



Navin Shah AM

Brent and Harrow Assembly Member

City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA

Telephone: 0207 983 4876

email: navin.shah@london.gov.uk

THE MAYOR'S BUDGET:

The Squeeze on Londoners

Last month, together with my Labour Assembly colleagues, I urged Boris Johnson to make his budget fairer for Londoners, to reverse his huge pay rises for his advisers, to cut fares, to increase police numbers and tackle unemployment.

Mayor Johnson's proposal of one per cent cut to council tax means annual savings of £3.10 for the average Londoner, or 26p a month - enough to buy one onion. This measly sum is meaningless compared to the £110 extra a monthly zone 1-4 travelcard will cost you this year, or the £46 extra you are forking out for a monthly bus pass since last year.



The Mayor's transport fare rises are costing Londoners a lot more. He could have made a real difference to Londoners if he had supported Labour's plan to cut transport fares but he has chosen not to. The examination of the Mayor's contribution in the last four years shows he has achieved next to nothing. He's completed, with varying degrees of success, projects started by his predecessor.

We have seen his vanity projects like the new 'rotemaster' bus that has cost £12 million for five vehicles. Hire bikes paid for by increased fares are becoming more and more unpopular with Londoners. And the City Hall's council tax freeze, saving Londoners pennies, is wiped out by the serious impact on the quality of life of Londoners with his huge fare increases, the reduction of police numbers on our streets and failing to deliver affordable social housing.

Mayor Johnson has failed to deliver on the key areas affecting London's communities. As in previous years I have supported the Mayor's decision not to put up his share of the council tax, and the one per cent cut in his precept this year. But this fails to provide meaningful help to our communities during this period of financial hardship.



WEST HOUSE:

Bringing together the community

The William Heath Robinson Trust (WHRT) and the West House & Heath Robinson Museum Trust (HRMT) plan to erect a new building to conserve and display the unique collection of the William Heath Robinson Trust. The project will make the collection accessible to Harrow's diverse community and importantly, it will enable participation of the wider community and voluntary organisations.

I have worked with the trustees and volunteers on this prestigious heritage site for a number of years and fully support the project. I am currently assisting the trustees in engaging with Harrow's diverse community and its leaders in relation to a joint lottery bid.

Working locally for you

INSIDE:



Police and crime: Muggings up
In Brent and Harrow

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

MERTON CONTROL CENTRE:

Privatisation of London's Fire Control Centre

It was great attending the launch of the new fire control centre in London and see the impressive settings and modern facilities.

I'm confident the current staff can continue to provide a first-class and cost-effective service to Londoners, without the facility having to be sold off to a private company as planned by the London Fire Emergency Planning Service. I'd fight all the way to maintain the service in-house.



Protest against privatisation



BRENT CROSS CRICKLEWOOD :

The fight continues

Recent news reports suggest original plans have collapsed. Whilst this is good news, it is not the end of the project. There are moves to plan a massive new retail development which I am totally opposed to but is supported by Mayor Johnson. I remain concerned about plans to massively increase the existing shopping centre as there will be more congestion from increased traffic, destruction of high street shops, lack of affordable housing and a detrimental impact on the regeneration projects in the adjacent boroughs.

POLICE WATCH.... POLICE WATCH POLICE WATCH.... POLICE WATCH....



Closure of Police Stations in Brent and Harrow

Recent figures show the affect police cuts are having on crime in Brent and Harrow. I have called on the Mayor to reverse his police cuts.

It was revealed Brent has lost 38 officers in the last two years and Harrow has lost 40. The vacancy level in Brent's Police is 64 per cent and 46.15 per cent in Harrow. In March 2010 there were 703 officers based in Brent. By December last year the number had fallen to 665 officers in Brent. The Harrow figures show a drop from 403 officers in March 2010 to 363 in December last year.

Across London the Mayor has cut 1,700 police officers in the last two years. The most recent Metropolitan Police crime figures, released in January, revealed total crime rose by 6.3% in Brent in the last year. While overall crime in London is down 1 per cent in the last year, certain types of violent crime including burglary, robbery and muggings have risen significantly — see below:

For more details about Crime and Policing in Brent and Harrow visit www.navinshah.com

BRENT

Wounding/GBH up 7%
Total sexual incidents up 20.6%
Robbery: Personal up 14.7%
Burglary: Dwelling up 10.9%
Total drugs incidents up 33.8%
Total Crime up 6.2%

HARROW

Robbery: Personal up 40.8%
Burglary: Dwelling up 14.1%
Theft of pedal cycles up 23.8%

The Government is cutting too far and too fast with policing and it is these local services that are being affected. People feel safe with a local police station in their area. But closures of Wealdstone and Willesden Green police stations will mean people will have to go further to report a crime in person. I have lobbied the Mayor to ensure that these stations are replaced locally as I believe it is essential people can go into a station and speak to an officer directly if they need to.

Navin Shah AM Brent and Harrow Assembly Member

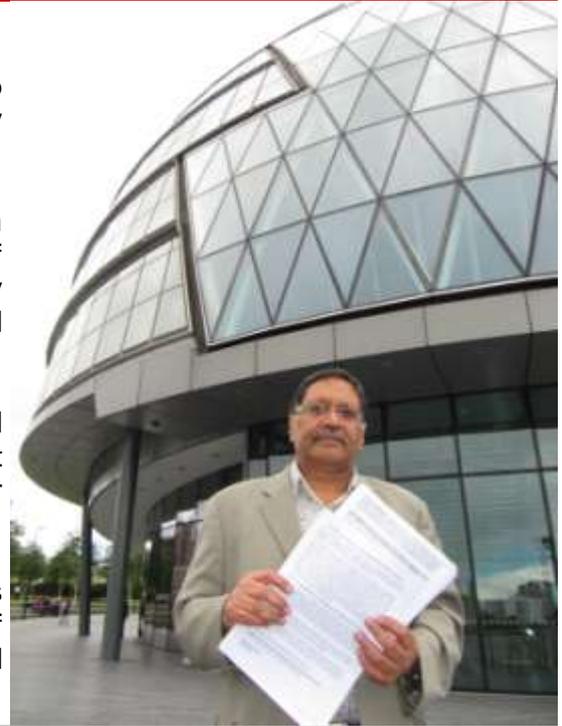
HARROW-ON-THE-HILL: Give us back our funding

At the London Assembly's March Plenary I submitted a petition to the Mayor of London to restore the funding, which had previously been agreed, to make Harrow-on-the-Hill station fully accessible.

Around 71 per cent of Harrow's stations cannot be used by people with restricted mobility. One in ten Londoners are excluded from large parts of the transport network because of mobility issues, according to a report by the London Assembly. The report found that in Harrow only 4 tube and rail stations out of 14 have step-free access.

There are 26,620 residents who live in the borough with reduced mobility. Harrow-on-the-Hill is a key station identified by local interest groups to have a severe lack of accessibility. I'm actively lobbying Mayor Johnson for Stanmore station which also lacks step-free access.

When the Mayor was elected in 2008 he deferred the plans of his predecessor to make 22 stations step-free. This affects a high number of residents in Harrow. The refurbishment of Harrow-on-the-Hill will regenerate the area and make it a fully integrated transport hub.



Navin Shah AM, Rod Bennion (chairman of Home Group), The Mayor of Harrow, Gareth Thomas MP

HOUSING: New estate in Rayners Lane

I recently visited the new regeneration development in Rayners Lane, which offers energy-efficient one and two-bedroom flats and two and three-bedroom houses, a children's play area, traffic calming measures and landscaping.

The homes have solar panels, grey water harvesting and green roofs to help reduce water retention. By 2014, Home Group will have built 450 properties for rent and over 300 properties for sale. Once completed it will provide new shops and public open spaces.

OLYMPICS: Dow update

Meredith Alexander resigned as a commissioner on the Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 (CSL), whose job it is to assure sustainability across the Olympic and Paralympic programme, stating she no longer wanted "to be party to a defence of Dow Chemicals".

It is important that we recognise the discrimination against the victims of the Bhopal chemical tragedy. It is time the Mayor and Sebastian Coe backed down and terminated Dow's sponsorship.



BRENT REGENERATION:

Willesden Windows

Last December I attended the wonderful 'New Windows on Willesden Green' project, which was delivered for Brent Council and Design for London by The Architecture Foundation in collaboration with Meanwhile Space and Blue Consulting.

This was a brilliant project, attempting to revive and improve Willesden High Road. I felt it was a huge success and was very impressed by the creativity and innovation on show in the windows of the high street shops.

Brent and Harrow at Mayor's Question Time

My recent questions have included the following topics...

Transport for London Roads...Platform Canopies...-Light-rail to Brent Cross...Pollution next to North Circular...Civilian Officers...The Olympic Board...Brent Cross Toilets...Private renting during the Olympics...Black Cab Fares...Dangerous Junctions...Outer London Commission...Cycling...Old Oak Common...Chiltern Timetable...Health Inequalities Strategy...Crossrail...Public Toilets...Harrow Police Community Consultative Group...HS2...Queens Park Station...Oyster Cards...Outer London Fund
For more information on the Mayor's answers please visit my website www.navinshah.com

MY COMMITTEE WORK



FUEL POVERTY IN LONDON:

Report to be published

The Health and Public Services Committee is releasing a report on the scale of fuel poverty in London. More than 560,000 households in the capital are estimated to be in fuel poverty, where fuel costs more than ten per cent of their basic income. Around 126,400 households are in severe fuel poverty, with fuel costs representing more than a fifth of their basic income, equivalent to all the homes in a large inner London borough.

Fuel prices are increasing faster than incomes and warm homes are becoming unaffordable for more people. The Marmot Review found cold homes cause and aggravate serious health problems including cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and are the cause of mental health problems in people of all ages.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING:

Neighbourhood Plans — How you can have a say

The Planning and Housing Committee has recently released a report about the Government's intentions with the 2011 Localism Act. The Act's aim is to encourage further local involvement in planning matters by the use of neighbourhood plans.

The Act seeks to hand more power to local communities in influencing how their local area develops and how local authorities make planning decisions. However, the localism agenda is likely to play out differently in London from the rest of the country.

The report focuses on the new opportunities and challenges facing neighbourhood plans in London. It also establishes what London boroughs, the Mayor and local communities themselves could do to enable all Londoners to get involved in making plans and policy, and in controlling development. To read the report visit www.london.gov.uk.



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

Call on 020 7983 4876 or Email: navin.shah@london.gov.uk

LOCAL SURGERIES are held once a month on Fridays
in Brent and Harrow by appointment only.