



From your local **LIBERAL DEMOCRAT TEAM**

Councillor Jack Cohen

and the **CHN team:**

Jonathan Davies Monroe Palmer Susette Palmer

CAROLINE PIDGEON for MAYOR OF LONDON.

Lib Dem candidate for Mayor of London Caroline Pidgeon has a plan to make London better. Caroline is the candidate with the experience, from eight years on the London Assembly, to deliver the change our city needs.

Caroline and her team want to find out what you think of her plans for our city.

Caroline wants to cut the cost of travel, introducing half price fares before half seven, a one hour bus ticket and giving London control over commuter rail. As Mayor she would ban dirty diesel by 2020 to clean up London's filthy air.

SUPPORT HER VISION WITH YOUR VOTE



ZACK POLANSKI GLA CANDIDATE FOR BARNET & CAMDEN

Zack, a mental health counsellor in schools and universities, is the Barnet & Camden Liberal Democrat Candidate for the Greater London Authority elections on Thursday 5th May.

Zack says 'I'm excited to stand up for Liberal values in Barnet. Politicians are trying to make people fearful or angry about others. I will be making a positive case because I believe in people and I am optimistic about London and Europe. I'd love those who feel the same to join me.'



More from Zack over the page

END of the ROAD for CHILDS HILL LIBRARY ?

"Is this the end of the road for Childs Hill library ?" Cllr Jack Cohen thinks so. If the Conservatives have their way. **The council have revealed plans to slash Childs Hill Library to only fifteen hours a week and it is not clear whether during these reduced hours the library will be staffed.** The Council proposes to operate "technology enabled opening". This means access will be by means of a swipe card. CCTV will be installed to monitor the premises. Young people under fifteen will only be allowed entrance if accompanied by an adult. Cllr Cohen says he fears Childs Hill Library will be allowed "to wither on the vine"

As for Golders Green Library the proposals are muddled and confusing. It is proposed to staff the library for fifteen hours a week. The remaining hours will either be staffed by volunteers for six hours a week or for most of the opening hours accessed by means of a swipe card (when like Childs Hill Library CCTV cameras will monitor the premises and young people under fifteen will have to go with an adult). The toilet will not be accessible when the library has no staff but a notice will be put up giving directions to the nearest toilet.

Cllr Cohen points out that the Library IT system has just had a catastrophic meltdown. Lending records were lost, Library Computer terminals went off line and fines could not be collected. "We still don't know the reason so how the Council can go ahead with technology assisted libraries when the IT infrastructure is so risky is beyond me"

Susette Palmer, responsible for Barnet's beacon library status in happier days, added that it is precisely those children less likely to have other access to books and computers who will be shut out of the technological opening hours. "I discovered the library at 13" she said, "and I was a frequent visitor, on my own, from then on."

The Borough has already written off any community provision for the Granville Road Estate and is now writing off the library as well. **It is a disgrace.**

To contact Cllr Jack Cohen

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Home phone: Jack Cohen **020 8445 3981**

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

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MORE NEWS OVER the PAGE ⇄⇄

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

Zack on THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Our GLA candidate Zack Polanski says “We need to place urgent attention on reducing waiting times for mental health services, especially for young people. I have personal experience of seeing people suffer from eating disorders, depression and anxieties. We should be providing this locally in Camden and Barnet but for too long, mental health has not been treated as a priority like our physical health. If you break a leg you can be seen by a doctor relatively quickly but if you're depressed or suicidal, you can have a long wait.”

Liberal Democrats have long placed mental health as one of their main priorities. Norman Lamb, when he was Minister of Health, introduced waiting times for the first time recognizing that a quarter of us will have mental health problems over the course of our lives.

Zack on HOUSING

The need to build more houses and encourage building on brownfield sites is more and more urgent. Liberal Democrats are campaigning for large-scale house building in London that just hasn't happened under Labour or Tory mayors.

Zack Polanski is championing this as part of the solution to painfully high rents. He also wants more done for private renters, and faster.

He states 'Private renting is often ignored but there's a whole generation of young people in London who are growing up with private landlords. Some families can be at the mercy of a 6 month contract for substandard accommodation. Renting is outrageously expensive and tenant rights can be very poor.' Zack is calling for longer term contracts with rent increases pegged at the rate of inflation and an end to no fault evictions. Let's have a London actually affordable for the many and not the few.

ROAD SCHEME UPDATES

Cllr Jack Cohen reports For years we battled to install a width restriction at the Cricklewood end of the Vale to stop the never ending flow of skip and waste transfer lorries but no sooner had the restriction been installed than the Council removed it. The Council have implemented in its place an experimental twenty mph restriction and CCTV cameras to monitor traffic flow but not speed. Cllr Cohen blames the Council for not properly implementing the width restrictions in the first place. So of course residents in the surrounding roads started to complain when the lorries rerouted down their roads instead. We warned this would happen and we said measures should have been taken to mitigate this, but the Council was not listening. **So back to square one at a cost approaching £50,000 wasted.** Not surprisingly residents in The Vale are not best pleased.

Two new CPZ schemes are slowly progressing through the Council bureaucracy. Garth and Cloister Roads should soon be covered by a CPZ and the Cricklewood end of the Vale should follow soon after.

LATEST on BRENT CROSS from Cllr Jack Cohen

“The Council have joined forces with a company called Argent to develop the Southern End. They are the company redeveloping Kings Cross. I met with them in their snazzy offices close to Kings Cross. They say they want to engage with the community and will be talking to residents. I emphasised they really must listen to local people. The first phase will be redevelopment of the new Brent Cross Station. They have plans to create a centrepiece public space by the Station with new housing & offices. **Cllr Jack Cohen pointed out that Cricklewood residents may not be too impressed seeing the master plan will see the destruction of Cricklewood Green !”**

**GOVERNMENT HOUSING BILL IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS
Lord Monroe Palmer, currently involved in the detailed legislation of the Bill comments:**

“Zack is so right to draw attention to the housing crisis. At the time of writing the Lords have been, trying to revise the Tory Government’s Housing & Planning Bill. It concentrates on so called starter homes in London costing £450,000, virtually ignoring those that need or want to rent. The Tories just do not understand what for most people is ‘affordable housing’. The Government refuses to alter the Bill to further protect rental and deposit money held by letting agents. There also appears to be no resolve to tackle land-banks held by developers of large sites who at best only develop very slowly.”

JOIN THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

A record number of people have joined the Liberal Democrats since the general election. Here in Barnet we have had a huge surge in membership. People are telling us they want to be involved with a party that upholds liberal principles and a party that works all year round for local residents. Why not join us here in Childs Hill, you will be warmly welcomed. Email monroe@barnetlibdems.org.uk or return the form below to 31 The Vale NW11 8SE

I would like to join the Liberal Democrats.

Name..... My email is.....

Phone.....Address.....

.....postcode.....