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Merry Christmas to you all and Happy New Year

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS: Depleted Teams in Brent and Harrow

The number of sergeants working in Harrow and Brent's local police teams has been cut. Safer Neighbourhood Teams made up of one sergeant, two constables and three community support officers were rolled out to every ward in London before Mayor Boris Johnson was elected.

Earlier this year the Mayor announced the number of sergeants in the SNTs would be halved — from 630 to 330 — and wards would be merged (see table). This comes on top of the police cuts the Mayor's made since being elected.

Since their introduction Safer Neighbourhood Teams have been one of the Metropolitan's big success stories and the sergeants leading the teams are an integral part of that. The Mayor's making the wrong cuts, risking crime and safety and should think again.

In September it was revealed that Brent has lost 32 locally based police officers and Harrow has lost 34 over the last year. The number of police officers across London has been cut by almost 2,000 in the last two years - from 33,404 in November 09 to 31,527 today.

Brent	Harrow
Barnhill and Welsh Harp	Pinner and Pinner South
Kenton and Queensbury	West Harrow and Rayners Lane
Northwick Park and Preston	Headstone North and Headstone South
Mapesbury and Brondesbury Park	Kenton East and Kenton West
Kilburn and Queens Park	Hatch End and Harrow Weald

OUTER LONDON SHORT CHANGED: Harrow's funding never appears

Boroughs of Harrow and Brent successfully bid for the Outer London Fund to go towards minor town centre / local shopping centre improvements aimed at attracting more shoppers.

However, when Boris Johnson became Mayor in 2008 he scrapped the £25million promised to Harrow for the step-free access and regeneration of Harrow-on-the-Hill station.

TfL had agreed to fund the improvements but the Mayor withdrew the money without any consultation. I continue to fight for the funding to be reinstated for step-free access and improved public transport facilities.

INSIDE:

Working locally for you



LOCOG sponsorship deal for Olympic Stadium Wrap gone sour



Navratri and Diwali Celebrations in Brent, Harrow and City Hall

Log on to my website for further information on Brent and Harrow at www.navinshah.com



TOXIC CLOUD OVER LONDON 2012:

Company responsible for Bhopal disaster win Olympic contract

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) have risked the international reputation of the Olympic Games and the legacy of London 2012 by awarding a major contract and partnership deal to Dow Chemicals - the company who still refuse to take responsibility for [the Bhopal disaster](#).

Bhopal was one of the worst industrial accidents of the twentieth century. On the night of 2nd December 1984, a Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India, leaked 27 tons of the deadly gas methyl isocyanate. None of the six safety systems worked, and the gas to spread throughout the city of Bhopal.



I have been working with India's friends in the House of Commons to bring pressure on LOCOG (pictured above), with a cross-party campaign to support the victims of Bhopal, and stop another injustice being visited upon them.

My recent visit to Bhopal demonstrated the scale of lifelong misery inflicted to thousands of poor individuals and their families. I visited on the 27th anniversary of the disaster and joined in a protest rally that marched through the city (left).



Half a million people were exposed to the gas and 25,000 have died as a result of their exposure. More than 100,000 people still suffer ailments caused by the accident and the subsequent pollution at the plant state. In 2001, Union Carbide was purchased by Dow Chemical Company. Dow denies responsibility for Union Carbide's liabilities and claims that a 1991 deal, which paid victims a derisory sum - £630 - equivalent to only 5 years medical cover - closed the matter.

In August LOCOG awarded Dow the contract to provide the [Olympic stadium wrap](#), the Olympic partnership status and advertising opportunities which go with it. Dow's name will be part of the visual centrepiece of the Olympic Games in the run up to 2012.

I also visited several medical centres including the Chinghari Trust and Sambhavna Trust. The visit proved to be an eye opener and gave me the first hand account of the tragedy as well as impressive work being done by these local organisations which offer medical and educational assistance on a day-to-day basis to the victims of the disaster and families.



NAVRATRI AND DIWALI CELEBRATIONS:

Brent and Harrow light up with Hindu Festival



The exciting Hindu festivals of Navratri and Diwali have lit up London over the past two months.

For Diwali I held my annual community reception at City Hall, attended by Brent and Harrow's fantastic community leaders. I was very pleased to have the opportunity to show my gratitude to all of the volunteers who give their time and make an immense contribution towards our community.



SAVING LONDON'S HERITAGE:

Fighting closure of Fire Brigade Museum

Plans to axe the London Fire Brigade Museum were pushed through last month at a meeting of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority's (LFEPA) Finance Committee.

The plan is part of a package of cuts put forward by the Conservative Group on the Authority. They have tried to put this proposal through in previous budgets, but this time sadly have succeeded in getting the proposal through.

The Authority is rightly proud of its heritage and tradition in providing a distinguished service that has protected the people of London for over a century and the Museum is a valuable source of information on the Fire Service. It plays a significant role in educating members of the public on the dangers of fire and the visits by local schools improve our relationship with young people, increasing their knowledge and respect for the Service.

The Chairman's previous remarks about the Museum and the service it offers have caused offence to our firefighters, past and present, to the supporters of this museum and to the staff and volunteers.

Mayor Johnson has said he is a "strong supporter" of the museum but has made no promises to save it from closure. I have asked the Mayor to act quickly and intervene but he has offered no assurances.



MCNULTY REPORT: Train ticket offices face closure

A hit-list of 265 stations in the London and South-East has been drawn up for Ministers to be left unmanned in an ill-conceived money-saving exercise. Sir Roy McNulty was commissioned by the Department of Transport and has recommended the closure, or part-closure, of one in four ticket offices across the country.

This is more bad news for passengers. Not only are fares under this Mayor rocketing but now we're being told ticket offices could be closed and stations left without staff. I'm really worried that stations that can already feel less than safe will become more intimidating places for passengers and more inviting places for criminals.



JAMAICA DAY: Celebrating diversity

I was very pleased to be asked to speak at the Jamaica Day celebrations on 8 October at Copland School. It was an excellent day, celebrating the wonderful island of Jamaica and all the expat community has brought to the UK.

The Jamaican community has been vitally important to British culture. Particularly in London there is a strong and vibrant Jamaican Diaspora. An estimated 4% of Londoners are of Jamaican or mixed Jamaican heritage.



TRAVELWATCH: Update on Jubilee, Bakerloo and Metropolitan Lines

Tube Line	December	January
Bakerloo	25th (Entire Line Closed)	8th (No service between Queens Park and Harrow & Wealdstone) and 29th (No service between Stonebridge Park and Harrow & Wealdstone)
Jubilee	25th (Entire Line Closed)	No planned engineering works
Metropolitan	25th (Entire Line Closed) and 26th, 28th, 29th, 30th (No service between Baker St and Aldgate)	21st, 22nd (no service between Baker Street and Aldgate)





Brent and Harrow at Mayor’s Question Time

My recent questions have included the following topics...

Queen’s Park to Wealdstone: Division of Responsibilities...[London GP Practice Portal](#)...Willesden Green Station...[Traffic in Harlesden town centre](#)...Stanmore Station...[Energy Efficiency Plans](#)...Manual light switches in tube stations...[NHS waiting lists](#)...Mental Healthy Funding...[English Defence League’s march in Tower Hamlets](#)...HS2...[Jubilee Line](#)...Letting down commuters...[Sudbury and Harrow Road facilities](#)...Injuries on the underground...[Commuters during the Olympics](#)...Compensation for delays...[World Health Day](#)...Tubbs and Nightingale Roads

For more information on the Mayor’s answers please visit my website www.navinshah.com

MY COMMITTEE WORK



CHILDARE IN LONDON: Investigation

The Health and Public Services Committee, of which I am vice-Chair, have been investigating how childcare providers think we could improve Londoners' access to suitable and affordable childcare. We aimed to get their solutions to the problems posed by guests who had attended the HPS Committee.

The guests were a mixture of childcare providers (mainly nursery managers) and organisations that represent childcare providers (such as the National Childminders Association and the National Day Nurseries Association). They offered an interesting perspective as they deal with parents not being able to pay their fees, or balancing resource demands with parents' demands for more flexible hours. It was very useful to our research and I was grateful

so many people have taken part in our investigation.

HOUSING: Private-Rented Sector

The Planning and Housing Committee are currently investigating the condition of the private rented sector, which is home to a quarter of Londoners. The aim of the investigation is to assess London’s private rented housing sector in relation to its state of repair, the standard of facilities provided and the degree of comfort, health, energy and water efficiency it provides.

Also, it was necessary to assess wider opportunities for improving London’s private rented housing as the number of Londoners in this sector is continuing to grow.

I recently chaired a Private Tenants Meeting in Brent, with Cllr Janice Long, Shadow Minister Chris Williamson MP and Jacky Peacock OBE of the Private Tenants Association on the panel. It was extremely well-attended although it is apparent that many private renters in Brent will be badly affected by the Coalition Government’s plans to reform housing benefit.



To contact **Navin Shah** Assembly Member for Brent and Harrow
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LOCAL SURGERIES are held once a month on Fridays
in Brent and Harrow by appointment only.