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OPINION

Wrong to say we kept quiet

AS chairman of the Bowes-Southgate Green ward forum held on February 3, I must correct an inaccuracy in the account published in your paper by Green politico David Flint ("Find out what's needed first", *Advertiser*, February 10, 2016).

Referring to the community hub that Labour councillors have been fighting for at Ritz Parade on the North Circular, Mr Flint pretends we were "silent" and "careful not to ask residents" what they want. This is totally false, alarmingly so seeing as Mr Flint himself participated in the discussions we organised that evening about the non-residential amenities our constituents prioritise for this site – first and foremost being a doctor's surgery, a vision to which we wholeheartedly subscribe.

It is one thing for Mr. Flint to highlight the real challenges that residents and councillors, working together, face in achieving certain outcomes with privately owned land. It is another for him to create divisions where none exist.

Councillor Alan Sitkin
Bowes Ward

Listen to the residents...

COUNCILLOR George Savva failed to listen to the debate. Terry Neville, Michael Lavender and I made clear in our speeches at the council meeting that cross-party support for the Cycle Enfield bid was essential or the bid would not be considered.

Had the Conservative opposition not supported the bid for some £30million, doubtless he and his colleagues would have roundly criticised us.

The bid was jointly submitted only on the basis that all the proposals within the bid would be subject to public consultation and would need to command public support.

The Labour administration should listen to what residents say and either amend Cycle Enfield to command business and public support or drop the scheme.

Councillor Michael Rye
Town Ward

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It seems our MP does not take concerns of junior doctors over contract dispute seriously

REGARDING the junior doctors' contract dispute – David Burrowes, the MP for Enfield Southgate, met me and some junior doctor colleagues in November 2015 to discuss concerns regarding the government's contract offer.

For a period of more than two months following this meeting he failed to reply to my correspondence concerning this matter and specifically

about what the government actually means by a "seven-day NHS", given that emergency services (of which junior doctors are an integral part) already run seven days a week.

Since Jeremy Hunt's announcement last Thursday that he intends to impose a contact on junior doctors, Mr Burrowes has written to me to say that he is satisfied with the government's proposed changes.

To me this indicates that he does not take seriously the concerns of the medical professionals and the many worried patients in his constituency and that he is willing to collaborate in the destruction of the NHS for private gain.

Dr Matteo Pizzo
Consultant psychiatrist
Windsor Road,
Palmer's Green

These 'consultations' are a complete sham

IN the library development plan consultation questionnaire which was circulated in December 2014, Councillor Ayfer Orhan wrote: "This consultation proposes an exciting future role for libraries which underlines their importance, the opportunities they create and ensures they remain a valued part of local life".

In reality, the changes which have taken place at the John Jackson Library, Bush Hill Park, since December have been wholly negative and have more in common with rundown and closure than development.

We are very concerned that the situation will get much worse in April when the salaried staff who have worked so hard to make the library such a friendly and welcoming place are no longer with us.

If there was a genuine determination to ensure a better library service in Enfield for the next 20 years, planning would have included input from library users and taken into account the experience of other London boroughs.

In Lewisham, the "community" model relying on volunteers has been a catastrophic failure. In Brent, the council has simply closed libraries

completely to save money. Libraries do not seem to be valued by central or local government and are seen as an easy target for financial cuts.

This is a very short-sighted view as the John Jackson is about far more than books.

It is a vital centre of support for the residents of the Avenues Estate and Ayley Croft and through its IT facilities an essential link to all the services and opportunities available online.

The libraries crisis has also raised the issue of honesty, transparency and good governance.

In three cases now the present administration has used "consultations" to support its planned changes to libraries, the local studies centre and Cycle Enfield (mini Holland).

These consultations have been recognised as a sham by residents – a waste of time and money as in each case the council's cabinet had already decided on its course of action and gone ahead regardless of opposition.

Michael Hardyman
Landseer Road,
Bush Hill Park

Don't leave people out in the cold

HUNDREDS of thousands of Londoners are being left in the cold as the Mayor of London woefully missed his insulation targets.

Only five per cent of the 1.7 million London homes that should have had loft and cavity wall insulation fitted by now have benefited from these home retrofit measures.

It's mockery of our efforts to lift the one in ten London households out of fuel poverty with cold draughty homes

and high energy bills. It's also a serious blow to tackling climate change, which poses the biggest threat to our health and economic well-being.

There are two critical factors behind this – Boris Johnson's deep-rooted views dismissing the overwhelming scientific evidence showing carbon emissions are driving global warming; and a complacent government.

Instead of fixing the national Green Deal energy retrofit programme, they scrapped it with no replacement.

Let us hope that the next mayor takes fuel poverty and climate change more seriously.

Jenny Jones AM
Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb
Green Party Group
London Assembly
City Hall

YOUR LETTERS: GUIDELINES

Write to **Letters to the Editor, The Advertiser, 187 Baker Street, Enfield, EN1 3JT**, or email them to letters.enfield@nlhnews.co.uk. Please keep letters below 300 words. You must include your name and full address, though your house number and postcode will NOT be published. Names and addresses will only be withheld from publication in exceptional circumstances. Include a daytime phone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit letters.



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Attention: DENTURE WEARERS

If you are a denture wearer then this article may be of some interest to you! If you can relate to any of the following questions then it is a sign your denture needs attention:

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- Have discoloured despite meticulous cleaning
- Cause discomfort/pain on chewing?

If any of the above breeds familiar territory then I may be able to alleviate some of these problems for you.

My name is Caroline Persaud I am a qualified CLINICAL DENTAL TECHNICIAN. Many of you may be aware of Dental Technicians/Mechanics who repair and produce dentures for dentists, however, due to recent changes in the Dental law, a group of Dental Care Professionals known as Clinical Dental Technicians have been approved by the General Dental Council and can now see denture wearers who have no natural teeth remaining, directly without having to visit a dentist.

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If you wish to discuss any denture related issues please do not hesitate to contact me on:

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