



# CHILDS HILL NEWS

From your local **LIBERAL DEMOCRAT TEAM**

**Cllrs Jack Cohen Monroe Palmer Susette Palmer;  
Jonathan Davies Charlotte Henry**

## BRENT CROSS REGENERATION

Cllr Jack Cohen who voted against the application said “We were bitterly disappointed when Conservative Councillors voted to approve the latest plans despite so many objections by local people.”

Cllr Cohen spoke passionately about the lack of information by the developers on what was planned for the green space outside B & Q. **He described**

**the decision to concrete over the Green as an outrage, an insult and a kick in the teeth to local Cricklewood residents.**



**Charlotte Henry** shown here campaigning in favour of retaining the

Green was present at the Planning meeting. “ I am devastated by this decision” she said “it removes vital green space from Cricklewood.”

## REDUCTION IN COUNCIL TAX THINK BEFORE YOU CHEER!

*Speaking for the Liberal Democrats at January’s Council Meeting, Cllr Monroe Palmer hit out at Barnet Tories’ pre-election gimmick announcement to cut Council tax for the average household by 21p per week.*

He said, “This Tory announcement recalls the worst years of Labour’s national bad budgeting.

When a driver bursts a tyre on a pothole in the road they can comfort themselves that they are 21p per week richer and as residents pay hefty charges for parking they can be comforted by knowing that this indirect tax is plugging the gap in Barnet’s finances.

The mismanagement is endless. It can be seen in the lack of maintenance of our parks; the reduction of books in our libraries; the broken and unrepaired footways; the rubbish strewn streets.”

*Cllr Jack Cohen, quoted in the Evening Standard, said “I believe it’s simply an election gimmick and it’s going to be a very expensive gimmick for the residents of Barnet because it’s unsustainable.”*

## POLICING UPDATE

Our local police tell us that there has been a spate of mobile phone thefts from customers in Golders Green Road’s shops and coffee bars. The thieves strike quickly often distracting the victim in short chit-chat.

**At the recent Cricklewood Community Forum, Jonathan Davies**

said, “There’s a police contact point in Golders Green Road, although it’s only open a few hours a week. There should also be a police contact point in Cricklewood. The police responded that they hold regular surgeries, including in Cricklewood.



The local police number is 020 7161 8180

**We don’t think this is good enough – but it’s better than nothing.**

We persuaded the Council to introduce a no street drinking zone across the whole ward and this should be reported by dialling 101 to report to the police any instances of antisocial drinking, so we can keep up the pressure on the police to enforce the drinking ban.

**In an emergency you should still dial 999**

## £80 MILLION WASTED

Barnet Council’s Conservative controlled Council has paid £80 million to just 5 companies this financial year. This shocking statistic was discovered by Cllr Jack Cohen in a reply to a question at January’s Council Meeting . “Over £15 million has been spent on agency staff, over £54million paid to Capita and over £3.5million to consultants and lawyers.” He said, “I cannot believe we are shelling out £15 million to a staff agency. Why not recruit our own staff. It is more economic and more likely to provide jobs for local people. Why pay Capita £35million upfront even before the controversial outsourcing contract started?” *The Tory Council Leadership has some explaining to do.*

### How to contact your Liberal Democrat Cllrs

**Home phones:** Jack Cohen 020 8446 5390 Monroe and Susette Palmer 020 8455 5140 **Twitter:** @barnetlibdems

**Email:** cllr.j.cohen@barnet.gov.uk cllr.m.palmer@barnet.gov.uk cllr.s.palmer@barnet.gov.uk

**Website:** [www.chld.org.uk](http://www.chld.org.uk) or write to us c/o The Town Hall, The Burroughs, NW4 4BG

**Ward surgeries . Childs Hill Library the first Thursday of each month from 7.00-8.00p.m.**

**MORE LOCAL NEWS OVER the PAGE ➡➡**

We hold a ward surgery on Council related problems in Childs Hill library on the first Thursday of every month from 7.00-8.00pm at other times you can email us at [cllr.s.palmer@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.s.palmer@barnet.gov.uk) [cllr.m.palmer@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.m.palmer@barnet.gov.uk) [cllr.j.cohen@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.j.cohen@barnet.gov.uk) or phone Jack Cohen on 0208 446 5390 or Monroe or Susette Palmer on 020 8455 5140.

## 20 MPH ZONES

Councillor Jack Cohen proposed a motion at the January Council meeting to commit the council to draw up plans to introduce more 20mph zones. The Conservative administration voted not to allow the motion to be debated. Instead it was just voted upon but not before the Conservatives replaced it with their own amendment which basically kicks the plan into the long grass.



## THE CASTLE PUB

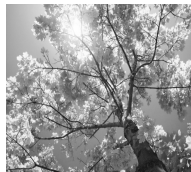
We also raised the future use of the castle pub at the Council meeting. We are pleased to report a change of heart by the council. Previously they had rejected out of hand our request to consider the pub as a community asset; now following representations from many local people they have agreed, at least, to have another look at it.

## CRICKLEWOOD TREES

In reply to a resident's request Cllr Susette Palmer is pleased to be able to report that as part of an Outer London Fund grant about 88 trees will be planted along Cricklewood Lane and Cricklewood Broadway.

## FRIENDS of CHILDS HILL PARK

We are delighted to congratulate the Friends of Childs Hill Park on gaining a grant for trees and shrubs



from the Woodland Trust to completely renew the Dunstan Road border of the park. There will be a planting day in which residents and schools can take part.

**There is also going to be a parents' workshop to develop a programme of children's activities in the park on Monday 17 February. All very welcome.**

**Details and planting dates will shortly be on the park's facebook site which is Friends of Childs Hill Park, NW2. Or for further information you can contact the Chair of the Friends of Childs Hill Park on**

## OUT AND ABOUT IN CHILDS HILL

**The Liberal Democrat Team been out and about recently:  
We attended the Cricklewood Forum**

**We met with residents about :-**

- Church Walk House
- UCS playing fields
- The Granville Road redevelopment plans which are due to come to planning committee during June or July.

## CRICKLEWOOD STATION

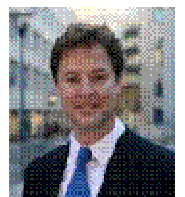
Cllr Susette Palmer spoke at the Council meeting on the implications of the Brent Cross Development on Cricklewood Station. While welcoming the proposed new forecourt she said it must have adequate facilities for setting down passengers, something missing at present on a line which serves airports at Luton and Gatwick as well as commuters. She felt strongly that the new platform needed to be long enough to take the longer trains (12 carriages not 8) enabling through trains to Gatwick and a higher capacity. "With the growth of the Borough population in Childs Hill and increased overcrowding on the Northern Line, it is essential that we make the best use possible of this alternative route into central London," she said.

## MORE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET!

More than 100,000 people locally will receive a further income tax cut of over £100 in their pay packets this spring. Liberal Democrats in Government have cut the Income Tax bill for an average working family by one third and taken 10,000 people in Barnet out of paying tax altogether. Also, in order to help businesses employ young people, we have abolished Employers National Insurance Contributions for everyone under 21, helping 6000 local businesses and the young people they employ.

## NEW MENTAL HEALTH ACTION PLAN

The Liberal Democrat leader admits that the way the NHS deals with mental illness currently is far from perfect, branding the way some people are treated as "frankly unacceptable". "Waiting times for common mental health services are still too long, especially in certain areas of the country. There have been stories of people of all ages being transferred, sometimes hundreds of miles, to access a bed. And some children with severe mental health problems are still being cared for in adult wards," he said. All too often, attitudes to mental health are "outdated, stuck in the dark ages, full of stigma and stereotypes," he added. In his speech, Mr Clegg referred to a more holistic approach to treating young people who develop poor mental health, with services offering a continuous process of treatment from the time they first seek help until their treatment is concluded.



## JOIN THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS for a BETTER BARNET

Liberal Democrats have represented you at Barnet Council for over 20 years. WE KNOW WE HAVE LOTS OF SUPPORT OUT THERE. Do join the Party. We would also be very pleased to hear from anyone who can help deliver this newsletter in their own or a nearby road. Monroe is taking responsibility for membership in Childs Hill and wants to come and see you & sign you up. Reply to 31 The Vale NW11 8SE or email [monroe@barnetlibdems.org.uk](mailto:monroe@barnetlibdems.org.uk)

**I would like to join the Liberal Democrats.**

Name.....

Phone.....email.....

Address.....