crippling our local high street and the introduction of 20 minutes free parking.

Despite noting the administration's previous almost perverse unwillingness to take on board any positive measures that we set out, we continue to offer to work with them on these matters.