



**Navin Shah**  
Assembly Member for  
Brent and Harrow



**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

**NEWS FROM CITY HALL : THE LONDON ASSEMBLY**  
December 2012 & January 2013. Issue No. 12



**Charity collection in  
St Ann's Centre for  
Age UK- Harrow,**

**'Santa Dash' for  
St Luke's Hospice's  
fund raising**



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**

**Police Cuts**

The Met Police is facing cuts of about 20% in London's policing. The Met Commissioner has confirmed that the police force will have to save £500m by 2015. This would result in a deletion of up to 6,000 officer posts Londonwide and loss of 2,000 civilian staff jobs.

I am concerned about the seriously depleted Safer Neighbourhood Teams in Brent and Harrow. Brent has lost 26 sergeants, 65 police officers and 69 PCSOs. Willesden Green Police Station is to close with the added concerns of the closure of the front counter at Harlesden Police Station.

Harrow has lost 15 sergeants, 44 police officers and 44 PCSOs. Wealdstone police station is at risk of closing without any provisions being made for an alternative local front counter. The Mayor has proposed a 'New Model for Policing' but the consultation process is very unclear. I have written to the Borough Commanders of Brent and Harrow asking them to provide further details along with a date they plan to implement the new local policing model.

**FIRE AUTHORITY CUTS**

**Fire Stations at the risk of closure**



London Fire Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) runs the London Fire Brigade (LFB) and is facing the worst crisis in its history with £65 million of cuts required over the next two years. This has been caused by the Government and the Mayor of London forcing LFEPA to find 25% savings which will threaten front line fire services potentially putting the safety of Londoners at risk.

LFEPA has identified non front line back office savings of £14 million, but this still leaves a £51 million funding black hole for the next two years. To fill this massive funding gap LFEPA has published a list proposing saving the closure of 17 fire stations, the reduction of 17 fire proposed savings of £50 million shows the closure of 31 fire stations and loss of 36 fire engines.

LFEPA will finalise budget proposals reflecting its Government grant settlement around mid-January. This should reflect proposals for any fire station closures and the level of reduction in fire engines. This will be too late for a public consultation and detailed scrutiny by LFEPA members. I want to see our residents protected from these draconian cuts which recklessly jeopardise public safety .

**City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA**  
**Telephone: 0207 983 4876 email: [navin.shah@london.gov.uk](mailto:navin.shah@london.gov.uk)**  
Log on to my website for further information on Brent and Harrow at  
**[www.navinshah.com](http://www.navinshah.com)**

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORT** **Inflation Busting Fare Rises**

The Mayor of London recently revealed he will be hitting Londoners with 10 years of above inflation fare rises. This follows five years of above inflation fare rises since Mr Johnson became Mayor in 2008.

The plans were revealed in Transport for London's latest Business Plan which sets out its priorities for the next 10 years.

### **What does that mean for stations in HARROW?** (PRICE INCREASE FROM 2012-2013)

**Zone 6 (Annual travelcard from zone 6 to 1 has increased by £88—from £2,136 to £2,224)**

Hatch End railway station

**Zone 5 (Annual travelcard from zone 5 to 1 has increased by £80—from £1,992 to £2,072)**

Canons Park tube station, Harrow & Wealdstone station, Harrow-on-the-Hill station, Headstone Lane railway station, North Harrow tube station, Northolt Park railway station, Pinner tube station, Rayners Lane tube station, South Harrow tube station, Stanmore tube station and West Harrow tube station

**Zone 4 (Annual travelcard from zone 4 to 1 has increased by £72—from £1,672 to £1,744)**

Sudbury Hill tube station, Sudbury Hill Harrow railway station

## **DANGEROUS ROAD JUNCTIONS**

I recently supported the Go 20 campaign calling on local residents to identify dangerous junctions and streets to increase safety on local roads for people on foot and bicycle. A 20 mph limit offers the potential to increase levels of walking and cycling. I have asked residents to contact me about where in Brent and Harrow they could benefit from 20mph limits, where there are dangerous black spots and where crossings need to be made safer.

I have campaigned numerous times about dangerous junctions in Brent and Harrow including Stanmore Hill, The Broadway, Elmstead Avenue and Forty Avenue. Please do let me know which junctions you think are unsafe. At a time when the Mayor has cut the road safety budget from £59million in 2008 to just £23million this year, it is more important than ever to slow down traffic in residential areas and make all of our dangerous junctions and streets safe for people on foot and bicycle.

### **What does that mean for stations in BRENT?** (PRICE INCREASE FROM 2012-2013)

**Zone 4 (Annual travelcard from zone 4 to 1 has increased by £72—from £1,672 to £1,744)**

Alperton tube station, Kenton station, Kingsbury tube station, North Wembley station, Northwick Park tube station, Preston Road tube station, Queensbury Station, South Kenton station, Sudbury Town tube station, Wembley Central station and Wembley Park tube station

**Zone 3 (Annual travelcard from zone 3 to 1 has increased by £56—from £1,368 to £1,424)**

Dollis Hill tube station, Harlesden station, Neasden tube station, Stonebridge Park station

**Zone 2 (Annual travelcard from zone 2 to 1 has increased by £48—from £1,168 to £1,216)**

Kensal Green station, Kilburn Park tube station, Kilburn tube station and Queen's Park station

### **Zones 2&3**

Willesden Green tube station, Willesden Junction station

## **NHS UNDER THREAT** **Closure of A&E's**



The NHS plans to downgrade four hospitals in North West London. The proposals recommend the closure of Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments at Ealing, Central Middlesex, Hammersmith and Charing Cross Hospitals.

This would mean Hammersmith and Fulham, Brent and Ealing will be without A&E departments. This will affect the provision of health care in North West London. Other departments at risk in the affected hospitals include intensive care, emergency surgery, pediatrics and maternity units.

I have been questioning the Mayor about these A&E closures since the proposed closure of Central Middlesex Hospital's A&E ward in Harlesden. These cuts will have a huge impact on my residents that live in Brent. Closing the A&E at Central Middlesex Hospital makes no sense. It is absurd to expect residents from the Southern parts of Brent like Harlesden to use Northwick Park Hospital given the very poor public transport links. The Mayor is least supportive of our campaign.

## HARDEST HIT Demonstration

I joined a demonstration, organised by Harrow's leading organisations including the Harrow Association of Disabled People, Age UK in Harrow, Harrow Mind and Harrow Mencap, in support of the 'Hardest Hit' people in Harrow.



I was pleased to join the people of Harrow and voluntary organisations to celebrate the United Nations day of persons with disabilities to promote and protect individuals with disabilities. In these times of austerity individuals with disabilities are hit even harder at all levels including deprivation and health care issues. It is vital we have step-free access to Harrow on the Hill and Stanmore stations and I will continue lobbying the Mayor and TfL about this. I would like to pay tribute to the work of our voluntary organisations and the role they play in raising awareness of these issues.

## Canons Park Residents Association (CAPRA)

I recently attended the AGM of CAPRA to discuss issues of local importance. A number of concerns were expressed at the meeting including Stanmore Station accessibility, noise from fire works, policing (local ward panel), fire station closures, de-regulation of planning, traffic and congestion / CPZ (impact of the 'Hive') and the future of Canons Park station car park site. I've once again renewed pressure on TfL about a lift provision for Stanmore Station and raised the issue about local policing.

## 'CoArt' REDEVELOPMENT Public Consultation

The redevelopment proposal of the CoArt Fine Art and Graphics building in Whitefriars Avenue is pressing ahead and the consultation exercise has now been carried out. I've visited the site and the adjacent Whitefriars School. In principle I welcome the proposal for which an outline application should be submitted early in 2013 for residential units and employment use comprising artist studios. I'm keen that the Section 106 Agreement makes adequate contribution to cope with additional school places. I'd like the Council to obtain greater provision of socially rented housing and more car parking spaces.



## Bus Services to Civic Centre/Wembley City and Hospitals

I share Brent Council's concerns regarding the poor bus network and access issues surrounding the new Civic Centre and access to local Hospitals.

Much improved bus and public transport access is critical to access the new iconic Civic Centre building opposite Wembley Stadium. The surrounding commercial and residential development known as "Wembley City" also require adequate public transport infrastructure. Similarly there are powerful arguments for better bus services to Northwick Park and Central Middlesex Hospitals. I have asked the Mayor of London to urge the Commissioner of Transport for London, Peter Hendy to meet a delegation from Brent Council and myself to address these critical issues.

## BRENT YOUTH PARLIAMENT



In September I was invited to attend the Brent Youth Parliament's Awards ceremony. The youth parliament is made up of young people aged 10-19 years old, from all walks of life. BYP gives local young people an opportunity to express their views, run campaigns and have a say about decisions that affect them. The body works with local Councillors and officers to improve local services for young people and make a difference on both local and national issues.

I'm glad that young people are given a platform to hold Council, Government and the Public Sector to account which the BYP does extremely well. Early this year BYP members visited the London Olympic site with me and raised some tough issues with me during their visit to City Hall.

## Brent and Harrow at Mayor's Question Time

**My recent questions have included the following topics...**

Safer Neighbourhood Teams...A&E closures...Housing Shortage...Emirates Airline...Transport...  
Neasden Underpass...Borough Commanders.. Planning...Mayor of London's Outer London Fund.. Youth violence in Brent..  
Bus Services to Civic Centre/Wembley City and Hospitals. EDL... Proposed giant incinerator in Harlesden...  
Jubilee Line...Diwali Festival...The Mayor of London's visit to India...Harlesden Police station ...LFEPA...  
Police Front counters...Accessibility at Stanmore station...Amendment to the Growth and Infrastructure Bill...  
Olympic Legacy ...Harassment on the tube ...Bus route 224...Welfare Reform

**For more information on the Mayor's answers please visit my website [www.navinshah.com](http://www.navinshah.com)**

## Committee work

### Police and Crime Committee (PCC)

During this past year I have been challenging the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) on the proposed cuts to the Met Police's budget. I am worried about how these cuts are going to affect the policing services in Brent and Harrow.

I have also had the opportunity to question the interim Chief Executive and Deputy Commissioner about recent performance data from the MPS and matters relevant to policing and crime in London.

The committee has also been examining the strategic changes being implemented in 'Sapphire' by the new head of the unit and the intended outcome of these changes.

**London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA)**  
**LFEPA is facing cuts to its budget of 25%. The budget next year could be cut by £29.5 million and a further £35.3 million expected to be cut in 2014/15. In total £65 million cuts are imposed by the Mayor with risks of fire stations closing .**

### Planning Committee

The Planning Committee have been examining the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This is a form of Planning Gain. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge levied by local authorities for new buildings and extensions to buildings (but not refurbishments), to raise money for social and transportation infrastructure projects from developers. The Mayor has his own CIL requirement.

### Housing and Regeneration Committee

In November I joined the London Assembly's Housing and Regeneration committee. The committee's main purpose is to examine the state of London's housing stock and to hold the Mayor's record to account following the transfer of responsibility over housing to him. Housing has shot up the political agenda in the past year.

Over the next few months, the committee will be concluding an investigation into London's private rented sector. The sector is growing rapidly in London. But while rents are rising well above inflation every year a huge number of homes are still not meeting even the most basic level of standards. The committee's investigation will assess whether anything can be done to stabilise rents, address poor standards and whether the regulations in place adequately protect tenants and landlords alike.

In January the committee will begin to look at the role housing associations can play in helping to alleviate London's housing crisis.

The committee will also be monitoring the Mayor's regeneration initiatives, including his plans for realising the potential of the Olympic Park to become a brilliant new area of London.

**Changes to Committee Membership**  
The following are the committees and authorities I now cover :  
-Housing and Regeneration Committee (I am no longer on the Police and Crime Committee).  
-Planning Committee: Vice Chair.  
-London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) Vice Chair.

To contact **Navin Shah** Assembly Member for Brent and Harrow  
Call on 020 7983 4876 or Email: [navin.shah@london.gov.uk](mailto:navin.shah@london.gov.uk)  
**LOCAL SURGERIES are held once a month on Fridays in Brent and Harrow by appointment only.**