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Tesco Express approved by Labour's Harrow Council despite 500+ residents objections

Some of you might be aware that the Orange Tree garage (picture) on Whittington Way has been closed for some time. There has already been a planning permission granted for six flats earlier this year. However, there was a recent planning application submitted by Tesco to convert the ground floor into a 'Tesco Express' shop. On the 30th May 2018, Harrow council granted them permission. This was despite very strong objections and a petition from local residents.

Cllr Richard Almond at the Planning Committee hearing said "A disproportionate amount of people will be coming and going in the evening - the time when residents would most appreciate peace and quiet and, in reality, parking is poor there already. It will only get worse. To talk about no worsening of parking is simply unrealistic. Now that the planning application has been approved we will keep a close eye on the development and ensure it is done strictly to the planning committee guidelines".

A local resident Jonathan Simons (who also spoke at the hearing on the 30th May 2018) said "I don't believe the Planning Committee really took the masses of objections into consideration, nor acknowledged that the so-called "traffic survey" was based on inappropriate times. No regard was given to the many discrepancies in the various planning documents, which we were told were the subject of a pre-meeting briefing by the Developers' representative the day before the public hearing! The other convenience shop owners were likewise ignored, and local residents are still angry at the way this application has been handled."

Krishna Venan, owner of Cannon Lane Post Office and Convenience store said "This is very worrying for us as a local and small business. We don't have the leverage Tesco has and really hope local residents will support their local small businesses and not default to these big businesses".



Boundary Commission Update – What you need to know for Harrow

The Local Government Boundary Commission has started an electoral review of Harrow which it intends to complete in time for the next Borough elections in 2022. This could mean changes to the total number of Councillors - currently 63, 3 for each of 21 wards - and ward boundaries.

The first stage of the review is to decide what the total number of Councillors should be. The view of the Conservative group is that when Central Government grants to local councils overall are being reduced Councillors should take a cut to their numbers and we have said to the Commission that the number should be reduced to 55.

At the time of the recent election it seemed that Labour shared that view, saying in its manifesto that it would "review the number of Councillors per ward with a view to lowering the cost of running the council." With the election safely out of the way, however, it suddenly decided that the number of Councillors should be no fewer than the present 63 and has put that view to the Commission. It is clear, therefore, that whatever the pressure on money for services, for Labour, so far as Councillors themselves are concerned, the show should go on.



Message from Nick Hurd - Member of Parliament for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner

My time in Parliament and as Government Minister is focused on Brexit; law and order; fire safety and Grenfell. In Pinner I take up local issues whether it be the threat to the police station or unwelcome developments.

Please get in touch if you have a problem or simply an opinion.

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Local Conservatives keeping you *intouch*

Update from Friends of Pinner Village Gardens

FoPVG are a community group who help improve the lovely park of Pinner Village gardens. They are currently fundraising for the park playground and are holding a summer event 7th July, 12-4pm, in the park. They run many projects including creating an English bluebell wood and a wildflower garden.



The old drinking fountain is being restored and new benches added. The pond is now a thriving wildlife habitat and improved with new planting. Future projects include local pupils building bug hotels and more planting.

If you would like to join the Friends please see <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofpinnervillagegardens> or <http://friendsofpvg.org.uk/>



Welcome to Friends of Roxbourne Park

Pinner South Councillors are supporting Friends of Roxbourne Park in their aims to make this beautiful green space better for all park users. On Sunday 15 July there will be a Music Festival with 7 live performances from noon until 6pm, a children's funfair, and light refreshments – but bring your own picnic and stay to enjoy the free event. In September there will be the popular Dog Show and Fun Day, whilst ongoing the Friends committee have smaller indoor events and frequent working sessions to help the Council maintain and improve the park. Keep an eye on the many notice boards around Roxbourne, or find the Friends on Facebook and website www.forp2016.org

Cannon Lane Methodist Church – Rebuilds after car crashes into it

Last October a car crashed into the sanctuary at Cannon Lane Methodist Church, not only demolishing part of the wall but also most of the furniture and fittings in the sanctuary. The repairs have been finished and the inside of the church has been refurbished.

To celebrate this occasion Cannon Lane Methodist Church held an event on the 16th June 2018 when the sanctuary was rededicated. The Apollo Choir gave a short concert and there were stalls and activities and refreshments. Kathy Mathew said, "What happened was truly shocking and thankfully no-one was in the church sanctuary at the time, otherwise it could have been a lot worse. We are very grateful to local residents and the church community that helped us through this difficult time. We are so glad the church's sanctuary is open again and thank you to everyone that came to the reopening celebration."



Also, at the event was the Mary's Meals stall managed by Jacqui Richardson (pictured top left with Pinner South Councillors and Kathy Mathew). Cannon Lane Church is supporting this charity throughout the coming year. Mary's Meals raises money for children in poverty to provide one daily meal, at a place of learning. The ambition is to feed the children, provide them with an education whereby one day they can feed themselves. For further information please visit <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk>

Confusion between local Council and national issues needs to be cleared up

Labour won yet another local Council election in May, despite strong Conservative support borough wide. The key challenge is the southern wards in Harrow that continue to vote Labour despite on-going Council Tax rises, services being cut, poor standards of services, local libraries closing, high streets getting more and more dirty & increasing amounts of litter.

Cllr Chris Mote said "When we talked to residents during the election about national and local political issues we emphasised that the two are very different. Local councils are very much in control of the local area including road maintenance, parks, Council tax charges, adult and children care.

Next door, in Hillingdon the Conservative administration have had their Council Tax frozen for **10 years**.

We will continue to hold Labour to account and ensure we scrutinise their policies. We will report back to you on what is going on in the Labour-run Council. Labour have a habit of saying one thing and doing another. We need to ensure residents are being informed about the Council's policies."

Harrow Council Elections round-up

Although the Conservatives didn't win control of the Council- we won 28 seats to Labour's 35.

Cllr Kam Chana said "Richard, Chris and I are most grateful to all the Pinner South residents that voted for us. We all recognise this is a great privilege to serve you, whether you voted for us or not, and we aim to do just that for the next four years. We are always available so please get in contact with us on any Council-related matter. Thank you once again for your support. We really appreciate it".