

**TORIES BACK POLLUTION THREAT TO CRICKLEWOOD**

**Tories Vote for Cricklewood Waste Aggregate Transfer Station**  
*"A disgrace" says Councillor Jack Cohen*



**Local residents flocked to the Town Hall last month. They were there to protest at plans to build an aggregate waste transfer station on land adjoining Cricklewood Broadway.**

Cllr Jack Cohen joined them in addressing the planning committee. He supported residents objections pointing out the proposal will lead to unacceptable noise, nuisance and air pollution. He agreed with residents who complained that the number of HGV vehicles will cause traffic problems. Despite overwhelming argument from local residents the Tories voted to approve the application. Speaking after the meeting Cllr Jack Cohen said he was bitterly disappointed. "I believe the impact of this development will be felt well beyond Cricklewood. This will mean even more HGV's rumbling through our residential streets and of course air pollution does not respect borough boundaries."

**Is BARNET'S OUTSOURCING IN TROUBLE? asks Sachin Patel.**

**Is Tory run Barnet Council's ideological pursuit of the private market in danger of falling apart?**



The collapse of Carillion has raised questions about the future of big outsourcing agreements like Barnet's. **Capita has announced a huge restructuring, cost-cutting and redundancy programme.** The Council has voted to make contingency plans, in the event that Capita gets into real difficulties.

Since 2013 a vast chunk of Barnet's services have been outsourced to private companies. The objectives were to increase efficiency, save money, and focus the Council's own staff on the core services it must provide to residents. These are not bad aims, and of course outsourcing is common practice in the corporate sector.

Unfortunately, much of this outsourcing business (about £500m over a decade) went to a single company: Capita.

Therefore there has been no competition from other outsourcing companies, to keep Capita on their toes and deliver value-for-money for Barnet. Added to this, there is a 'gain-share' mechanism in place: if Capita identifies savings opportunities, Barnet pays a percentage of the savings back to them. But even if these initiatives really do save money, are residents being fully consulted to check if these are the right choices to make?

The Liberal Democrats are not opposed to outsourcing or big contractors. Labour would like to renationalise everything, but clearly this isn't practical

As our leader, Sir Vince Cable, has written, "there simply isn't the capability in government to take over". What residents deserve is more rigour and commonsense - a Council that thinks carefully about which services to outsource, and which scrutinises these suppliers more regularly and more diligently.

We know the quality of public sector procurement is poor. This leads to residents paying the price in terms of diminished front-line services and more risk. Meanwhile outsourcing companies rake in profits, which ends up filling out the pay packets of executives.

**Lib. Dems don't think that's a very good deal for Childs Hill**

**Liberal Democrats believe tackling air pollution is a priority**



points out Susette Palmer. We aim to save 40,000 premature deaths a year by cutting air pollution which is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer.

There is also often a strong correlation with equalities issues, because areas with poor air quality are also often the less affluent areas.

*For more information on Lib. Dem Environmental Policy see [www.libdems.org.uk/environment](http://www.libdems.org.uk/environment)*

## What we stand for:

The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community, and in which no one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity.

*The preamble to the Liberal Democrat Constitution*



## OUR ALTERNATIVE BUDGET FOR A BETTER BARNET Councillor Jack Cohen is once again proposing an alternative budget.

Although money is tight Cllr Jack Cohen says there are still savings to be made that do not impact on services. He also says Barnet has money squirreled away which can be used to pay for better services. Cllr Cohen says that by scrapping an eye watering £400k of councillors' expenses, getting rid of political assistants and rationalising chief officer posts we can have a dedicated anti-flytipping team to clean up the dumped rubbish on our street, bring back the popular neighbourhood skips and improve enforcement of Planning and other Council Regulations.

**Cllr Cohen predicts both Tories & Labour Councillors will listen politely but not support his proposals.**



## JANUARY POLICE FIGURES FOR CHILDS HILL WARD

19 residential burglaries, 17 crimes of violence and 13 vandalism incidents. No wonder residents are worried about police funding and projected cuts. Sir Ed Davey MP, Lib Dem Home Affairs Spokesperson, commenting on the Tory Autumn Budget said **"Crime is rising and police numbers are falling but you wouldn't think the government cared to look at the budget.** The police barely got a mention despite forces up and down the country being desperate for a cash injection. It is clear where this money is going: £3.7 billion to help the Conservatives drive through a hard Brexit."

## PARKING DELAY ON WESTCROFT

**"Residents are fed up with delays" says Councillor Jack Cohen.**



Jack continues to urge the Council to get on with implementing the CPZ. Cllr Cohen says residents are fed up with not being able to park in their streets.

The informal consultation was completed months ago. It looks like it will not be until the summer that the scheme will be implemented. This is because certain legal steps have yet to be taken and residents formally consulted.

Cllr Jack Cohen will be making sure this is done as quickly as possible.

## LOCAL ECONOMY TAKES A HIT

**Toys R Us, at Brent Cross and nationally, went into administration putting more than 3,000 jobs at risk.**

The firm, Maplin, the electronics retailer, has also called in administrators. These cases follow the recent collapse of construction group Carillion, which has badly hurt the supply chain of smaller construction firms.

Liberal Democrats are calling on the government to examine the possibility of introducing a variation on the US 'Chapter 11 bankruptcy' system. This would provide companies with more time to restructure their businesses and, crucially, allow their supply chains to recoup money owed to them and find alternative customers.

**Lord Palmer said** "It is time for the government to introduce a system similar to the US 'Chapter 11 bankruptcy' which would allow failing companies the breathing space needed to restructure their businesses. The company continues to trade and, should it still collapse, gives suppliers the opportunity to minimise their losses... *"The benefits of a Chapter 11 system, cherry-picking the best elements, should be looked into immediately so that we no longer see suppliers struggling when large companies are forced into quick administrations."*



## GREEN CAR USAGE

Despite the increasing number of electric and hybrid cars in the Borough, Barnet Council has just 8 electric recharging points and no plans for more. Neighbouring Camden has 28.

Liberal Democrat green policy is to reform vehicle taxation to encourage sales of electric and low-emission vehicles and to develop electric vehicle infrastructure including universal charging points.



## To contact Cllr Jack Cohen

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**Surgery:** 1st Thursday of month 7-8pm at Childs Hill Library.

**Facebook:** @ChildsHillLibDems

**Twitter:** @barnetlibdems **Web:** [www.barnetlibdems.org.uk](http://www.barnetlibdems.org.uk)

## JOIN THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

A record number of people have joined the Liberal Democrats in Barnet since the general election. People want to join a party that upholds liberal principles and works all year round for local residents. **Email** [monroe@barnetlibdems.org.uk](mailto:monroe@barnetlibdems.org.uk) **or join via** <https://www.libdems.org.uk>