

Ham&High

Hampstead & Highgate Express
100A Avenue Road NW3 3HF

EDITORIAL

Phone: 020-7433 0000
Newsdesk: 020-7433 6217/6214
Fax: 020-7433 6229
e-mail: editorial@hamhigh.co.uk

ADVERTISING

Phone: 020-7433 6200 (display)
020-7433 6250 (classified)
Fax: 020-7433 6259
e-mail: advertising@hamhigh.co.uk

COMMENT

Who cares about the carers?

IT'S National Carers Week, an event designed to draw attention to the invaluable work done by ordinary people to care for loved ones unable to look after themselves. Often this work goes unnoticed and unrewarded. Especially, it seems, by NHS Haringey.

It is nothing short of scandalous that £750,000 allocated to the health bosses by the government for the provision of carer respite breaks has not been spent in this way.

In 2008 Gordon Brown's government took what it described as 'immediate action' – backed up by £150million of new funding – to help carers 'access the kind of support which allows them to re-charge and renew themselves'.

Where did the money go. Did NHS Haringey receive it? If they did, why has it not been spent on providing breaks for people who are limiting their own quality of life so that they can improve the lot of others less fortunate than themselves? Health chiefs say 'no specific allocation of money has been allocated' and if it is true that the money was not ring-fenced by the government to be specifically used for carer breaks, then that was a dreadful mistake.

But surely any responsible and caring authority would not need to be ordered by government decree to spend the money in this way. If NHS Haringey received £750,000, or indeed any sum, earmarked for carer breaks, it would be shameful to use it for any other purpose.

Haringey's army of carers deserve better. For a start, they must be told clearly and unambiguously whether or not respite care money was received, and where it is now.

It beggars belief to suggest that someone in Haringey NHS does not know precisely what was received, and what has been done with it. If no-one does, and if such a sum remains unaccounted for, are these really the kind of people who should be in charge of looking after NHS funds at a time when every penny counts – and should be counted?

Editor Geoff Martin

Deputy Editor Laura Evans

Publishing director Simon Taylorson

Publishers Archant Regional Ltd

The Ham&High, incorporating the High&I, is the quality paper for Hampstead, Highgate, Camden Town, Kentish Town, West Hampstead, Hampstead Garden Suburb and Golders Green.

The Broadway Ham&High is the quality paper for Muswell Hill, Crouch End and Hornsey.
Visit www.hamhigh.co.uk for more information

ARCHANT } LONDON

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

If you have any difficulties obtaining a current issue of the Ham&High, or are a newsagent requiring top-up copies, or have any queries about circulation issues, contact our Freephone hotline

0800 389 2682

HOW TO FIND US ON TWITTER:

@hamandhigh for general daily updates
@geoffmartin07 for news from the editor
@hamandhigharts for previews and reviews

MARTIN Davies's tragically early death means that we have lost not only a hard working and thoughtful colleague with a razor-sharp mind, but also a good friend with a warm and fun-loving personality.

I have known Martin since he was elected a councillor for the then Fitzjohns ward in 1998, and remember first meeting him at an induction session for new councillors on the Saturday morning after the election. It was immediately obvious that he was going places and that he would be a popular colleague with councillors across the political spectrum.

But it was over the last four years, when Martin served on the executive of Camden's Lib Dem-Conservative partnership administration, that we really got to appreciate his talents and personality to the full.

Martin was the ideally suited for the role of Executive Member for Adult Social Care, given

Martin Davies has left us a lasting legacy

his background as Chief Executive of Age Concern Westminster, and inspired confidence and affection alike in his fellow executive members. He skilfully steered through plans to make Camden's homes for older people fit for the 21st century.

Martin once confided in me that he wished his colleagues didn't trust him quite so much and that it would be good for him to be challenged more in his executive role, not

something that many politicians could say!

Martin's views and much-valued input were by no means limited to his own portfolio, and you always wanted to know what he thought whenever a thorny new issue was being discussed: no one could ever accuse him of being predictable.

One of our great tests of our political colleagues is, would you enjoy having dinner together? That was certainly a test that Martin's infectious laughter and quick wit meant he passed with flying colours.

Martin has gone far too soon, just when he was getting into his stride in his new role as leader of Camden's Conservative Group, and we shall all miss this wonderful friend and colleague more than I can say.

CLLR KEITH MOFFITT
Leader of Camden Liberal Democrats

Green proposals could spoil public use of open space

THE Town Hall square in Crouch End is a unique green space, in front of the old Hornsey Town Hall. The design is based on a Dutch Town Hall design, at Hilversum.

As a local landscape architect and planner, I have noted current proposals with concern. Under these the green is to be 'modernised', by slicing a diagonal path, through a space and two other routes, at right angles.

This is a popular green with local people. The scale of the site means these paths would make it difficult to enjoy the green, as currently used for picnic and toddler play.

The proposals could even impact on the character and integrity of the local conservation area once new paths are created.

The Green's contribution to the conservation area was recognised in the draft planning brief for the site in December 2004.

Already English Heritage have raised concerns on a proposal to excavate in an area of archaeological interest – arising from the remains of an ancient settlement, on which the green is sited.

The outcome case may be decided at the Haringey planning committee, provisionally on July 12, and I would advise those with views, to attend. In addition, kindly consider writing quoting: Hornsey Town Hall App. Ref: HG/2010/0500 to: Haringey Council, Planning and Regeneration, 639 High Road, London N17 8BD,

ADAM COOK

CMLI, Landscape Architect and Planner and Open Spaces Society member, Hornsey Rise Gardens, N19



WIDE OPEN: The green space at the front of the old Hornsey Town Hall is a popular meeting place when the flowers are in bloom and the weather fine. **BELOW:** An artist's impression shows the route of the proposed paths.



Suddenly, money is no object

WELL, well, well. Having said that Middle Lane Health Centre was "in poor physical condition" (page 14, Strategic Outline Case, Hornsey Community Hospital) and that its services should be relocated to the Hornsey Central hospital site (demolishing a much-loved and needed local hospital in the process) I see NHS

Haringey have now conveniently found the cash for an expensive looking refit and makeover of Middle Lane Health Centre into an office block for themselves in leafy Crouch End.

I wonder how much that cost us taxpayers, at a time when NHS Haringey managers say they have so little money in the kitty that they cannot even afford to fund

many minor operations any more?

I'd love to know where they've found the money to do this.

I am still wondering what happened to the missing £750,000 funding that central government gave to NHS Haringey to distribute to carers for the respite breaks they never got.

SUE HESSEL
Haslemere Road, N8

The gospel according to Miliband

THE Rt Hon David Miliband, MP, former Foreign Secretary and candidate for the leadership of the Labour Party, will be hosting an evening at the Queen's Crescent Community Centre in Gospel Oak on Wednesday June 23. It represents a fantastic opportunity to converse with one of the leading lights of the Labour movement and enjoy an evening with friends in the great surrounds of our community centre.

The event itself is being hosted by the Gospel Oak Labour Party, though all are very much welcome, and we invite you to discuss with David how we build a fairer society across Camden, and the whole of the UK. The event will begin at 7:30pm.

The centre is at 45 Ashdown Crescent, NW5 4QE and for further information contact Mick Farrant on 07957 282 453.

PETER PTASHKO
Chair, Gospel Oak Labour Party

What does Moira earn?

NOW the government has shown the way, I trust Camden Council will publish the wages – and of equal importance the value of pension entitlements – of senior officials, starting with Ms Moira Gibb. She is, I believe, one of the highest paid municipal chief executives. Given the longstanding shambles of housing repairs and parking, we can then ask whether we get our money's worth.

ALEX HENNEY
Swains Lane, N6

A history set in wood

THE flora, fauna and history of Queen's Wood is being celebrated in a free exhibition. The show, at the wood's lodge cafe at the Muswell Hill Road entrance, runs for two weeks from Sunday, June 20. It marks the 10th anniversary of the Friends of Queen's Wood voluntary conservation group that works to protect the much-loved nature reserve.

REBECCA DOWMAN
Friends of Queen's Wood